

Executive Board – 27 November 2007

Minutes of the meeting of the **Executive Board** held on **27 November 2007** when there were present:-

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

Cllr K J Gordon
Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr C G Seagers

Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr P F A Webster

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Internal Services)
G Woolhouse	-	Corporate Director (External Services)

398 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

399 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr K J Gordon declared a personal interest in the item on Strategic Planning for Health – Consultations by virtue of being the Council's appointee designate to attend meetings of the South Essex Primary Care Trust.

Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in the item on Strategic Planning for Health – Consultations by virtue of being a County Council appointee to the Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

400 REPORT OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUB-COMMITTEE – ROCHFORD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Board considered the report of the Local Development Framework Sub-Committee containing a recommendation relating to submission of the revised Local Development Scheme to the Government Office for approval.

Resolved

That the revised Local Development Scheme, as attached to the report, be submitted to the Government Office for the East of England for approval.
(HPT)

401 2007/08 MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT TO MEMBERS

The Board considered the report of the Chief Executive on the Council's performance against all the national best value performance indicators, key local performance indicators and Comprehensive Performance Assessment indicators for the first half year of 2007/08.

The Board concurred with the observation of a Member that it would be appropriate to issue a press release highlighting performance trends and achievements in respect of national best value performance indicators.

Resolved

That, subject to the issue of a press release highlighting performance trends and achievements in respect of national best value performance indicators, the performance achieved in the first half of 2007/08 be noted. (CE)

402 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – IMPLICATIONS FOR ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Board considered the report of the Chief Executive outlining the new set of Performance Indicators published by Central Government, including their implications in connection with the Local Area Agreement Process, and the emerging implications of a definitions consultation paper.

It was noted that, until detailed guidance is published, it is not possible to be specific about additional resources that might be required to respond to indicators. It was also noted that bodies such as the Electoral Commission were proposing to introduce their own local authority performance measures.

Resolved

- (1) That the indicators identified by the Senior Management Team be suggested to the County Council as relevant to the Local Area Agreement Process.
- (2) That the potential issues emerging around the National Performance Indicator set and the definitions and requirements attached to those indicators be noted. (CE)

403 HALL ROAD CEMETERY EXTENSION – PREPARATION OF A DEVELOPMENT BRIEF

The Board considered the report of the Head of Legal Services on the options for developing the cemetery extension at Hall Road, Rochford, and the timescale for development proposals.

It was noted that there would be further reports on the detail of proposals for this capital scheme.

Responding to questions, the Corporate Director (Internal Services) advised that:-

- For schemes of this nature the ground has to be left for a period of time to facilitate the maturing of the landscape.
- It may be that a review of the connecting road systems would be appropriate. Issues of accessibility, including for public transport users, would be included in the brief.
- The £40,000 budget allocation for surveys and some initial design works would cover checks on soil and drainage and, possibly, some drainage works. It is anticipated that it will be possible to carry some of the allocation forward for accommodation works.
- Community needs would be established through consultation with church groups and other community organisations.

During discussion the Board agreed that it would be appropriate for design brief considerations to include the potential for green burials and the possibilities of sponsorship (particularly for any garden areas).

Resolved

That, subject to inclusion of consideration of the potential for green burials and of sponsorship possibilities (particularly for any garden areas), the objectives for the cemetery extension and the improvements to facilities, as detailed in the report, be agreed as providing the basis for the preparation of a detailed design brief and the submission of a planning application for the cemetery extension. (HLS)

404 LOCAL AUTHORITY BUSINESS GROWTH INCENTIVE SCHEME – CONSULTATION

The Board considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on a consultation document from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Resolved

That the comments suggested in the report be this Council's responses to the Government's consultation on the Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme. (HFAPM)

405 STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR HEALTH – CONSULTATIONS

The Board considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on consultation documents from the East of England Strategic Health Authority and the South East Essex Primary Care Trust.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to emphasise the need for continued recognition of residents within the Rochford District.

Resolved

That, subject to emphasis of the need for continued recognition of residents within the Rochford District, the suggestions in the report be the basis of the responses to the East of England Strategic Health Authority and South East Essex Primary Care Trust. (CD(ES))

406 PROPOSED PATHFINDER TRUST FOR SCHOOLS IN ROCHFORD DISTRICT

The Board considered the report of the Chief Executive on the formal consultation process in connection with the proposed Pathfinder Trust for Schools in Rochford District.

It was noted that this was a new Government promoted initiative that, if successful, may be rolled out across other parts of Essex.

Resolved

That the proposal outlined in Appendix 1 to the report be supported and the Council's willingness to become a member of the Trust when it is established be confirmed. (CE)

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Chairman

Date

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