

The Executive – 23 September 2009

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **23 September 2009** when there were present:-

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

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr P F A Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs T J Capon and K J Gordon.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Internal Services)
G Woolhouse	-	Corporate Director (External Services)
J Bourne	-	Head of Community Services
J Bostock	-	Committee Services Manager

217 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

218 REFERENCE FROM WEST AREA COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2009

At its meeting on 15 September 2009 the West Area Committee had agreed that the clearance of rubble from land in the vicinity of the Sweyne Park playing pitches be referred to the Executive.

It was noted that, since the Committee meeting, Council officers had met with the Council's contractor, SITA, and that rubble clearance had been undertaken. A further visit had been scheduled to minimise the presence of larger stones. It was also noted that a Police Crime Reduction Officer had visited St Nicholas Church of England Primary School to offer advice to the school in respect of the recent spate of vandalism.

219 PERFORMANCE REPORT ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE PERIOD APRIL TO JUNE 2009

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management on the Quarter One Performance Indicators for the period April to June 2009.

Members were pleased to note that many items were on target or had been completed. It was observed, however, that Rochford Housing Association appeared to be falling behind target in terms of delivering new affordable

homes and bringing forward proposals for the future use of sheltered accommodation previously identified as being in low demand.

Resolved

That the progress against key performance indicators for the first quarter of 2009/10 be noted, subject to concern being raised with Rochford Housing Association in relation to them meeting undertakings to deliver new affordable homes and bringing forward proposals for the future use of sheltered accommodation previously identified as being in low demand.(HFAPM/HCS)

220 STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Executive considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on progress being made on the implementation of the Council's Strategic Improvement Plan.

Members were pleased to note that many targets had been reached and completed. It was also noted that, as it became fully adopted, the new performance management software would have a significant impact on the remaining targets.

Resolved

That the progress being made on the implementation of the Council's Strategic Improvement Plan be noted. (CD(ES))

221 BUILDING A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES – CONSULTATION

The Executive considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on responding to a Government Consultation Paper.

It was agreed that the Council's response should include references to the significance of the financial contribution required to introduce bus travel for the over 60 age group and the extra cost associated with providing free swimming for the under 16 age group.

Resolved

That the response set out at Appendix 2 of the report be made to the Government Consultation Paper, subject to references to:-

- The Government having given initial indications that it would sponsor the contribution required to introduce free bus travel for the over 60's, this year's contribution of £700,000 representing a significant part of the budget for a non Transport Authority.
- The extra cost associated with providing free swimming for the under 16's (which increases the estimated total cost to the Council of free swimming to over £100,000) in the context of this being a consultation paper on building a society for all ages. (CD(ES))

222 STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY – CONSULTATION

The Executive considered the report of the Chief Executive on responding to a Government Consultation Paper.

The report was commended and it was:-

Resolved

That the response set out in Appendix 3 of the report be made to the Government Consultation Paper. (CE)

223 CROUCH VALLEY SCOUT DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CORY ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST IN ROCHFORD – APPOINTEES

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Information and Customer Services on the nomination of an appointee to the Crouch Valley Scout District Executive Committee. Members also considered the nomination of an appointee to the Cory Environmental Trust in Rochford.

Recommended to Council

- (1) That the nomination of Cllr P R Robinson as the appointee to the Crouch Valley Scout District Executive Committee be confirmed.
- (2) That the nomination of Cllr T G Cutmore as the appointee to the Cory Environmental Trust in Rochford be confirmed. (HICS)

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That the public and press 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.

224 REVENUES AND BENEFITS SHARED SERVICE WORKING

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Community Services on the development of business cases for shared service working options.

It was noted that the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership had been approached on the possibility of funding for shared service development. This may have potential application to another service area.

Resolved

- (1) That business cases now be developed for the following options, as detailed in the exempt report:-
 - Counter Fraud Administration – Option 2.
 - Bailiff Services – Option 1.
 - Common Documentation and Forms for Customer Consumption.
 - Shared Training Provision – Option 2.
 - Joint Take Up and Promotion of Services.
- (2) That, on completion of the business cases, the decision on whether or not each of the options is then implemented be taken by the Portfolio Holder for Council Tax Collection, Benefits and Strategic Housing.
- (3) That an approach to the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership on the possibility of accessing funding for shared service development be endorsed, particularly given its potential application to another area. (HCS)

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.