

# COUNCIL MEETING - 19 FEBRUARY 2009

## URGENT CONSERVATIVE GROUP MOTION

### Item 14 - MOTION

#### REASON FOR URGENCY:

Due to the information only recently becoming available and the need to align with the Council's July timetable.

### SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT

This Council notes that the Sustainable Communities Act has particular relevance to one of its three priorities for 2009/2010, that of Building Stronger Communities. The Council thus:

- (i) supports the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the help that central government gives in reversing community decline and promoting thriving, sustainable communities;
- (ii) notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to:
  - make proposals to government on the action and assistance government
  - must take or give to promote sustainable communities, and that
  - those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and function
  - from central to local control;
- (iii) notes that the Act defines sustainable communities broadly:
  - that definition having the four aspects of
  - the improvement of the local economy,
  - protection of the environment,
  - promotion of social inclusion, and
  - participation in civic and political activity;
- (iv) notes that reasons for a local authority choosing to use the Act include gaining new assistance from government, determining that assistance, being able to argue for transfers of public monies from central to local control and involving citizens in democracy.
- (v) resolves, having been invited to by central government in October 2008, to use the Act by preparing and submitting proposals on how central government can help by 31st July 2009.

**Proposed by:**  
Councillor David Ashton

**Seconded by:**  
Councillor Paul Osborn