

The Executive – 21 October 2009

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **21 October 2009** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr K J Gordon

Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr P F A Webster

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren - Chief Executive
G Woolhouse - Corporate Director (External Services)
A Bugeja - Head of Legal and Technical Services
J Bostock - Committee Services Manager

256 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

257 BULKY HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE – EVALUATION

The Executive considered the report of the Review Committee containing recommendations on the new charging scheme for the collection of bulky household waste.

There was some discussion on the statistics associated with the resident satisfaction surveys. The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cllr M G B Starke, confirmed that it appeared the fall in demand for the collection service was predominantly due to the current financial climate, resulting in fewer residents moving house and a reduction in the purchase of large household items. The Portfolio Holder would be advised of the outcome of any further investigations in connection with the recent spate of thefts of items awaiting collection, with information in the Members' Bulletin as appropriate.

Resolved

- (1) That the charging regime for bulky waste be retained and that concessions should not be introduced at this time.
- (2) That the 'no refund policy' is endorsed together with the introduction of a voucher scheme in the situation where a service request is made and the item in question is removed prior to the Council's contractor attending the premises. The request for a voucher shall be initiated by the customer and the voucher must be redeemed within 18 months.

- (3) That officers further investigate with the Police, the Environment Agency and Parish/Town Councils the recent spate of thefts of items awaiting collection by the Council's contractor. (HES)

258 PERFORMANCE REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2009

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the progress against key projects for the second quarter of 2009/10.

Resolved

That the progress against key projects for the second quarter of 2009/10 be noted. (HFAPM)

259 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Executive considered the report of the Corporate Policy and Partnerships Manager on the adoption of an Economic Development Strategy.

Members fully endorsed the draft strategy. Specific reference was made to its value in further developing relationships with the business community and in providing a template for liaison with other Authorities.

The Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Tourism, Heritage, the Arts, Culture and Business, Cllr K J Gordon, emphasised how a clear and balanced strategy to manage the Council's economic development activity is of particular importance given that the Country entered into a period of recession in the latter part of 2008.

It was pleasing that the Council had been short-listed by the Local Government Information Unit to receive an award for the 'Shop at my Local' campaign. The Executive endorsed the continued provision of detail on trends in Job Seeker Allowance claims via the Members' Bulletin. It would be of interest if information on trends in respect of the situation for persons aged 18 and under could also be provided.

Resolved

That the Economic Development Strategy 2009/2014 attached to Appendix 1 of the report be adopted. (CPPM)

260 COUNCIL SUPPORT OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The Executive considered the report of the Chief Executive on introducing a Council Employee Support Programme for the voluntary sector.

It was observed that the introduction of a programme would help strengthen the capacity of the local voluntary and community sector and prepare the Council for the year of the volunteer in 2011.

Resolved

That a Council Employee Support Programme for the voluntary sector on the lines outlined in the Appendix to the report be implemented with effect from 1 April 2010. (CE)

261 MEDIA PROTOCOL

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Information and Customer Services on a revised and updated Media Protocol.

Resolved

That the revised and updated Media Protocol, as attached at Appendix A of the report, be approved. (HICS)

262 FINCHFIELD BUNGALOWS – APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Legal and Technical Services on the appointment of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council as Trustees of the Finchfield Trust.

Recommended to Council

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council be appointed as Trustees of the Finchfield Trust. (HLTS)

The meeting closed at 8.06pm.

Chairman

Date

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