

The Executive – 30 November 2016

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **30 November 2016** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice Chairman: Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr G J Ioannou
Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr S P Smith

Cllr D J Sperring
Cllr I H Ward

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J R Lumley.

NON MEMBERS ATTENDING

Cllr Mrs I Cassar	Cllr A H Eves
Cllr Mrs J R Gooding	Cllr Mrs D Hoy
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr Mrs L Shaw
Cllr C M Stanley	Cllr A L Williams

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton	- Managing Director
N Khan	- Executive Director
M Harwood-White	- Assistant Director, Commercial Services
M Hotten	- Assistant Director, Environmental Services
R Manning	- Section 151 Officer
S Worthington	- Democratic Services Officer

260 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

261 PUBLIC TOILET STRATEGY

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cllr D J Sperring, presented the report on a future strategy for public toilets. It was noted that various options had been identified for the service delivery of public toilets within the district from 2017/18, with the aim of reducing expenditure, while also providing better facilities than currently exist. The preferred option was to work with the Town and Parish Councils to transfer the facilities by means of long-term leases and to develop a business case for the installation of replacement public toilets. It was, however, stressed that closure would be a last resort option, if it did not prove possible for the facilities to be taken on by the Town and Parish Councils. It was emphasised that the public toilets were not of a high standard and not financially viable and that the usage of some of the facilities, and notably Great Wakering public toilets, was low.

Members drew attention to the need to forward plan some of the savings needed within the Council's 2017/18 budget and to the requirement of Town and Parish Councils to set their precepts in January. Investigation of options to date had not incurred any costs; if the Council did determine to look at the option of long-term leases with the construction of replacement facilities, a procurement exercise would need to be undertaken, which could result in further savings. It was also emphasised that the Town and Parish Councils were more likely to be able to access funding support from, e.g., local businesses, than this Council.

In response to a Member question relating to the length of time replacement toilet facilities might be open, officers advised that replacement modular toilet units would be more flexible to operate, with a range of different options available for lighting, levels of charges, opening/locking and needle facilities, as well as the ability to extend the size of units, if wanted.

Recommended to Council

- (1) That all public toilets, with the exception of those at Hockley Woods, are disposed of either by closure and sale, or through transfer of the asset upon a long-term lease to the relevant Town/Parish Council. The disposal of these assets to be completed by April 2018.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director, Environmental Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Portfolio Holder for Enterprise, to oversee the closure and sale of public toilets, as above (1), subject to appropriate public consultation.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director, Environmental Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and the Portfolio Holder for Enterprise, to negotiate suitable lease arrangements with the relevant Town/Parish Councils.
- (4) That should the negotiations in (3) above have been successful, the Investment Board be asked to present a business case in line with the budgetary principles set out in the appended options document for the installation of replacement public toilets. (ADES)

262 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Executive noted the progress on decisions schedule.

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The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Chairman

Date

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