

A meeting of the **CABINET** will be held in **THE TRAINING ROOM, EASTFIELD HOUSE, HUNTINGDON** on **FRIDAY, 17TH APRIL 2009** at **9:30 AM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

APOLOGIES


Contact
(01480)

1. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 2)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2nd April 2009.

Mrs H J Taylor
388008

2. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to personal and/or prejudicial interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any Agenda item. Please see notes 1 and 2 below.

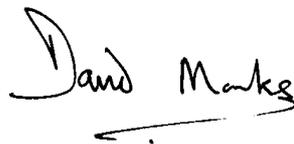
3. STRUCTURE REVIEW WORKING GROUP - FINDINGS

To consider the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels on the review of the Council's democratic structure. A report will be circulated following the Scrutiny Panels' meetings.

Miss H Ali/
Mrs J Walker
388006/387049

The report by the Head of Democratic and Central Services was considered by the Cabinet at its last meeting. Please bring your copy with you to the meeting.

Dated this 7th day of April 2009



Chief Executive

Notes

1. *A personal interest exists where a decision on a matter would affect to a greater extent than other people in the District –*

- (a) *the well-being, financial position, employment or business of the Councillor, their family or any person with whom they had a close association;*

- (b) *a body employing those persons, any firm in which they are a partner and any company of which they are directors;*
 - (c) *any corporate body in which those persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or*
 - (d) *the Councillor's registerable financial and other interests.*
2. *A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest where a member of the public (who has knowledge of the circumstances) would reasonably regard the Member's personal interest as being so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.*

Please contact Mrs H Taylor, Senior Democratic Services Officer, Tel No. 01480 388008/e-mail Helen.Taylor@huntsdc.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Cabinet.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk (*under Councils and Democracy*).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

Agenda Item 1

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the CABINET held in the Aquarius Room, St Ivo Leisure Centre, St Ives on Thursday, 2nd April 2009.

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates – Chairman.

Councillors K J Churchill, D B Dew,
A Hansard, C R Hyams, Mrs D C Reynolds,
T V Rogers and L M Simpson.

APOLOGY: An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor P L E Bucknell.

135. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th February 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

136. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

137. STRUCTURE REVIEW WORKING GROUP - FINDINGS

The Cabinet received a report by the Structure Review Working Group (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) summarising the findings of an extensive review of the Council's democratic structure.

While Executive Councillors supported many of the Group's recommendations, concerns were expressed in relation to the balance of day and evening meetings and the funding of the costs of the exercise. Specifically Members did not support the proposals to give voting rights to co-opted members on the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the adoption of a Speaker at Council meetings. At the same time, the Cabinet recognised the need for further discussions with partners over the implementation, funding and boundaries of the proposed neighbourhood forums.

Having thanked the Working Party for their efforts in producing a thorough and comprehensive report, it was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Corporate Governance Panel had been invited to comment on the report prior to final considerations by Cabinet at a special meeting on 17th April 2009.

RESOLVED

that the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Corporate Governance Panel be advised that, with the exception of points listed below, the recommendations of the Structure Review

Working Group, as summarised in the report now submitted, be endorsed:

- recommendation (b) – subject to a detailed consideration of the relative workloads of portfolios and the funding of the financial implications;
- recommendation (e) – subject to further consideration as to the balance between evening and day time meetings;
- recommendation (h) – the proposal to give voting rights for co-opted members is not supported;
- recommendation (n) – subject to the opportunity for Independent members to choose the subject of debate alongside opposition parties;
- recommendation (o) – subject to the deletion of the word “annual”;
- recommendation (p) – is not supported and further consideration should be given to member support/training;
- recommendation (q) – subject to questions being addressed to all elected members;
- recommendation (s) – subject to the prior setting of evaluation criteria for the trial;
- recommendation (w) – that the Standards Committee continue to meet at 4.00pm and retain the flexibility to change this if necessary;
- recommendation (z) – that the Corporate Governance Panel continue to meet at 6.00pm and retain the flexibility to change this if necessary;
- recommendation (aa) – that further consideration be given to the membership of the panel and the views of ELAG;
- recommendation (dd) – that in the meantime members be encouraged to attend current neighbourhood policing panels;
- recommendation (rr) –that the Working Group be invited to consider alternative options for funding the proposed changes.

Chairman