

Meeting of the

**CABINET**

held on Tuesday 22 March 2005

PRESENT:-

Councillor **MARSDEN** (Chairman and Leader of the Council), Councillor **ELKIN** (Deputy Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Council), Councillors **LUCAS** and **WILLIAMS**.

(An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Lacey, OBE).

- 108. EAST SUSSEX, BRIGHTON AND HOVE WASTE LOCAL PLAN. NOTE: URGENT ITEM:** By virtue of Section 100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman was of the opinion that this item, not listed on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency. The Chairman had agreed to a request from Councillor Tutt that this matter be added to the agenda. The consultation period in relation to proposed modifications to the Plan following publication of the Inspector's report was due to end on 24 March 2005. Councillor Tutt wished to draw to the attention of Cabinet objections being raised by Stafford Junior School, Ringwood Road, to the proposed materials recovery/waste transfer facility off Tutts Barn Lane and to seek the Cabinet's support in relation to the objections.

Councillor Tutt was permitted to address the Cabinet in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.3. He reported the approach made to him by the school and the school's concern that they had not been directly consulted on the proposals and in particular to the extended uses for the site recommended by the Inspector. He had also contacted the St Thomas a Beckett Junior and Infant schools in Kings Drive and had learnt that they too had not been consulted by the County Council. He asked that the Borough oppose the proposed use of the site due to its proximity to schools, allotments and grazing land.

The Chairman called upon the Planning Policy Manager to explain the background to this matter. It was reported that the first deposit draft of the waste plan had been published in November 2000. At that time the Borough wished to secure the closure of the waste/amenity site at St Philip's Avenue because of the site's location in a residential area and find an alternative location in or close to Eastbourne. In the second deposit draft, published in April 2002, the former railway sidings site off Tutts Barn Lane adjoining the railway line had been identified for use as a materials recovery/waste transfer facility. The Planning Policy Manager also outlined the public consultation arrangements undertaken by the County Council at this time which had included public advertisement and meetings.

The Cabinet had previously considered the revised plan (Cabinet, 22 April 2002, minute 173) and had expressed particular concerns in relation to the use of the site. They had noted that its development would be constrained by access difficulties and would require the implementation of the Southbourne link road as proposed in the Eastbourne Borough Plan. They noted that the site had potential for rail access although no commitment was given in the Plan to achieving this as a goal. The Council's "in principle" acceptance of the Tutts Barn site proposal was conditional upon the necessary link roads; a commitment towards realising a

rail link; and the need for early and widespread public consultation on a planning brief.

In June 2004, the Planning Inspector's report had been published. The Inspector had recommended that the proposed uses for the site be stated as "road/rail waste transfer, materials recycling, composting, mechanical-biological treatment, anaerobic digestion, household waste site". The County Council was being recommended to reject this expansion of uses. The Inspector had also recommended that assessments and surveys be undertaken in respect of flood risk and land contamination and it was noted that this was supported by the County Council.

The Chairman reported that all members of the Council had received a briefing note on 4 February 2005. In response to concerns raised by the head-teacher and governors he had visited Stafford School and also inspected details and plans of the proposals. He explained that the current consultation was in respect of the proposed modifications made in the light of the Inspector's report and that other matters could not be raised at this stage. He considered that it was important that a materials recovery/waste transfer facility at this location should be properly managed and that the design, layout and access should take into account the concerns of schools, other residents and land-users in the near vicinity. For this reason he believed public consultation on a detailed planning brief for the site was necessary. He re-affirmed that access via the existing highway network (i.e. Tutts Barn Lane, Kings Drive, Lewes Road etc.) would be unacceptable to the Borough and in this regard commented that there was little likelihood of development taking place in the near future as it could be some time before the new roads were built.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the Chairman send a letter of representation to the Council Council re-affirming the Council's previously stated position in relation to the potential use of the former railway sidings site off Tutts Barn Lane for a materials recovery/waste transfer facility (in particular, that access is via the new strategic road network and not existing highways); supporting the proposed assessments and surveys in relation to contamination, ecology and flood risk and the County's rejection of the Inspector's recommendation that the potential use of the site be expanded; and seeking a commitment to the preparation of a planning brief.

(2) That letters be sent to chairmen of the governors and head-teachers of the 3 nearby schools clarifying the nature of the plans and proposed safeguards

**109. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.**

**RESOLVED:** That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and a description of the exempt information is shown in the summary below.

**110. SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS FOR INFORMATION.** (Note: The full minute of the under-mentioned item is set out in the confidential section of these minutes. The report remains confidential).

- (a) **Housing and Health Division - Proposed Staffing Restructure.** The Cabinet noted impending changes to the division including the establishment of Eastbourne Homes and a joint company to run Eastbourne and Wealden Lifelines and the impact of the new alcohol and entertainment licensing regime and the renewed emphasis the Council would give to enforcement matters. In the light of these and other changes the division would be re-structured.

Detailed arrangements for the Cemeteries and Crematorium team had been settled in consultation with staff. The remaining proposals were currently the subject of staff consultation. Delegated authority was given to the Director of Housing, Health and Community Services in consultation with the Cabinet lead member to finalise structures and recruitment processes once the staff consultation exercise was complete.

(Exempt information reason – Paragraph 11 – Information relating to consultations in connection with a labour relations matters).

The meeting closed at 4.45p.m.

**Councillor Marsden  
Chairman**

(der\P:\cabinet\minutes\05.03.22)