

## **The Executive – 4 December 2013**

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Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **4 December 2013** when there were present:-

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

Cllr K J Gordon  
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill  
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson

Cllr M Maddocks  
Cllr S P Smith  
Cllr M J Steptoe

### **VISITING**

Cllr Mrs C Roe

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

A Dave	–	Chief Executive
P Warren	–	Chief Executive (Retiring)
A Bugeja	–	Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
Y Woodward	–	Head of Finance
R Evans	–	Head of Environmental Services
C McClellan	–	People and Policy Manager
J Bostock	–	Member Services Manager

### **245 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **246 MID YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

The Executive received the report of the Head of Finance on the mid-year position with regard to the Council's Treasury Management.

Responding to questions on tendering of the main banking contract the Head of Finance advised that the Co-Operative Bank had confirmed that it would honour the maintenance of existing arrangements up to March 2015. Balances in the Co-Operative account were kept as low as possible and were zero at the close of each banking day. The reserve account carried approximately £0.5M. The approach to banking was all about managing exposure.

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to noting that proposals are in hand for tendering the Council's main banking contract, the mid year position on the Council's Treasury Management be received. (HF)

### **247 PEER REVIEW – UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

Members received the report of the Chief Executive providing a progress update on the Peer Review Action Plan.

It was observed that detailed consideration of the Council's Corporate Plan would closely follow the budget review process. Members recognised that the Review Committee was responsible for setting its own work programme including the undertaking of appropriate research and determining when items should be considered under exempt provisions. It was also recognised that the review of the Council's relationship with the Rochford Housing Association and the development of work shadowing of Executive Members remained appropriate.

#### **Resolved**

That the progress on the agreed Peer Review Action Plan as at November 2013 be noted, subject to recognising that:-

- The Review Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme including the undertaking of appropriate research and determining when items should be considered under exempt provisions.
- The review of the Council's relationship with the Rochford Housing Association and the development of work shadowing of Executive Members remained appropriate.(CE)

### **248 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 2013**

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on adopting a Statement of Licensing Policy.

#### **Resolved**

That the Statement of Licensing Policy Scrap Dealers Act 2013, as appended to the report, be approved and adopted. (HES)

### **249 MUNICIPAL BONDS AGENCY**

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance on participation in a Local Government Association project to set up a collective agency that would issue Municipal Bonds and dispense loans to Councils.

It was observed that participation with an agency could bring more autonomy to financial decision making. The Head of Finance confirmed that a 9% interest rate charge would be applied to the District Council's contribution. This would be a maximum of £10,000 and could reduce as and when more local authorities came on stream.

### Resolved

- (1) That, subject to noting that set up costs would reduce if more local authorities came on stream, the Council participate in the Local Government Association project to set up a local government collective agency that would issue municipal bonds and dispense loans to councils.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, to agree the Council's contribution to the set up costs up to a limit of £10,000. (HF)

### 250 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive on a Social Media Policy.

During discussion it was observed that the policy was intended as guidance and separate to/not as prescriptive as the Member Code of Conduct. It was also observed that weighting should be given to public perception and that, ideally, Members should be concentrating on the business associated with any meeting they are at. There would be merit in requiring that, where possible and particularly in relation to probity/regulatory meetings, if electronic devices are brought to a meeting, they should be used to access meeting paper work only. The usage criteria for electronic devices and hard copy documentation should be the same.

A motion was moved by Cllr K H Hudson and seconded by Cllr M Maddocks. On a show of hands it was:-

### Resolved

That the proposed Social Media Policy be adjusted to provide that, where possible and particularly at regulatory and probity committee meetings (including meetings of the Development Control Committee), there is an expectation that the usage of electronic devices should be for the purpose of accessing/processing meeting paper work only (the usage criteria for electronic devices and hard copy documentation to be the same). A revised Policy to be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive for consideration. (CE)

Prior to the closure of the meeting the Chairman and Members expressed best wishes to Mr Paul Warren for his forthcoming retirement.

The meeting closed at 8.16 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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