

The Executive – 22 September 2010

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **22 September 2010** 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 C G Seagers
Cllr M J Steptoe

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
G Woolhouse	-	Deputy Chief Executive
A Bugeja	-	Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
R Evans	-	Head of Environmental Services
J Bostock	-	Member Services Manager

231 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

232 REPORT ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO JUNE 2010/11

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance on progress against the key performance indicators for 2010/11 up to 30 June 2010.

Whilst accepting that a number of agencies were involved and that the nature of work can vary, concern was expressed at the time it can take between when an occupational therapist's recommendation is issued and disabled facility grant works are completed. It was noted that the Council's annual budget for assisting towards such work is approximately £150,000, with the Government funding 60% of the overall cost of the scheme, the remainder being financed from the Council's Capital Programme. A statutory means test is applied to all applications. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to consider if processes can be further re-engineered to improve the time frames involved.

With regard to other aspects of the performance report it was noted that:-

- No specific reasons could be identified for the fall in visits to the Great Waking Sports Centre.
- A basket of regulatory services (taxi licensing, environmental health, food safety and so on) was included under the statistics related to the satisfaction of businesses with local authority regulation (NI 182). Officers were considering alternatives for judging business satisfaction.

Members concurred with the Leader that the trend associated with the percentage of waste recycled or composted (NI 192) was pleasing.

Resolved

That the progress against key performance indicators for the first quarter of 2010/11 be noted, subject to a report back to the November meeting of the Executive that will facilitate consideration on whether processes can be re-engineered to improve timeframes between the period when an occupational therapist's recommendation is issued and disabled facility grant works are completed. The report to include detail on the number and type of cases (including the proportion of owner occupied and rented accommodation), the key agencies involved, the funding made available each year and any post work review arrangements. (HCS)

233 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S BYELAWS FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACES AND WOODLANDS

The Executive considered the joint report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services and the Head of Environmental Services on a revised byelaw for public open spaces and woodlands within the District.

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- Friends Groups had indicated that they were keen to see the introduction of byelaws within both Cherry Orchard Country Park and Sweyne Park and that they would be prepared to act as the 'eyes and ears' of the Council in terms of identifying infringements.
- Byelaws provided a useful method of managing the competing demands of users.
- Recent issues had included the loss of life preservers and problems with quad bikes.
- The Council could decide which elements/controls it would wish to adopt.
- Each Parish Council would have the opportunity to indicate whether the grounds with which they are involved should be included.

During discussion reference was made to poor terminologies contained within the model byelaw that Councils are expected to adopt. It was observed that it would continue to be appropriate for any criminal offences to be dealt with by the Police.

The new Government had signalled its intention to simplify byelaw processes and introduce more effective measures. Whilst there was no specific indication of when this would happen, the possibility of it occurring within the next six months, combined with a length of time existing arrangements had

been in place and the onset of winter months, pointed to there being merit in deferring the making of a recommendation at this stage.

Resolved

That further consideration of this matter be deferred for a maximum of six months given the likelihood of byelaw processes being simplified with more effective measures in the near future. (HLEMS/HES)

234 CLIMATE CO2de 2010 ACTIONS

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services on the heating systems at the Council Offices, South Street, Rochford.

Resolved

That the budget of £57,500 capital for the CO2de actions be released to provide a replacement boiler in the Old House, Rochford, to change the heating system in No. 15 South Street, Rochford from electric to gas, to upgrade the controls in the Old House and No. 19 South Street and to replace the existing bottled chilled water dispensers with plumbed in devices. (HLEMS)

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.

235 SHARED SERVICES WORK ACROSS ESSEX

Members considered the exempt report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on progress and outlined the key findings of the initial work that had now been completed on shared services work across Essex.

Concern was expressed at inconsistencies of definition within the enclosed consultant's report and the nature of the consultant's recommendations, which should be rejected.

It was noted that different consultant arrangements would be in place for the next phase. It was also noted that Councils could face residual costs when considering shared service possibilities related to, for example, the need to ensure that appropriate in-house business continuity arrangements are in place.

It was recognised that Portfolio Holders should be cognisant of the nature and possible scenarios that could be associated with the Council's key contracts.

Publication of the outcome of the Government's comprehensive spending review could no doubt have implications for this subject area.

Resolved

That the actions already underway, as detailed in the exempt report of the Chief Executive, be noted. The contents of the enclosed consultant's report also be noted, but the recommendations therein rejected. (CE)

236 SALE OF A PARCEL OF LAND IN RAYLEIGH

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services on the sale of a parcel of land in Rayleigh.

During discussion reference was made to the low nature of land values in the current economic climate. It was noted that the cost of litter picking and other arrangements associated with the site was marginal.

Recognising that the National Trust continued to be considering possibilities in relation to the re-opening of the Barbican entrance to Rayleigh Mount it was:-

Resolved

That the parcel of land in Rayleigh identified in the exempt report be retained by the Council, the situation with regard to its future to be reviewed if appropriate on publication of the feasibility report being commissioned by the National Trust's Rayleigh Mount Committee in relation to the project to link the Castle with the Windmill. (HLEMS)

The meeting closed at 8.54 pm.

Chairman

Date

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