

**ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 17 MAY 2005**

Present:- Councillor E J Godwin – Chairman.  
Councillors E C Abrahams, K R Artus, H D Baker, C A Bayley,  
W F Bowker, C A Cant, R P Chambers, J F Cheetham, A Dean,  
C M Dean, C D Down, S Flack, M L Foley, M A Gayler,  
E Gower, D W Gregory, R T Harris, M A Hibbs, E W Hicks,  
B M Hughes, S C Jones, A J Ketteridge, V J T Lelliott,  
R M Lemon, J I Loughlin, A Marchant, J E Menell, D J Morson,  
J P Murphy, V Pedder, A R Row, M J Savage, S V Schneider,  
G Sell, F E Silver, E Tealby-Watson, A M Wattebot and  
P A Wilcock.

Officers in Attendance:- A Bovaird, M Brean, D Burrige, P O'Dell,  
R Pridham, M J Perry, M T Purkiss and T Turner.

**C1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Boland, D Corke,  
R F Freeman and A R Thawley.

**C2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Chambers declared an interest as Chairman of the Essex Police  
Authority and Councillor Menell declared an interest as a non-Executive  
Director of Uttlesford Primary Care Trust.

**C3 WELCOME AND THANKS**

Councillor Godwin, the Chairman of the Council, welcomed Councillor Bowker  
to the meeting following his absence due to illness. Councillor Bowker  
responded and extended his particular thanks to his family, friends and  
colleagues who had supported him during his illness. He said that he was  
grateful that he had been able to return to the Council and hoped to be fully  
involved in due course. He presented the Chairman with a cheque for her  
chosen charity as recompense for his long-term absence.

The Chairman said that she had had a very interesting year of office and  
thanked Members for the privilege which they had bestowed upon her. She  
said that she had made many new friends and was grateful for the cross party  
support for all the fundraising events. She said that she had set a target of  
£10,000 towards Uttlesford Crossroads and this had already been exceeded.

Councillor C M Dean said that Councillor Godwin's year of office had been a  
wonderful year and Councillor Godwin had shown exceptional enthusiasm  
and energy and had achieved so much. Councillor Ketteridge echoed the  
sentiments and thanked the Chairman for the support for Crossroads.

The Chairman then invited all Members to sign a pledge to campaign for NO MORE RUNWAYS at Stansted.

#### C4 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor D J Morson and seconded by Councillor E Tealby-Watson that Councillor P A Wilcock be elected Chairman of the Council. It was then moved by Councillor A J Ketteridge and seconded by Councillor R P Chambers that Councillor A R Row be elected Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Ketteridge said that Councillor Row had 30 years unbroken service with the Council and had made an important contribution to many projects such as the Lord Butler Leisure Centre, Turpins Bowls Club and the PFI project. He said that it had already been agreed between the parties that Councillor Row would become Chairman of the Council and the Liberal Democratic Group had overturned this at a group meeting. He added that it was dishonourable and disrespectful to backtrack on this decision and the matter brought the Council into disrepute. He said that the role of Chairman was non-political and the convention was that it should rotate amongst the groups. Councillor Chambers said that he had served with Councillor Row for 25 years and Councillor Row had been Deputy Leader during his term as Leader of the Council. He said that Councillor Row felt passionately about the district and the Council and he had stepped into the role of Acting Vice-Chairman during Councillor Bowker's absence. He said that the Council owed a duty to Councillor Row to become Chairman.

Councillor Godwin said that she hoped that the unpleasantness of the last few weeks never happened again.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.4, five Members present asked for a secret ballot to take place.

Following the ballot, there were 24 votes for Councillor Wilcock, 13 for Councillor Row and 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED that Councillor P A Wilcock be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

#### C5 **STATUTORY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Wilcock thanked the outgoing Chairman and said that she would be a hard act to follow and, in particular, paid tribute to her work in raising over £10,000 for Uttlesford Crossroads.

The Chairman signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance. He then presented Councillor Godwin with a portrait photograph which would be hung in the Council Chamber alongside those of previous Chairmen.

**C6 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed by Councillor D J Morson and seconded by Councillor E Tealby-Watson that Councillor W F Bowker be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council.

It was then proposed by Councillor A J Ketteridge and seconded by Councillor J F Cheetham that Councillor A R Row be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.4, five Members present at the meeting asked for a secret ballot. Following the ballot there were 23 votes for Councillor Bowker, 14 for Councillor Row and 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED that Councillor W F Bowker be appointed Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

**C7 STATUTORY DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor W F Bowker thanked Members for electing him to this position and signed the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

He asked Members to appoint an acting Vice-Chairman whilst his recovery was completed.

It was proposed by Councillor A J Ketteridge and seconded by Councillor J F Cheetham that Councillor A R Row be appointed acting Vice-Chairman of the Council.

It was then proposed by Councillor D J Morson and seconded by Councillor E Tealby-Watson that Councillor C A Bayley be appointed acting Vice-Chairman of the Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.4, five Members present asked for a secret ballot to be held. Following the ballot there were 17 votes for Councillor Row, 17 for Councillor Bayley and 5 abstentions. On the casting vote of the Chairman it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor C A Bayley be appointed acting Vice-Chairman.

**C8 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor D J Morson and seconded by Councillor E Tealby-Watson that Councillor A Dean be appointed Leader of the Council. It was then proposed by Councillor J Murphy and seconded by Councillor F E Silver that Councillor S C Jones be appointed Leader of the Council. However Councillor Jones declined to accept his nomination.

It was then further moved by Councillor R P Chambers and seconded by Councillor J F Cheetham that Councillor A J Ketteridge be appointed Leader of the Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.4, five Members present asked for a secret ballot to be held. Following the ballot there were 23 votes for Councillor A Dean, 13 for Councillor A J Ketteridge and 3 abstentions.

RESOLVED that Councillor A Dean be appointed Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

## C9 **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

It was proposed by Councillor A Dean and seconded by Councillor E Tealby-Watson that Councillor D J Morson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council. It was then proposed by Councillor R P Chambers and seconded by Councillor J F Cheetham that Councillor A J Ketteridge be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.4, five Members present asked for a secret ballot to be held. Following the ballot there were 27 votes for Councillor D J Morson and 12 votes for Councillor Ketteridge.

RESOLVED that Councillor D J Morson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

## C10 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman thanked Councillor Godwin once again and expressed his gratitude to Councillor Row for stepping in as acting Vice-Chairman. He said that the year ahead would be testing and challenging and it was essential that the Council worked together to focus on the challenges facing the district. He said that he would do his best during his term in office and said that he would try to recognise the importance of young people. He said that he would support youth and events surrounding youth to help change young people's lives and the people around them and asked Members for ideas which would help contribute towards this. Councillor Godwin referred to a project which would be held in Birchanger on Sunday 22 May and the Chairman said that he would try support this.

The Chairman then paid tribute to Mike Dellow, the Council's Chief Accountant, who would be retiring after 33 years service with Uttlesford and its predecessor authority. He said that Mr Dellow had been involved in many changes and projects in the district and had vast technical knowledge which had helped keep the Council financially secure. He said that Mr Dellow would be spending more time with his wife Ade and he also expressed his thanks to her for her long and loyal service to the Council. He said that all Members would be welcome to attend Mr Dellow's farewell.

## C11 LEADER'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Leader said that he hoped that everyone would be able to go forward following the recent elections.

He said that the Constitution Task Group was continuing its work and would be meeting in a workshop forum on 26 May with a view to a full Member workshop being held later in the year. He added that on 1 June there would be a workshop on the housing stock option appraisal and he advised Members that Councillor Thawley was due back in the country on 6 June 2005. He said that on 7 June he and the Deputy Leader would be meeting with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Braintree District Council to explore partnership working and on 14 June a meeting of district councils would be held at Brentwood to look at Essex wide initiatives.

## C12 E-GOVERNMENT TASK GROUP

The Executive Manager Customer Services presented a report setting out progress with implementing the electronic government agenda and the IEG4 Statement. It was suggested that there were additional issues which needed to be raised at a member forum and that these could be included within the remit of the task group. In view of this it was proposed to rename the task group the IT Working Group, amend its terms of reference and increase its membership from 3 to 4.

RESOLVED that

- 1 The E-Government Task Group be renamed the IT Working Group,
- 2 The terms of reference for the Working Group be as follows:
  - To advise the Resources Committee regarding the development of an e-Government Strategy, taking account of local, regional and national priorities.
  - To identify resource and funding opportunities. To recommend to the Resources Committee the priorities for spending IEG funding.
  - To identify skill requirements and areas of e-Government suitable for partnership working.
  - To identify ways of engaging citizens, including the most disadvantaged, about preferences and outcomes.
- 3 The membership of the group be extended by one councillor from 3 to 4.

C13

**POLITICAL BALANCE ON THE COUNCIL AND RELATED ISSUES**

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report on the political composition of the Council and asked Members to consider the allocation of seats to Committees as set out in the report.

Councillor Morson said that following the death of Councillor Clarke and the decision of Councillor Murphy to join the Independent Group there would be advantages in increasing the total number of seats on the Council's Committees from 95 to 96 and to include the additional seat on the Resources Committee.

RESOLVED that

- 1 The Council allocates the seats on its main and other committees as follows:

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>
Community & Leisure	10
Environment	10
Health & Housing	10
Resources	11
Transport & Highways	10
Development Control	14
Licensing	11
Scrutiny 1	10
Scrutiny 2	10
Standards	4
Staff Appeals	7
Emergency	4 (all ex officio)
Internal Audit Partnership	3 (all ex officio)

- 2 The Council designates task groups and working parties as follows:-

Bridge End Gardens	5
Museum Management	4
Museum Resource Centre Project Team	6
CPA	6
Stansted Airport Panel	12
Strategic Development Advisory Group	15
Housing Strategy	4
Community Achievement	6
Local Joint Committee	3
Internal Audit Partnership	3
Saffron Walden Town Centre	6
Constitution	6
IT Working Party	4
Corporate Procurement	3
Corporate Support	3
Local Service Agreement	6
Decriminalisation	6

Uttlesford Transport Forum	4
Risk Management	2
Local Development Framework	5
Master Plan	5
Uttlesford Futures	4

C14

**APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2005/06**

RESOLVED that members be appointed to the following Committees, Working Parties and Task Groups for 2005/6

<b>Section A Policy Committees</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Resources (11)	A Dean M A Gayler (c) R T Harris S C Jones (vc) V J T Lelliott M J Savage P A Wilcock	R P Chambers A J Ketteridge A R Row	J P Murphy
Environment (10)	C A Cant D Corke A Dean B M Hughes V Pedder (vc) E Tealby-Watson A R Thawley (c)	J F Cheetham C D Down	E J Godwin
Community & Leisure (10)	H D Baker P Boland M L Foley D J Morson (c) G Sell F E Silver (vc) <b>1 vacancy</b>	J E Menell S V Schneider	E C Abrahams
Health and Housing (10)	C A Bayley (vc) W F Bowker E Gower M A Hibbs (c) A Marchant A Wattebot <b>1 vacancy</b>	S Flack E W Hicks	R M Lemon
Transport and Highways (10)	W F Bowker C M Dean M A Gayler D W Gregory (vc) B M Hughes G Sell (c) A M Wattebot	K R Artus J E Menell	E C Abrahams
<b>Section B Scrutiny and Regulatory Committees</b>			
Development Control (14)	P Boland W F Bowker C A Cant (c) C M Dean (vc) R F Freeman R T Harris S C Jones J I Loughlin A R Thawley	J F Cheetham C D Down J E Menell	E C Abrahams E J Godwin



Licensing (11)	H D Baker R F Freeman V J T Lelliott (c) J I Loughlin (vc) A Marchant D J Morson <b>1 vacancy</b>	K R Artus E W Hicks A R Row	J P Murphy
Scrutiny 1 (10)	M A Gayler D W Gregory R T Harris B M Hughes S C Jones E Tealby-Watson P A Wilcock	J F Cheetham A J Ketteridge (vc) A R Row (c)	
Scrutiny 2 (10)	H D Baker C A Bayley E Gower M A Hibbs D J Morson F E Silver <b>1 vacancy</b>	S Flack (c) S V Schneider (vc)	R M Lemon
<b>Section C Other Committees</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Standards (4)	C A Cant V J T Lelliott	C D Down	R M Lemon
Staff Appeals (7)	H D Baker C A Cant D W Gregory (c) R F Freeman J I Loughlin	R P Chambers E W Hicks	
Emergency (4)	Leader Deputy Leader Chairman of Council Chairman of Resources		
<b>Section D Task Groups</b>			
Museum Management (4)	J I Loughlin D J Morson (c) V Pedder	R P Chambers	
Bridge End Gardens (5)	R F Freeman B M Hughes D J Morson (c)	R P Chambers A J Ketteridge	
Museum Resource Centre Project Team (6)	M A Hibbs B M Hughes S C Jones D J Morson (c)	A R Row	J P Murphy
CPA (6)	A Dean (c) R T Harris B M Hughes A M Wattebot	A J Ketteridge	E J Godwin

Stansted Airport Panel (12)	C A Cant D Corke A Dean M L Foley G Sell A R Thawley A M Wattebot P A Wilcock (c)	K R Artus J F Cheetham	E J Godwin R M Lemon
Strategic Development Advisory Group (15)	C A Bayley P Boland A Dean C M Dean R T Harris B M Hughes S C Jones J I Loughlin A R Thawley P A Wilcock (c)	J F Cheetham S Flack A J Ketteridge	E J Godwin R M Lemon
Housing Strategy (4)	C A Bayley W F Bowker M A Hibbs (c)		E J Godwin
Community Achievement (6)	C A Bayley (c) C M Dean A Marchant M J Savage	J E Menell	E C Abrahams
Local Joint Committee (3)	W F Bowker A Dean	R P Chambers	
Internal Audit Partnership (3)	M A Gayler S C Jones		R M Lemon
SW Town Centre (6)	P Boland R F Freeman M A Hibbs S C Jones (c) V J T Lelliott	A J Ketteridge	
Constitution (6)	C M Dean D J Morson (c) G Sell A R Thawley	S V Schneider	E J Godwin
IT Working Party (4)	V J T Lelliott (c) A R Thawley	K R Artus	R M Lemon
Corporate Procurement (3)	B M Hughes D J Morson	S V Schneider	
Corporate Support (3)	W F Bowker (c) <b>1 vacancy</b>	A J Ketteridge	
Local Service Agreement (6)	A Dean M A Hibbs (c) F E Silver <b>1 vacancy</b>	S Flack	E C Abrahams

Decriminalisation (6)	C M Dean M A Hibbs (c) A M Wattebot <b>1 vacancy</b>	J F Cheetham	R M Lemon
Uttlesford Transport Forum (4)	W F Bowker C M Dean D W Gregory	J F Cheetham	
Risk Management (2)	S C Jones	A J Ketteridge	
Local Development Framework (5)	C A Bayley S C Jones J I Loughlin	<b>1 vacancy</b>	<b>1 vacancy</b>
Master Plan (5)	C A Bayley J I Loughlin <b>1 vacancy</b>	J F Cheetham	E J Godwin
<b>Section E Strategic Partnerships</b>			
Uttlesford Futures (4) (LSP)	C M Dean B M Hughes	J E Menell	J P Murphy

#### C15 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed to represent the Council on outside bodies for 2005/06

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Number to be Appointed</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE(S)</b>
Alzheimers Disease Society - Uttlesford Branch	1	Cllr A R Row
Arts Council of England (East England)	1	Cllr E Tealby-Watson
Bishop's Stortford Citizens' Advice Bureau	1	Cllr A R Row
Birchanger Wood Management Committee	1	Cllr E J Godwin
Board of Turpins Indoor Bowling Club	2	Cllr C A Bayley Cllr S C Jones
British Red Cross Society - Essex Branch	1	Cllr C A Cant
Business Development Services (North West Essex)	1	Cllr G Sell
Committee of the Friends of the Maltings (The Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust)	1	Cllr E Gower
Council for the Protection of Rural Essex	1	Cllr C A Bayley
Council for Voluntary Service - Uttlesford	1	Cllr A Marchant

Crawley Prize Endowment Charity	1	Cllr R P Chambers
Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme	1	Cllr E J Godwin
Dame Johane Bradbury's School	1	Y L Morton (until August 2008)
Dunmow Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr C A Cant
Dunmow Local Road Safety Advisory Committee	2	Cllr S Flack Cllr C A Cant
Dunmow Museum Management Committee	1	Cllr D W Gregory
Dunmow Society - Executive Committee	1	Cllr E W Hicks
Dunmow Town Strategy Group - Management Committee	1	Cllr M A Gayler
East of England Regional Assembly	1	Cllr A Dean
Eastern Orchestral Board	1	Cllr V J T Lelliott
East of England Regional Tourism Board	1	Cllr J F Cheetham (Sub-Cllr S Tealby-Watson)
Essex Arts Forum	1	Cllr B M Hughes
Essex County Strategic Partnership	1	Cllr A Dean
Essex Cycling Forum	1	Cllr M A Gayler
Essex Home Safety Liaison Committee	1	Cllr D W Gregory
Essex Local Government Association	1	Cllr A Dean (Sub Cllr D J Morson)
Essex Sport	1	Cllr F E Silver
Greater Cambridge Partnership	1	Cllr E Tealby-Watson (Sub-Cllr J F Cheetham)
Local Government Arts Forum	1	Cllr E Tealby-Watson
Local Government Association - General Assembly	1	Cllr A Dean (Sub-Cllr D J Morson)
- Rural Commission	2	Cllr A R Thawley Cllr D Corke
- Rural Community Partnership	1	Cllr A R Thawley (Sub-Cllr A J Ketteridge)
Museums in Essex Committee	1	Cllr V Pedder
National Housing and Town Planning Council	1	Cllr C A Cant

- Eastern Region Council		(Sub-Cllr C A Bayley)
Old Manse Home Community Support Group	1	Cllr J P Murphy
ResCU	1	Cllr F E Silver
Saffron Walden Age Concern	2	Cllr B M Hughes Cllr A Marchant
Saffron Walden Arts Trust	1	Cllr M A Hibbs
Saffron Walden Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr H D Baker
Saffron Walden Initiative Partnership Board	1	Cllr M Savage
Saffron Walden Local Road Safety Advisory Committee	2	Cllr C A Bayley Cllr R F Freeman
Saffron Walden Museum Society	3	Cllr B M Hughes Cllr V J T Lelliott Cllr V Pedder
Stansted Airport Community Trust	1	Cllr C M Dean
Stansted Airport Consultative Committee	1	Cllr P A Wilcock (Sub Cllr J F Cheetham)
Stansted Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr C M Dean
Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group	1	Cllr P A Wilcock (Sub Cllr J F Cheetham)
Supporting People - Essex Commissioning Body	1	Cllr C A Bayley
Takeley Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr J F Cheetham
Thaxted Day Centre Management Committee	1	Cllr A M Wattebot
Thaxted Guildhall Management Committee	2	Cllr A M Wattebot Cllr M L Foley
Uttlesford Buffy Bus Association	2	Cllr R T Harris Cllr V Pedder
Uttlesford Carers	1	Cllr B M Hughes
Uttlesford Citizens' Advice Bureau	1	Cllr B M Hughes
Uttlesford Community Safety Action Team	1	Cllr D W Gregory
- Community Support Group (Vulnerable Persons)	1	Cllr J E Menell
- Road Safety Sub-Group	1	Cllr C A Bayley
- Youth Initiatives Working Group	2	Cllr D J Morson Cllr S V Schneider

- Alcohol and Drug Strategy Group	1	Cllr J P Murphy
Uttlesford Community Travel	1	Cllr C A Bayley
Uttlesford Over Sixties Association	1	Cllr B M Hughes
Uttlesford Primary Care Trust	1	Cllr C A Cant
Uttlesford Police and Community Consultative Group	2	Cllr G Sell Cllr R F Freeman
Uttlesford Sports Forum	2	Cllr S C Jones Cllr S V Schneider (Sub Cllr E C Abrahams)
Waste Management Advisory Board	1	Cllr A R Thawley (Sub Cllr V Pedder)
Youth Services Group	2	Cllr M A Hibbs Cllr S V Schneider

#### C16 **BEST VALUE MEMBER REFERENCE GROUPS**

RESOLVED that Group Leaders advise the Chief Executive of the names of 4 representatives to be appointed to the Best Value Member Reference Groups for services in 2005 as follows:

Communication and consultation  
Financial Services  
Housing Management  
Building Surveying

#### C17 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANNUAL MEETING AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive and Leader be appointed to attend the Local Government Association annual meeting of the General Assembly at Harrogate on Tuesday 5 July 2005.

#### C18 **DISPENSATIONS**

At the Council meeting on 15 February 2005 dispensations had been granted to Councillors W F Bowker and D W Corke from Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings until the Annual Council Meeting on 17 May in view of their continued ill health.

Councillor Bowker had now attended this meeting and a dispensation was not required. However, Councillor Corke was still unwell and following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the absence of Councillor D W Corke from Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings beyond 17 May 2005 be approved on the grounds of ill health until the Council meeting on 18 October 2005.

C18

**ESSEX INTEGRATED WASTE CONTRACT**

Councillor Pedder introduced a comprehensive report asking Members to consider the following standard recommendations from the Waste Management Advisory Board that all partner authorities would be deciding during this period for the procurement stage of the long-term arrangements for the management of municipal solid waste across Essex:

- The approval of the constitution of the West Area Waste Management Joint Committee
- The approval of the first annual Business Plan for the West Area Waste Management Joint Committee

Councillor Murphy said that it was important to get the full advantage from the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive and stressed a need for integration and contact between the housing and environmental health sections.

Councillor C Dean pointed out that partner authorities only had 15 days to respond to issues and asked what mechanism was in place for councils with traditional committee structures to deal with this. Councillor Cheetham also asked what mechanism was in place for Board Members to report back to Committees and challenge any decisions. The Executive Manager Corporate Governance said that the Council was delegating responsibility for waste management to the Joint Committee and its decisions would be subject to the scrutiny rules of each authority. Councillor Hibbs added that he would investigate the issue regarding the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations.

RESOLVED that subject to the appropriate arrangements being established within the Council to challenge any decisions:

- 1 Uttlesford District Council approve the constitution for the West Area Waste Management Joint Committee
- 2 Uttlesford District Council approve the first annual business plan for the West Area Waste Management Joint Committee
- 3 Uttlesford District Council nominate Councillor A R Thawley to represent them on the West Area Waste Management Joint Committee
- 4 Uttlesford District Council nominate Councillor V Pedder as substitute Member to ensure representation on the West Area Waste Management Joint Committee

C20

**BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN**

The Executive Manager Strategy and Performance informed Members that the Council had to publish a Best Value Performance Plan by 30 June 2005. A draft copy had been circulated to all Members and, in order to take account of remaining outstanding performance data, and any late changes, Members

were asked to adopt the plan subject to the final approval of any changes by a working party comprising the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council together with the Leader of the Conservative Group.

She said that challenging targets for the next 3 years had been set reflecting the need to move performance towards the top quartile for district councils, balanced against local circumstances where necessary. As part of a continuing programme of performance improvement, local indicators would be reviewed in full by the new Performance Improvement Manager who was due to start on 1 June 2005. The Executive Management Team would be looking in depth at each best value performance indicator in June to consider actions required to move performance into the top quartile and transform performance improvement corporately. She concluded that Scrutiny Committee 2 had requested that service officers report to the meeting on 6 July in respect of every under performing performance indicator.

Councillor Silver said that the Performance Plan contained 91 faces, 48 of which were smiling and 43 were not and he asked whether this was considered to be satisfactory. The Executive Manager said that further improvements were needed and the performance management framework would help push performance up to the top quartile over a period of time with particular focus being given to poorly performing areas.

Councillor Murphy said that Councillors should have been one of the consultees and added that Scrutiny had not improved the way in which the Council worked. The Chief Executive said that the Executive Manager had only joined the Council in January and was addressing the issue of Scrutiny.

Councillor Sell referred to the targets relating to the time to determine planning applications and asked whether the target was stringent enough. The Executive Manger said that great strides had been made in planning performance and the targets would be reviewed. The Leader said that there was evidence of improvements in the planning performance and congratulated the staff on progress.

Councillor Ketteridge expressed concern that targets tended to change when the Council struggled to meet them and he drew attention to the target for fly tipping. Councillor Gayler concluded that it was a much improved document and added that he hoped that consultation next year would enable the Council to approve the final version at this time of the year.

RESOLVED that

- 1 The Best Value Performance Plan be adopted subject to any necessary amendments
- 2 Any amendments be subject to approval by a working party comprising the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council together with the Leader of the Conservative Group.



**C21 FORWARD WORK PLAN 2005/06**

At the last meeting of the Council Members had received a draft Forward Work Plan and had made a number of comments which had been incorporated into the final amended copy which had been circulated to all Members. The Plan captured regular scheduled reports to Committee and Council, together with headline items anticipated for debate during 2005/06.

RESOLVED that the Forward Work Plan 2005/06 be approved.

**C22 COUNCILLOR PEDDER**

Councillor Tealby-Watson expressed her congratulations to Councillor Vanessa Pedder and her husband on the birth of their first child, George Frederick Pedder.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.