

**EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Board held**  
**at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 6 May 2009**

**Present:** Councillors:  
  
Sara Randall Johnson (Chairman)  
  
Geoff Chamberlain  
Jill Elson  
Mike Green  
Peter Halse  
Stuart Hughes  
Graham Liverton  
Andrew Moulding

**Also Present:** Councillors:  
Vivienne Ash  
Peter Bowden  
Andrew Dinnis  
Paul Diviani  
Christine Drew  
Graham Godbeer  
Stephanie Jones  
Jim Knight  
  
Ann Liverton  
Frances Newth  
Marion Olive  
Helen Parr  
Tony Reed  
Pauline Stott  
Eileen Wragg  
Steve Wragg

**Also present:** Officers:  
  
Mark Williams, Chief Executive  
Denise Lyon, Deputy Chief Executive  
Diccon Pearse, Corporate Director  
Karime Hassan, Corporate Director  
Peter Jeffs, Corporate Director  
Donna Best, Principal Estates Surveyor  
Jamie Buckley, Engagement and Funding Officer  
Simon Davey, Head of Finance  
Nigel Harrison, Economic Development Manager  
Rachel Pocock, Head of Legal, Licensing and Democratic Services  
Mark Reilly, Head of Streetscene Services  
Simon Smale, Head of Environmental Health and Health Equalities  
Diana Vernon, Democratic Services Manager  
Len Wright, Car Park Services Manager

**Apologies** Councillors:  
Ray Franklin (Vice Chairman)  
David Cox

The meeting started at 5.30 pm and ended at 7.40 pm.

**\*230 Public Questions**

The Chairman welcomed Members of the public present and invited them to put their questions.

Derek Chant, a resident of Sidmouth, spoke of his concern about the erosion of the Salcombe cliffs, the effect of this on the World Wide Heritage Coast and tourism and the danger of collapse should the tunnel under the cliff become exposed. He felt that there should be further survey work undertaken. The Leader advised that the Council was analysing the whole area and Mr Chant's comments would be taken into consideration.

Paul Lewis of Ottery Town Council referred to the issue of Dog Control Orders and commended the work of Ottery Dogs which promoted and supported responsible dog ownership. He said that the final decision about Dog Control Orders should rest with the District Council.

Joy Richardson of Ottery Town Council also supported Ottery Dogs and their positive campaign in the town. She agreed that dogs should be banned from children's play areas but that other areas could be used by children and dogs on leads.

William Laitinen, a resident of Ottery St Mary asked the Council to re-consider the use of Dog Control Orders on some of the open spaces in Ottery St Mary as he said that imposing dog bans on all green spaces would be inappropriate. He believed that the people of Ottery should be able to use the park in a responsible way. He asked the Council to listen to Ottery Dogs and to recognise what they had done and were trying to achieve.

Adrian Foster, who lived near the recreation field at Oak Close said that the green area was used by many people for a variety of uses. It was not a formal recreation ground used for organised sport. He believed that all of the users should be able to continue to use the space, including dog owners. He noted that the field had an established right of way.

Anne Thomas-Hunt, a resident of Ottery St Mary and member of Ottery Dogs, said that the campaign had created a positive community spirit. She said that the suggestions put forward by dog owners and the community should be taken into account and that a reasonable compromise could be decided at local level which would have benefits for all.

The item on Dog Control Orders was taken later in the agenda.

**\*231 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 1 April 2009 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

**\*232 Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Board, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B.

**\*233 Forward Plan**

The contents of the Forward Plan for the period 1 May 2009 to 31 August 2009 were noted.

**\*234 Matters referred to the Executive Board**

There were no matters referred to the Executive Board by the Scrutiny or Corporate Overview Committees or the Council.

**\*235 Minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Overview Committees and the Scrutiny Committee**

The Board noted the minutes of the following meetings:

- Corporate Overview Committee held on 26 March and 2 April 2009
- Scrutiny Committee held on 8 April 2009

Members discussed the recommendations of the Corporate Overview Committee in respect of Dog Control Orders (minute 42 refers). Following debate, the Committee had recommended that the existing arrangements be retained within the new legal format and for other play areas within the ownership of East Devon District Council currently not covered by a Dog Control Order to now be included. The recommendations did not take into account all the sites put forward by the town and parish councils during the consultation process. It was felt that as each community was different, solutions should be sought on an individual basis. The Board felt that the recommendations of the Corporate Overview Committee should be approved but that a report reviewing areas put forward by town and parish councils should be referred to the June meeting of the Board when the areas would be considered on an individual basis.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that a further report be referred to the Executive Board in June setting out the areas of green space put forward by the town and parish councils as part of the consultation process on Dog Control Orders, with each submission being considered by the Board on a case by case basis so that a decision could be made which would be most appropriate for the local community,

- (2) that the following decisions be noted:

**Corporate  
Overview  
Min 43**

1. that the implications of the Pitt review for the role and responsibilities of the District Council in the future management of local flood risk be prioritised particularly with respect to financial and work load considerations,
2. that representatives from the Environment Agency and Devon County Council be invited to a future meeting of the Corporate Overview (or relevant successor) Committee to understand the steps that were being taken by both organisations to address the recommendations of the Pitt Review;
3. that the recommendations and views of the Flood Recovery Group be brought to both the Corporate Overview (or relevant successor) Committee and Executive Board for consideration.

\*235 **Minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Overview Committees and the Scrutiny Committee (cont)..**

(2) that the following decisions be noted (cont)..

**CO Min 44** that the high percentage of resident satisfied with the doorstep recycling scheme be welcomed, but concern be expressed over the reduction in satisfaction with the Leisure Service provision over the last 8 years with the Scrutiny (or relevant successor) Committee being requested to investigate this issue.

**CO Min 49** that an updated report on the proposed development of The Strand, Exmouth be made to the meeting of the Corporate Overview (or relevant successor) Committee in June 2009.

**Scrutiny Committee Min 69**

1. that the Scrutiny Committee's recognition of the work achieved by the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board and the team behind the new scheme, be noted with the improved rate of recycling collection being especially noted;
2. that operatives of the Street Scene service be recognised for the excellent service delivery of dog bins in Exmouth.

**Scrutiny Min 70**

1. that the Place Survey Results be brought back to the Scrutiny (or relevant successor) Committee when the district comparisons have been obtained and analysed;
2. that Leisure East Devon be invited back to a future meeting of the Committee (or its successor) to answer questions in the light of the survey findings;
3. that the availability of school premises for activities outside school hours be explored at a future meeting, to include an invitation to the Member Champion for Young People;
4. that the inclusion of specific planning conditions to provide leisure facilities be explored at a future meeting, to include an invitation to the Development Control Manager and the Chairman of Development Control.

\*235 **Minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Overview Committees and the Scrutiny Committee (cont) ..**

(2) that the following decisions be noted (cont)..

- Scrutiny Min 71**
1. that the proposed layout of the Scrutiny Annual report be adopted;
  2. that the final wording of the report be delegated to the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, in consultation with the Vice Chairman and the Deputy Chief Executive, before presenting the report to the Annual Council Meeting.

**Scrutiny Min 72** that the update on the loan application made by Poltimore House be noted.

- Scrutiny Min 73**
1. that Dr Snee be invited back to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to answer questions on changes to minor injuries service, with an invitation to the Devon NHS Partnership to attend;
  2. that an attendance records review be added to the Overview/Scrutiny Forward Plan.

(3) that the following recommendations be approved:

- Corporate Overview Min 42**
1. that the Fouling of Land by Dogs Order, the Dogs on Leads by Direction Order and the Dogs (Specified Maximum) Order be confirmed without variation;
  2. that the Dogs on Leads Order be confirmed for all areas currently subject to equivalent controls within existing byelaws;
  3. that the Dogs Exclusion Order be confirmed for all designated children's play areas and all other areas currently subject to equivalent controls within existing byelaws;

- Scrutiny Committee Min 69**
1. that steps be taken by the Recycling and Refuse Board to minimise the number of missed collections, especially for assisted collections;
  2. that there be full local Ward Member involvement with the remaining phases of the new recycling and refuse scheme.

**\*236 Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board**

Members noted the minutes of the meetings of the Partnership Board held on 10 March and 7 April 2009.

**237 Member Development Working Party**

Members noted the report of the Member Development Working Party held on 1 April 2009 and the appended Member Development and Training Evaluation Strategy.

The Chairman of the Working Party, Councillor Moulding drew Members' attention to the suggestion that a Member Development Champion be appointed. He also said that the Working Party had discussed the need for Members to be kept properly informed by Officers, particularly about issues within their own Ward. The Portfolio Holder – Communications advised that this matter had also been discussed at his recent Think Tank. The Chief Executive said that action was being taken to address this issue.

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that, where appropriate, support and guidance be sought from Human Resources to help progress the initiative which would benefit the organisation as a whole,
  - (2) that consideration be given to appointing a Member Development Champion at the annual meeting of the Council.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Member Development and Training Evaluation Strategy be approved.

**\*238 Planning Delegations Working Group**

Members noted the recommendations of the Planning Delegations Working Group from meetings held on 25 February and 18 March 2009. The proposed Member checks and balances on 'other' applications plus site visit with Councillors protocol was included in the agenda papers for information.

The Working Group had reconvened on 22 April to draw up guidance for staff dealing with applications for certificates of lawfulness (Executive Board minute 216 refers) and to consider comments made by the Development Control Committee at its meeting on 7 April 2009. This report would be referred to the next meeting of the Board.

At its meetings, the Working Group also discussed the role of Ward Members on Development Control and Planning Inspections Committees. The Group recommended that Ward Members become Members of the Development Control Committee and Planning Inspections Committee when an application within their Ward was being considered by the Committee - the Ward Member not being entitled to make the recommendation of how the application would be determined. Members were advised that this recommendation would require a unanimous vote at Council for it to be adopted and implemented.

As a result of the work of the Working Group, Group Leaders had been reminded of the importance of trying to achieve a geographical balance when nominating Councillors for Development Control and Planning Inspections Committees.

The Leader thanked Councillor Andrew Dinnis who had chaired the Working Group. She said that the Working Group had produced a useful piece of work. In turn, Councillor Dinnis thanked the Councillors and Officers involved and said that the debate had been thoughtful and worthwhile.

**Planning Delegations Working Group (cont)..**

**RESOLVED** that no action be taken in respect of broadband speeds with Councillors being advised that the problem experienced may be as a result of the broadband package they are currently using,

**RECOMMENDED** (1) that planning officers use the most appropriate method of advising neighbours of applications with the level of notification being proportionate to the size and impact of the proposed development,

(2) that no action be taken to record information on the number of applications, where the officer recommendation differed from the view of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Development Control Committee, and where the application was subsequently referred to the Development Control Committee,

(3) that Members continue to be invited to observe the delegated procedure being carried out by the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman of the Development Control Committee with the Head of Planning and Countryside looking into the practicality of setting up a 'delegations' workshop using examples of past decisions for the benefit of all Councillors,

(4) that the proposed triggers for referring an application to Committee be amended as follows:

- Once the report and recommendation has been drafted by the senior officer it will then be emailed to the relevant Ward Member(s) and copied to the DC Chairman (or Vice Chairman in their absence).
- The Ward Member will then have the opportunity to discuss the application with the senior officer if he chooses to do so or attend the delegation meeting and consider whether the material planning reasons stated, and the reason for committee decision, are sufficient to justify a committee decision being required.
- The final decision on whether or not an application goes to Committee will rest with the Chairman (or Vice Chairman in their absence).
- The Chairman will urgently advise the relevant planning team as to whether the application should be delegated or go to Committee.

(the final decision on wording to be made by the Corporate Director in consultation with the Chairman of the Working Group).

(5) that, to assist Ward Members, the Head of Planning to look at means to identify as: 'Minor', 'Major' or 'Other' applications,

(6) that the proposed site visit with Councillors protocol, attached to the report, be adopted,

(7) that Government be lobbied to include mediation within the appeals process.

**\*239 Honiton Community Centre**

Members considered the report of Karime Hassan, Corporate Director setting out the background to the proposed Honiton Community Centre, progress to date, and the funding arrangements in place. It was noted that some of the time-limited funding secured through Section 106 Agreements could be lost as a result of any significant delay. A request had been received from Honiton Town Council for District Council assistance to progress the initiative.

The report suggested that the next step would be to appoint a quantity surveyor to look at the costings of the scheme and to explore ways of reducing the construction cost. Ideally this would address the funding shortfall without compromising the integrity of the complex. The Council had sought to facilitate rather than provide the Centre but recognised that the Town Council would need help to project manage the initiative. There was a need to clarify the Council's role in assisting project delivery of the Community Centre because it needed to retain its position of support and guidance whilst making sure that the project continued to be Honiton community led.

The Portfolio Holder – Resources suggested that capital funding and Section 106 monies already in place should be used to progress the project but that the Council should not incur any additional costs.

Councillor Peter Halse, Ward Councillor said that the project needed Council support to progress and co-ordinate the relevant expertise. The site was ideal for community use and was needed by the town. Councillor Marion Olive, Ward Member agreed that joint action was needed between the Community Centre Association, the District Council and Town Council.

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that the District Council sign a memorandum of understanding with the Town Council to confirm the nature of both Councils' support to the complex and the working arrangements;
  - (2) that consultant quantity surveyors be appointed to advise the Council on the construction cost of the complex and to negotiate with architectural and construction companies on behalf of the Honiton Community Complex;
  - (3) that subject to the content of the memorandum of understanding the Council appoint, as appropriate, consultants to take forward key stages of the project, such as setting up of governance arrangements, the details and costs of which shall be reported to the Executive Board and funded from the section 106 monies.

(Councillor Vivienne Ash declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item due to her involvement with the proposed Community Centre and her request, as Vice Chairman of the Honiton Town Council, for the Council to help progress this initiative. She left the Chamber during the debate).

**\*240 Place Survey**

Consideration was given to the report of the Engagement and Funding Officer on the outcomes of the Place Survey. Comparison information from other district authority areas was not yet available from the Audit Commission but when released would be reported to the Board. The specific 18 National Indicators contained within the Survey would be reported as part of the quarterly monitoring end of year report and would include benchmarking information. Members were reminded that the survey was about East Devon as a place and not just as a district council area.

\*240 **Place Survey (cont)..**

The aim of the Survey, sent out by the Council on behalf of the Government, was to gain information for use in improving the outcomes for local people and places. The results had already been considered by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Members noted that the resultant top public priority was affordable decent homes which matched this Council's number one priority. The results showed increased public satisfaction with recycling and refuse in the Phase 1 area.

Members discussed the apparent fall in public satisfaction with the district's sport and leisure provision and recognised that this was a far wider issue within the district than the facilities provided through Leisure East Devon as these had high customer satisfaction.

The Engagement and Funding Officer was thanked for her report and the work that she had carried out.

**RESOLVED** that the results of the Place Survey be noted and a further report be referred to the Board with the comparison information from other authorities when this had been made available.

241 **Community Engagement Policy**

Members considered the report of the Engagement and Funding Officer seeking approval of the Community Engagement Policy which up-dated the current Consultation Policy and included recent legislation and guidance, such as the new statutory duty to involve the public in the Council's activities. The Community Engagement Policy provided a framework for community engagement in the district and supported the Council's Corporate Strategy. Community engagement took many forms including empowerment and participatory budgeting and gave the Council the opportunity to work more closely with local people and design services around its customers.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Community Engagement Policy be approved.

\*242 **Civil Parking Enforcement – an up-date**

Members considered the joint report of the Head of Street Scene and the Car Park Services Manager up-dating the Council's current position with regard to the delivery of Civil Parking Enforcement, the things that had gone well and lessons learnt.

The Head of Street Scene advised that the transfer of the provision had gone exceptionally well and had achieved what the new arrangements had set out to achieve – to keep traffic moving freely by making highways less obstructed by parked vehicles.

The Leader congratulated the team on their success in taking over the service and overcoming difficulties of new software, new teams and the late issue of guidance. She said that there was a need to discuss service levels with Devon County Council to make sure that the service was properly resourced so that it met local needs, that parking issues specific to certain areas within towns were addressed (including issue of penalties), and that revenue levels from on-street parking and car parks were maintained.

Councillor Stuart Hughes, Chairman of the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee advised that this issue had been discussed at a recent meeting and this would now be referred to the County Council. He also advised that the Police appeared to be reluctant to issue Civil Parking Enforcement tickets after 6 pm and that this matter needed to be addressed.

**\*242 Civil Parking Enforcement – an up-date (cont)..**

**RESOLVED** that the Council enters into negotiations with Devon County Council in respect of the Civil Parking Enforcement service level agreement for the forthcoming year to ensure that the service was adequately resourced and on-street problems identified in certain areas within East Devon towns were addressed.

**\*243 Implementing the Integrated Devon proposals**

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive, up-dated at the meeting, in respect of the work being carried out to achieve an Integrated Devon. He explained that district councils were looking to form 'clusters'/ partnership groups to deliver services to help achieve savings without the significant upfront expenditure required with the unitary option.

Members were advised that a meeting had been held between the Leaders of the East Devon and Mid Devon District Councils to discuss a way of progressing integrated working for the benefit of service users and citizens. The proposed joint working party would include 3 members of each of the district councils with high level officer support. The four main areas of initial focus would be: Central, Housing, Development Control and Grant Services.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the Council sets up a joint working group comprising three councillors from both East Devon District Council and Mid Devon District Council with the objectives and terms of reference referred to in the report,
- (2) that East Devon's representatives on the joint working group be: Councillors Sara Randall Johnson, Jill Elson and Ray Franklin.

**\*244 Treasury Management Performance 2008/09**

The Board considered the joint report of the Accountancy Assistant and Head of Finance detailing the overall performance of the Council's investment portfolio during 2008/09. The performance of the majority of the Council's investments was higher than predicted as the 2008/09 calculation had been set against a worst case scenario of returns of 5.8%. However it was anticipated, with the sharp fall in interest rates, that the level of interest earned in 2009/10 would be significantly reduced as the prediction was based on a return of 3.75%. The position would be reported to the Board, as in past years, on a monthly basis.

Members noted the performance of 'in-house' managed funds, borrowing and the treasury management strategy which was being re-written in the light of the current financial climate and would be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

The Head of Finance advised that the surplus from 08/09 would be used to off-set the 09/10 shortfall.

**RESOLVED** that the Council's Treasury Management Performance 2008/09 be noted

**\*245 Performance Monitoring report – until March 09**

Members considered the report of the Communications and Improvement Manager setting out the performance information for the 08/09 financial year until March 2009. Charts of Performance Indicators which had raised concern were included and those which had benefited from systems thinking. Members welcomed improved performance times directly related to the systems thinking work particularly in respect of benefits and rent collection.

Members continued to show concern in respect of the sickness absence rates and days lost through sickness. The Chief Executive advised that the figures were distorted by a number of staff who were on medium and long term sick due to serious illness but that steps were being taken to reduce the number of days lost through short term sickness.

The reports had been issued in black and white on a trial basis but the Leader advised that future colour 'traffic light' reporting would be used for ease of reference when considering these reports.

**RESOLVED** that the performance and proposed remedial action against the selected Performance Indicators for the 08/09 financial year until March 2009 be noted.

**\*246 Electricity Consumption at Knowle**

Members considered the joint report of the Carbon Management Programme Officer and Karime Hassan, Corporate Director on the electricity consumption at Knowle. The main reason for the overspend was identified as the 35% increase in electricity prices but despite work carried out by the Carbon Management Programme, electricity consumption had increased by 5.6%. Members noted the further action planned to reduce electricity consumption and the importance of involving the Council's 'Green Team'.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the increase in electricity consumption at the Knowle over the last 12 months be noted,
- (2) that the portfolio holders for Economy and Environment convene a Think Tank to look, with the Council's Green Team, at the detail of the issues raised in this report to assess how practical measures could be introduced to reduce electricity consumption at Knowle.

**247 Up-dates to Employment Policies:**  
**Flexible Working Policy**  
**Job Evaluation Policy**  
**Dealing with Unsatisfactory Performance Policy**  
**Absence Management Policy**

Members of the Board considered the report of the Head of Organisational Development which recommended changes to existing policies to incorporate new legislation and to ensure the on-going effectiveness of these policies.

**RECOMMENDED** that the revised content of the Flexible Working, Job Evaluation, Dealing with Unsatisfactory Performance and Absence Management policies be approved.

**\*248 Anti-social behaviour and byelaws at Shelly Beach, Exmouth**

Members considered the report of the Senior Solicitor up-dating Members on the background and action taken to date to help address problems at Shelly Beach, including anti-social behaviour of vehicle users. Concerns had been highlighted by the Exmouth Quay Residents' Association.

The East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee had met on 1 December 2008 and discussed three possible approaches to address the problem. The Committee noted that attempting to resolve anti-social activities on Shelly Beach by restricting usage to only one of the access points was impractical and resolved to ask the District Council to implement a byelaw prohibiting driving and parking on Shelly Beach. Members had previously discussed concerns about whether any such byelaw could effectively be enforced.

Tony Wiseman, a resident of Exmouth who lived close to the slipway at Shelly Beach, advised that there were incidents of speeding vehicles on the beach which had no regard for public safety. He added that jet skis were not complying with the speed limit. He feared that there would be a serious accident.

Councillor Eileen Wragg confirmed these concerns and added that it was appropriate for EDDC and DCC to meet to resolve the identified issues.

**RESOLVED** that relevant Councillors (including Ward Members) and Officers of EDDC and DCC (including legal Officers) and representatives of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and Exmouth Town Council meet to consider the range of issues surrounding use of the Belshers Slipway and Shelly Beach and for their recommendations to be referred to the June meeting of the Board.

**\*249 Investors in People up-date**

Members considered the report of the Head of Organisational Development advising that the Council had achieved Investors in People status for the second time. The Assessor's report was included within the agenda papers. The Assessor had included 12 areas for further work and already managers had drawn up a continuous improvement plan. The Chief Executive advised that the report was positive, largely endorsed current practice and that recommendations were already being putting in place. He added that the Council's innovative best practice was being used as a case study to share learning with other authorities.

The Head of Organisational Development and her team were particularly thanked for their efforts. The Portfolio Holder – Resources also commended the work of the Chief Executive, his leadership and his availability to staff. The Board also recognised the importance of regarding Councillors as an asset to the organisation.

**RESOLVED** that the content of the Investor in People Report and the Continuous Improvement Plan be noted.

**\*250 Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing the items in private session (Part B).

**\*251 South Street Car Park, Axminster**

The Board considered the report of the Principal Estates Surveyor in respect of a request to transfer the Council's freehold interest in South Street Car Park, Axminster for the development of a mixed use scheme in conjunction with an adjacent plot. This was seen as an opportunity to regenerate this run-down area of the town. The scheme would enable the Council to retain and even enhance its revenue from car parking.

The Member Champion – Culture hoped that the scheme would benefit from public art and sensitive landscaping.

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that the transfer of the Council's freehold interest on South Street Car Park, Axminster to facilitate re-development of the surrounding area be approved on the basis that the replacement car park be subsequently leased back to East Devon District Council;
  - (2) that the Principal Estates Surveyor be given delegated authority to enter into negotiations with the developer's agent.

**\*252 Booking Office on Exmouth Sea Front (Queen's Drive)**

Members considered the report of the Principal Estates Surveyor in respect of an application from the owner of Stuart Line Cruises to purchase a long leasehold interest in part of the Council's beach at Exmouth to build a new booking office and winch house. The application was supported by the Exmouth Regeneration Programme Board. Planning permission would be required for the new booking office and conditions would be attached to make sure that the new building was appropriate to the area.

- RESOLVED** that the Economy and Estates team be authorised to enter into negotiations for the grant of a 25 year leasehold interest in part of the beach at Exmouth to facilitate a replacement booking office

**\*253 Land at Harepath Road, Seaton**

Members considered the report of the Economic Development Manager, which was updated at the meeting, in respect of local employment opportunity and additional outdoor recreational facilities in Seaton. In the light of a meeting on Friday with a possible private developer, the Economic Development Manager suggested a change to the recommendation in the report.

- RESOLVED** that, subject to the Economy and Resources Portfolio Holders first being satisfied that there is no immediate prospect of the land referred to in the report being delivered by the market, funding, available within the Council's Local Authority Business Growth Incentive budget 2009/10, be used to commission external consultants to prepare and submit an Outline Planning Application for mixed use employment and recreational development on 6.8 hectares of agricultural land at Harepath Road Seaton, as identified in the plan attached to the report.

(Councillor Jim Knight declared a personal interest in this item as Chairman of the Business Development Steering Group in Seaton.)

Chairman ..... Date .....