

The Executive – 11 January 2012

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **11 January 2012** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice Chairman: Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr M Maddocks
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson	Cllr M J Steptoe

VISITING

Cllrs C I Black and M Hoy.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	- Chief Executive
A Bugeja	- Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
Y Woodward	- Head of Finance
R Evans	- Head of Environmental Services
J Bourne	- Head of Community Services
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning and Transportation
S Neville	- Strategic Housing Manager
B Saunders	- Street Scene Manager
J Bostock	- Member Services Manager

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 WASTE DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT PREFERRED APPROACH CONSULTATION

The Executive considered the report of Head of Planning and Transportation on responding to Essex County Council and Southend Borough Council's Waste Development Document Preferred Approach Consultation.

Members agreed that emphasis should be placed on the consideration of opportunities for the provision of another site appropriately located in the Rayleigh area and that the Castle Road facility should not be closed down until another facility is operational.

It was noted that residents in the east of the District had an option of utilising the Stock Road facility within the Southend Borough area. The charge for using this facility is reimbursed by Essex County Council.

Resolved

That the information set out in the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation be submitted as Rochford District Council's response to Essex County Council and Southend Borough Council's Waste Development Document Preferred Approach consultation. In particular, the Castle Road recycling facility in Rayleigh should not be safeguarded from redevelopment and the plan should consider opportunities for the provision of another site appropriately located in the Rayleigh area. The Castle Road facility should not be closed down until another facility is operational. (HPT)

6 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RECHARGES

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Community Services on the use of the homelessness reserve budget for the development and implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at increasing homelessness prevention and reducing the use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

During discussion it was noted that:-

- There is a legal requirement for County Council social care teams to be involved in resolving potential issues associated with 16/17 year olds, which has minimised placement requirements for this age group.
- Most private landlords offer short-hold tenancies of six month duration.

Members concurred with the observation of the Chairman that the proposals within the report were worthy of exploring given their potential to assist vulnerable residents. It would be appropriate to review the position in twelve months time.

Resolved

- (1) That the homelessness reserve budget be used for the development and implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at increasing homelessness prevention and, therefore, reducing the use of bed and breakfast accommodation.
- (2) That the proposals for recovering charges associated with the provision of bed and breakfast accommodation and the protection of property, as detailed in section 4 of the report of the Head of Community Services, be agreed.
- (3) That the position with regard to this subject be reviewed in twelve months time. (HCS)

7 DRAFT AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR RAWRETH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on authorising public consultation on the Draft Air Quality Action Plan for the Rawreth Industrial Estate.

Responding to questions the Head of Service advised that, whilst a key issue appeared to be the movement of vehicles over unmade yard surfaces, legislation did not enable authorities to be prescriptive over surface type. Surface issues are, however, raised with licensees.

It was pleasing that, since the Air Quality Management Area had been declared, there had been a reduction in pollutants at this location, which would hopefully continue.

Resolved

- (1) That public consultation on the draft Air Quality Action Plan for the Rawreth Industrial Estate be authorised.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Environment to approve the final Air Quality Action Plan. (HES)

8 ECO-ENTERPRISE CENTRE PROPOSAL

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation on the provision of an eco-enterprise centre.

During discussion it was agreed that it would be appropriate to investigate the feasibility of introducing a suite of small business start-up units at the Rayleigh Car Park Site – Station Approach. Both the planning and financial aspects associated with achieving an eco-enterprise centre within the totality of the Airport Joint Area Action Plan area would need to form part of considerations.

Resolved

- (1) That the feasibility of introducing a suite of small business start-up units at the Rayleigh Car Park Site – Station Approach be investigated.
- (2) That the planning and financial aspects associated with achieving the delivery of an eco-enterprise centre within the totality of the London Southend Airport Joint Area Action Plan area be investigated. (HPT)

9 REVENUES AND BENEFITS CAPITA TELEPHONE CALLS CONTRACT UPDATE

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Community Services on awarding a further twelve-month contract following the receipt of revised costs.

In terms of achieving value for money it would be appropriate to analyse statistical information produced by Capita LGS during the remainder of the contract.

Resolved

That, following the receipt of revised contract costs, Capita LGS be awarded a further twelve-month contract with effect from 1 April 2012 for taking the Council's revenues and benefits telephone calls. (HCS)

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

10 THE FUTURE PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Environmental Services on the options available.

Responding to questions, officers confirmed the position with regard to communication with the Town/Parish Councils, research that had been undertaken on community toilet possibilities and the consultation arrangements associated with the emerging Town Centre Area Action Plans.

It was noted that final decisions on any of the sites identified within the report would be a matter for the Executive/appropriate Portfolio Holder.

Resolved

That the Public Toilet Strategy and the recommendations contained under section 8 therein, as appended to the exempt report of the Head of Environmental Services, be adopted. (HES)

11 ACACIA HOUSE, ROCHFORD – POSSIBLE FUTURE USES

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services on options for the future use of Acacia House.

With regard to option (5), it was recognised that use of the term 'alternative temporary accommodation' would be appropriate and that any further exploration could usefully include the possibilities for ground floor community facilities.

Reference was made to the need to remain mindful of the prevailing economic climate.

Resolved

That options (1) and (5) relating to the future use of Acacia House, Rochford, as set out in the exempt report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services, be further explored subject to recognising that, with regard to option (5), use of the term 'alternative temporary accommodation' would be appropriate and that exploration could include the possibilities for ground floor community facilities. (HLEMS)

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

Chairman

Date

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