

The Executive – 2 April 2014

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **2 April 2014** 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 S P Smith
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson	Cllr M J Steptoe

VISTING

Cllrs T E Mountain and D J Sperring

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Dave	- Chief Executive
A Bugeja	- Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
Y Woodward	- Head of Finance
R Evans	- Head of Environmental Services
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning and Transportation
L Bliss	- Senior Corporate Communications Officer
J Bostock	- Member Services Manager

72 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73 ROCHFORD GROWTH STRATEGY 2014-2017

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation on the Rochford Growth Strategy 2014-2017 as the framework for promoting economic development in the District.

It was noted that the Strategy would be a feature of the forthcoming business seminar. The Strategy was endorsed subject to certain amendments.

Resolved

- (1) That the Rochford Growth Strategy 2014-2017, as attached to the report, be agreed as the framework for promoting economic development in the District, subject to:-
 - Inclusion of a paragraph in Section 1 on the Michelins Farm Site.
 - Inclusion of reference to the location of the Med Tech Campus.

- Inclusion of the words ‘in partnership’ after the words ‘we will work’ in the first line of the final paragraph on the Med Tech Campus.
 - Rewording of the third and fourth sentences in the paragraph on Highways Improvements to read ‘Whilst the Council is not the Highways Authority and so is not in a position to directly implement infrastructure proposals, we recognise the need for improvements and these will be fully supported by the Council. Improved strategic highway infrastructure is recognised as being key to business, and business growth, and something that the Council is keen to work with relevant partners on.’
- (2) That updates and amendments to the Strategy document, as required, be agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Regeneration, Business Liaison and Tourism to ensure that the document is kept up to date.
- (3) That a detailed Action Plan be prepared and reported back to the Executive in July 2014. (HPT)

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.

74 DRAFT OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Environmental Services on the Draft Open Spaces Strategy being prepared for consultation.

The proposed Strategy was endorsed subject to a review to ensure that plain English is used and to the expansion of a couple of elements.

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Open Spaces Strategy, as attached to the report, be agreed for consultation with key stakeholders, subject to:-
- Review of the document to ensure that the English used is as plain as possible.
 - Expansion of the term ‘Regular 1:1’ for the purpose of clarification.

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- Review of the terminology used in relation to volunteer wardens for the Cherry Orchard Country Park so that it is clear that any concerns identified by wardens would be reported to Council officers.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Leisure Arts and Culture, to approve the Action Plan.
- (3) That, following public consultation, the finalised Strategy is presented to the Executive in July for approval. (HES)

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

Chairman

Date

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