

## Extraordinary Council – 26 June 2007

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Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **26 June 2007** when there were present:-

Vice Chairman in the Chair: Cllr J E Grey

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Cllr C I Black	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs L M Cox	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr Mrs J Dillnutt	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr T Livings	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins
Cllr C J Lumley	

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, M R Carter, J P Cottis, K A Gibbs, T E Goodwin, Mrs S A Harper, J R F Mason, R A Oatham, J M Pullen and P R Robinson.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	- Chief Executive
G Woolhouse	- Corporate Director (External Services)
A J Bugeja	- Head of Legal Services
Y Woodward	- Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management
C Watkins	- Financial Services Manager/Chief Accountant
J Pritchard	- Housing Manager
J Bostock	- Principal Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Dr G Moody (Financial Consultant for transfer of housing stock)  
Mr K Jenkins (Legal Consultant for transfer of housing stock)

Note: The Item on transfer of Housing Stock to Rochford Housing Association was considered following the exclusion of the public and press 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.

### **207 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs K J Gordon, Mrs J R Lumley and Mrs C A Weston each declared a personal interest in the item on transfer of Housing Stock to Rochford Housing

Association by virtue of being the Council's representatives on the Rochford Housing Association Board.

### **208 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2007/08**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on updating the Corporate Plan.

Members concurred with the observation of the Leader of the Council that the document was an effective statement of the Council's plans.

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- The picture of the airport on the front of the draft Plan would be replaced with a view of a District-specific location.
- Future documents of this nature could be identified as "Draft". Reference to a vacancy on page 3.6 would be removed.
- The Review Committee was a potential route for the raising of concern that the National Health Service does not necessarily have comprehensive arrangements for the disposal of clinical waste.
- The first bullet point on page 3.15 could be adjusted to read "Raising the Profile of Rochford District".

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to the amendments suggested, the Corporate Plan for 2007/08 be approved, with authority delegated to the Chief Executive to address any further minor changes that are required (CE).

### **209 PERFORMANCE PLAN 2007**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the Performance Plan 2007.

During discussion specific reference was made to how, as a result of Rochford District Council's involvement with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Home Office had stated that the 23.5% decrease of recorded crime in Rochford over the past year across a range of indicators is the biggest in the whole region. This highlighted the safe nature of the District.

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- The public perception of crime levels does not necessarily match the reality and perception can be strongly influenced by the national media.

- To ensure that it is statistically robust, the Residents' Survey is undertaken every three years by an independent pollster in accordance with national guidelines.
- Some comments within the document are from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment undertaken in 2004. There have been a number of improvements since that time.

### **Resolved**

That the Performance Plan 2007 be approved, with authority delegated to the Chief Executive to address any further minor changes that are required (CE).

## **210 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2006/07**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the Financial Statements for 2006/07.

Responding to questions, the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management advised that the figures set out in the statements would not change should housing stock transfer proceed and that the Accounting Standards Board was behind moves towards the use of International Accounting Standards.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Financial Statements be approved and signed by the Chairman of the Council.
- (2) That the Accounts be agreed for submission to the external auditors (HFAPM).

## **211 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the current Capital Programme following closure of Accounts for 2006/07.

Responding to questions, the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management advised that:-

- The medium-term financial strategy included the sum of £500,000 for renewal of the street cleansing, grounds maintenance and recycling contracts. Where contract vehicles are funded through a contract the cost is usually applied to revenue. Officers are currently considering the options with regard to contract vehicles.
- The playspace budget for 2006/07 had not been fully utilised, so had been rolled forward.
- Line 21 related to planning applications, surveys and consultants.

- The monies allocated to Sweyne Park/Rayleigh Leisure Centre related to a piece of land behind the Leisure Centre that is being brought into use.

### **Resolved**

That the revised Capital Programme for 2007/08 be agreed (HFAPM).

## **212 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07**

Council considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on Treasury Management for the year 2006/07.

### **Resolved**

That the report be accepted (HFAPM).

## **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

### **Resolved**

That the Press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining item of 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.

## **213 TRANSFER OF HOUSING STOCK TO ROCHFORD HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) seeking final approval for the transfer of the Council's Housing Stock to Rochford Housing Association Ltd.

The detailed discussion and decisions are set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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