

# CABINET

Meeting of the

held on Thursday 1 August 2002

PRESENT:-

Councillor **TUTT** (Deputy Chairman in the Chair), Councillors **HARRIS**, **LEGGETT** and **THOMPSON**.

An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Mrs Healy (Chairman and Leader of the Council).

**23. MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2002 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

**24. HURST ROAD/MILL ROAD JUNCTION - OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER.** The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Amenities on proposed waiting restrictions at the junction of Hurst Road and Mill Road. Details of objections received were given in the appendix to the report. In addition, Mr A Vogel of 98 Hurst Road was permitted to put the following question to the Cabinet:-

"Why are parking spaces in 'older' Hurst Road reduced at the expense of new development in Selby Road where plenty of parking was designed into new houses and then the road was made private with notices of clamping from private companies? Do I have to believe that this is how amenities like parking for residents are normally considered."

This point was answered by Mr D Foden, the Council's Highway Manager. A copy of the question and response was circulated at the meeting. Mr Vogel also presented a statement on behalf of the signatories of the petition of objection.

Councillor Marsden addressed the Cabinet. He supported the need for the Traffic Regulation Order on safety grounds. However, he criticised the construction quality of the pedestrian build-out at his junction and highlighted residents' frustrations in this matter. Councillor Harris expressed sympathy with the views of local residents but considered that the Traffic Regulation Order should go ahead for safety reasons.

Mr Foden also reported the results of the independent safety audit for the build-out, which stated that the proposed waiting restrictions were required to be installed.

**RESOLVED:** That the objections be dismissed for the reasons given in the appendix and that the Traffic Regulation Order be made as advertised.

	<p><b>25. CAPITAL STRATEGY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2002.</b>  The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services together with appendices including the Council's Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan. These were required to be submitted to the Government Office of the South East.</p> <p>Councillor Lacey OBE addressed the Cabinet in his capacity as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee which had considered this matter at their meeting on 25 July 2002. He reported that key issues raised concerned the lack of funding available for the Enterprise Hub due to the level of commitment required for the Cultural Hub. He also reported on Scrutiny Committee support for a Procurement Strategy. Councillor Tutt reported the need to review the way forward for the Authority generally over the next few months. He also expressed concern at the £1.5m funding gap for the Cultural Hub.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> (Key Decision and Budget and Policy Framework) That the Council be recommended to approve the Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan 2002.</p>
	<p><b>26. CIVIC BUDGET 2002/03 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING.</b> The Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services monitoring the Council's budget at the end of June 2002 and providing an initial forecast outturn for the financial year. The report showed a significant projected year-end overspend attributed by the Director to four main areas, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Coastline Caterers - projected target shortfall of £100,000</li> <li>· Benefits Subsidy - projected overspend of £200,000</li> <li>· Weekly Incorrect Benefit Scheme - projected budget shortfall of £100,000</li> <li>· Treasury Management - projected overspend of £100,000</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Marsden addressed the Cabinet on this matter. He stressed the need for accurate budget setting and identifying key areas of risk. The Director of Finance and Corporate Services advised that the practice of submitting regular budget monitoring reports was fundamental in identifying areas of risk. Through this process the Coastline Caterers shortfall was previously identified and the Treasury Management overspend had been forecast although, in this case, the position had worsened. There was no prior knowledge in respect of the Benefits Subsidy overspend. Similarly, with regard to the Weekly Incorrect Benefit Scheme, there had been no previous information to suggest that the projected shortfall would arise.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> (Key Decision) (1) That Cabinet notes that the General Fund Revenue Account expenditure is over budget by £84,000 at the end of June and that the forecast outturn for the year without corrective action was a £544,000 overspend.</p> <p>(2) That the Action Plan set out at paragraph 2.4 of the report for eliminating the overspend be agreed and that an update be given at the Cabinet's next meeting on 5 September 2002.</p> <p>(3) That Cabinet notes that the Housing Revenue Account is underspent by £75,000 at the end of June and that the forecast outturn for the year without corrective action was a £280,000 underspend.</p> <p>(4) That proposals be submitted to the Cabinet at their meeting on 3 October 2002, to propose to utilize the forecast HRA underspend</p>