

The Executive – 17 October 2012

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **17 October 2012** 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 C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson	Cllr M J Steptoe

VISITING

Cllr J D Griffin

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	– Chief Executive
A Bugeja	– Head of Legal, Estates & Member Services
Y Woodward	– Head of Finance
J Bourne	– Head of Community Services
R Evans	– Head of Environmental Services
J Bostock	– Member Services Manager

209 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

210 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS MADE BY FULL COUNCILLORS/THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive reviewed the Progress on Decisions schedule.

Resolved

That the progress on decisions schedule be received, subject to noting that:-

- The Rochford Police Station building was located in a Conservation Area and the project would be factored into the Rochford Area Action Plan.
- The Friends of Cherry Orchard Country Park were included in the consultation process on the draft proposals for a BMX track at Grove Woods.
- Following a detailed review/risk analysis of submissions received it had been concluded that it would be appropriate to re-run the pre-qualification questionnaire stage in relation to the new grounds

maintenance contract. This re-run could delay the proposed 1 April contract commencement date.

- The report to the Portfolio Holder associated with the decision to grant a lease of the playing field and car park to the Hockley Community Centre included the reason why a 7 year lease would have been insufficient and associated Council policy.

211 **SUSTAINABLE COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2012-2017**

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance on a revised and updated Commissioning and Procurement Strategy and Action Plan for the Council. In response to a question it was confirmed that reference to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 could be included.

Resolved

That a revised and updated commissioning and procurement strategy and action plan for the Council, attached as appendices A and B to the report, be agreed. (HF)

212 **NEW HOMES BONUS POLICY**

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance on the draft New Homes Bonus Policy.

Recommended to Council that the Council's policy on the use of the New Homes Bonus Policy for 2013/14 is that it should be used to support the General Fund in order to reduce the impact further Government spending cuts and that this policy would be reviewed annually. (HF)

213 **COMMUNITY RE-USE SCHEME FOR FURNITURE AND ELECTRICAL GOODS**

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on actively promoting the environmental and community benefits of the Hopeworx Community Re-use Project.

It was noted that Rochford Housing Association may be interested in joining the scheme.

Resolved

- (1) That the Council actively promotes the environmental and community benefits of the Hopeworx Community Re-Use Project, but declines to enter into a formal agreement for the diversion of all furniture and electrical appliances collected through the bulky waste service.

- (2) That the following charges be agreed:-
- An administration fee of 10%, in respect of any “Re-use Credit” claimed by the District Council from Essex County Council on behalf of Hopeworx.
 - A charge of £5 per item of furniture or electrical goods collected from Hopeworx depot by the Council’s contractor. (HES)

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.

214 BUSINESS RATES AND OVERPAID HOUSING BENEFIT WRITE-OFFS

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Community Services on the writing-off of outstanding business rates in relation to premises in Rochford and Rayleigh that had ceased trading and cases of overpaid housing benefit.

Resolved

- (1) That the outstanding business rates with regard to premises in Rochford and Rayleigh, which have ceased trading, as detailed in the exempt report, be written off.
- (2) That the outstanding housing benefit overpayments deemed to be unrecoverable, as detailed in section 3.3 of the exempt report, be written off.
- (3) That, in relation to housing benefit overpayments, the following activity be endorsed:-
 - Investigation as to whether it would be possible to pursue the seizure of, or the introduction of a charge against, assets through the courts.
 - Appropriate publicity being given to action taken by the Council in relation to cases. (HCS)
 - Raising the profile of arrears in general and the likelihood of collecting debts in the end of year account documentation. (HF)

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The meeting closed at 8.11 pm.

Chairman

Date

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