

The Executive – 13 July 2011

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **13 July 2011** when there were present:-

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

Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr M Maddocks

Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr M J Steptoe

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr K J Gordon.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren - Chief Executive
A Bugeja - Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
Y Woodward - Head of Finance
R Evans - Head of Environmental Services
J Bostock - Member Services Manager

174 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

175 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) 2011/12 – UPDATE

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2011/12.

Members concurred with the observation of the Leader that the report provided a comprehensive summary of the current position. It was pleasing that a VAT refund of £204,200 had been achieved.

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- Possibilities for encouraging local procurement/employment formed part of considerations in relation to larger contracts.
- Where agency staff were utilised this was usually in relation to areas of specialist expertise on a temporary basis. For example, Revenues and Benefits.

It was noted that the roll-out of recycling to mobile home sites had been completed.

Resolved

- (1) That the current position on the MTFS be noted.
- (2) That the introduction of a fee of £50 for the issuing of covenant certificates be agreed.
- (3) That the outline timetable for the 2012/13 budget process, including Member sessions, be agreed.
- (4) That a public consultation exercise in preparation for the budget process be agreed.
- (5) That the Government's Local Government Resource Review be noted.
- (6) That it be agreed that the New Homes Bonus for 2011/12 be put into General Fund balances and that use of any 2012/13 Bonus be considered during the 2012/13 budget process. (HF)

176 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services on the Asset Management Plan 2011-16.

It was noted that the Plan, which was reviewed annually, linked closely to other corporate documentation including the Corporate Plan and the Annual Report.

It was recognised that significant background work activity went into the Plan production.

Resolved

That the Asset Management Plan 2011-16, as attached to the report, be approved. (HLEMS)

177 OPEN SPACES REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on the application of this year's Open Spaces Refurbishment Programme budget allocation.

Resolved

That this year's budget allocation be used to match fund for skateboard facilities at Canewdon Recreation Ground and that the rest be used to improve facilities at Rayleigh Leisure Centre and Hockley Woods, to improve access at Sweyne Park and Grove Recreation Ground and to improve the water quality at Rochford Reservoir (as detailed in the report). (HES)

178 PLAY SPACES REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on the application of this year's Play Spaces Refurbishment Programme budget allocation.

It was noted that the costs identified in the report were officer estimates.

Resolved

That this year's budget allocation be used to improve the facilities at Swayne Park, Rayleigh, as detailed in the report, to ensure that the play equipment meets the current health and safety standards. (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 paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

179 UPGRADING ELECTRICAL WIRING – 7-15 SOUTH STREET, ROCHFORD

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services on the upgrading of the electrical rewiring at 7-15 South Street, Rochford and associated works.

It was observed that, whilst such lighting would be inappropriate for this particular location, there could be value in considering the utilisation of light emitting diodes in the Council's buildings wherever practicable. It was noted that motion sensor lighting was utilised in parts of the buildings.

Reference was made to the merits of the restrictive tendering process. The Executive noted the background to the identification of electrical consultancy for this project. It was observed that, given the procedures associated with best value/quotations, it would have been useful for further information on this aspect to have been included within the written report.

Resolved

That the budget set aside of £258,000 be made available for the electrical rewire of 7-15 South Street, Rochford and any associated works, as detailed in the exempt report. (HLEMS)

180 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – FUTURE RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Members considered the exempt report of the Chief Executive on Local Strategic Partnership resource requirements.

It was noted that Member training had been provided on aspects of Local Strategic Partnership activity.

Resolved

That the adjustments to the posts associated with the Local Strategic Partnership, as detailed in the exempt report, be agreed. (CE)

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Chairman

Date

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