

Policy & Finance Committee - 6 May 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Policy & Finance Committee** held on **6 May 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr P F A Webster (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs M A Starke (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr J E Grey
Cllr K H Hudson
Cllr A J Humphries
Cllr C A Hungate
Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr P K Savill
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr S P Smith
Cllr D G Stansby

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C J Lumley

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr C I Black

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren - Chief Executive
R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
D Timson - Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
A Bugeja - Head of Legal Services
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

226 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

227 PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT 2004/05

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which provided details of the Planning and Delivery Grant for 2004/05 and outlined the key areas where the grant could best be targeted in Rochford to enhance the planning service.

Members endorsed the broad programme of initiatives proposed within the report, particularly in the context of being able to develop public accessibility to the planning service.

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- Continued work in respect of planning on the web could include the development of an electronic database that will enable Members to identify the status of planning enforcement cases.
- As much publicity as possible would be given to successful planning enforcement prosecution activity, including articles in Rochford District Matters.

Resolved

That, subject to inclusion of the development of an electronic database that will enable Members to identify the status of planning enforcement cases, the broad programme of initiatives outlined in the report for the Planning Delivery Grant be approved. (HPS)

228 LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive on the County's suggestions for the areas to be included in a new public service agreement arising between the Government and Essex County Council for the period 2005/2008.

The Committee concurred with the observation of a Member that it was disappointing that highway maintenance was to be excluded from the agreement. It was also agreed that, notwithstanding that there is no standardised national measure relating to problems of graffiti and that problems frequently occurred on private land, there would be merit in officers discussing graffiti issues with the County.

Resolved

That, subject to an element of disappointment that highways maintenance is to be excluded from the Agreement and to officers discussing the issues around graffiti with the County, the officer comments outlined in the report be this Council's response to the County's consultation document on the Second Generation Local Public Service Agreement. (CE)

EXCLUSION OF 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 9 and 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

229 LESLIE ROAD, RAYLEIGH

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on whether to dispose of a strip of land.

Members considered that the site made an important contribution to the amenity of the area and should be retained for this purpose.

Resolved

That the strip of land identified in the exempt report be retained in Council ownership. (CD(F&ES))

230 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S APPRAISAL

The Committee received the exempt note of the Chief Executive's appraisal and considered the recommendation therein.

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt note of the Chief Executive's appraisal be received.
- (2) That additional leave of one day be granted to all staff in the year 2004/05 (pro-rata for part time staff), in recognition of the work undertaken leading up to and including the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process. (CE)

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Chairman

Date