

The Executive – 21 April 2010

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **21 April 2010** when there were present:-

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

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr K J Gordon
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr P F A Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mrs L A Butcher.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Internal Services)
G Woolhouse	-	Corporate Director (External Services)
R Evans	-	Head of Environmental Services
J Bostock	-	Member Services Manager

104 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105 PERFORMANCE REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MARCH 2010

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on progress against the key policies and actions for 2009/10 up to 31 March 2010.

With regard to Revenues and Benefits Shared Service Working (Minute 224/09) it was observed that the commentary in the Performance Report and the Progress on Decisions Schedule could be developed to clarify any differences in RAG status. With regard to the Wyvern Community Transport Grant (Minute 327/07), it was observed that the County Council's review of community transport grants could have future budgetary implications for the District in relation to the Taxi Voucher Scheme.

Resolved

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

106 DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2010-2015

The Executive considered the report of the Chief Executive on the revised Corporate Plan for 2010 to 2015.

It was noted that, whilst elements of the Plan could be utilised for news releases/articles, the key audience was partner organisations, agencies, external auditors and the Audit Commission.

In discussing recycling it was felt that exceeding a 60% recycling rate should be an aspiration, particularly given the current high rate and aspects of recycling yet to come on stream. It was recognised that any percentage increases needed to be fully evidenced and that, once an Authority is operating at a notably high rate, each additional percentage can be a significant achievement.

It was confirmed that the purple section of the pie chart on page 8 would be identified as government grant and that references to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) would be changed to Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The Executive agreed that it would be appropriate to:-

- Clarify the nature of the housing related expenditure identified in the table on page 9, which comprises a mix of expenditure on housing benefit, strategic housing and homelessness.
- Include reference to the following under longer term targets for 2015:-
 - Aspiring to exceed a 60% recycling rate.
 - Working with partners on opening up public access to the coastline, including the Wallasea Island area.
 - Working with the County Council on road improvement schemes, specifically Sutton Road, Watery Lane and access to Wallasea Island/Baltic Wharf.

Recommended to Council that the revised Corporate Plan for 2010-2015 be adopted, subject to the inclusion of the points in the above two paragraphs.
(CE)

107 STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009/10 AND 2010/11

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the end of year position for the Strategic Improvement Plan 2009/10 and adoption of a plan for 2010/11.

Resolved

- (1) That the end of year position for the Strategic Improvement Plan 2009/10 be noted.
- (2) That the Strategic Improvement Plan covering the next twelve months, as attached at Appendix 2 of the report, be adopted. (HFAPM)

108 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA – RAWRETH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on declaring an air quality management area at Rawreth Industrial Estate.

It was noted that officers would be able to respond to residents on any technical questions and that, whilst the Air Quality Management Order would be produced as soon as possible, it was unlikely to have been made by the 30 April 2010. It was also noted that, once developed, the proposed Action Plan would be agreed by the Portfolio Holder for the Environment. Some road sweeping operations had commenced.

During discussion, the Executive endorsed the observation of the Leader that, whilst not related to this case, it would be appropriate for him to raise at local government forums a situation faced by all Local Authorities with regard to an absence of legislation to facilitate the proactive resolution of cases involving significant air quality issues emanating from multiple sources.

Resolved

- (1) That an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for particulate matter be declared at Rawreth Industrial Estate in the location identified in red on the plan attached at Appendix 2 of the report. The Head of Environmental Services to be authorised to make the AQMA Order.
- (2) That an Action Plan be developed by officers to identify and address the sources of particulate matter within the AQMA by 31 March 2011. (HES)

109 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2015

The Executive considered the report of the Chief Executive on the Workforce Development Plan for 2010 to 2015.

Reference was made to the fluid nature of this type of document. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to amalgamate the third and fifth bullet points in the right hand column of page 3.

Resolved

That, subject to amalgamation of the third and fifth bullet points in the right hand column of page 3 and to recognising that the document is fluid, the

Workforce Development Plan 2010-2015, attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved. (CE)

110 LOCAL DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ACT 2009 – PETITION

The Executive considered the report of the Corporate Director (Internal Services) on a proposed scheme in relation to a requirement to respond to petitions.

It was recognised that, whilst during previous government consultation on this subject a host of concerns had been identified, the Council was under a statutory duty to introduce a scheme. It was also recognised that a number of potential problems could be associated with the model scheme provided for use by Councils, which pointed to the merits of there being a facility to review its operation by December 2010 (tying in with the timeframe related to the requirement to facilitate electronic petitions).

It was noted that the term 'local population' could be defined in more detail at some point if necessary. It was also noted that it would be for the Council Chairman to facilitate appropriate debate in the fifteen minute timeframe identified in the scheme and that there are further detailed definitions around the statutory/regulatory and other situations when different procedures will apply.

Recommended to Council that:-

- (1) The petitions scheme appended to the report be adopted.
- (2) The Constitution is amended as outlined in the report.
- (3) The scheme is reviewed by December 2010. (CD(IS)/HLEMS)

111 COMMUNITY HALLS AND ASSOCIATED ASSETS

The Executive considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources in relation to the review of community halls and associated assets. It was noted that precise content of the check sheets set out at Appendix 2 was under review.

Resolved

- (1) That all future leases, with the exception of those covered by wider commercial contracts:-
 - Be ordinarily for a seven year term unless a longer period is justifiable in order to secure funding in which event the maximum term would normally not exceed 28 years.

- An Open Market valuation is used in determining the lease rental, with the possibility of a discount being applied reflecting the community value that the use of the asset contributes.
 - Contain provision for a Rent Review on the third anniversary and at each subsequent third anniversary for longer term leases.
 - Contain a Break Clause at the third anniversary
 - Be on a Fully Insuring and Repairing basis, with the scope clearly defined.
 - Contain a clause to allow annual inspection to confirm compliance with all statutory certification, inspections and risk assessments to confirm that the asset is being maintained to the required standard and that check sheets, the detailed contents of which is to be finalised, be attached to the lease.
- (2) That, as part of continuing due diligence, it be a condition that there be District/Parish/Town Council Member representation as appropriate on the governing bodies of organisations granted reduced levels of lease payments which reflect their community use, where appropriate.
(HLEMS)

Prior to the close of the meeting the Chairman extended thanks to Cllr M G B Starke, who was retiring from Council service, for all his contributions to the Council's work, particularly through his role as Portfolio Holder for the Environment and the associated successes with the recycling service. Cllr Starke extended his thanks and best wishes to fellow Members and thanked the Head of Environmental Services/other officers for their support.

The meeting closed at 8.59 pm.

Chairman

Date

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