
Minutes of the meeting of the **Corporate Resources Sub-Committee** held on **19 June 2001** when there were present:

Cllr D R Helson (Chairman)	Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr R Adams	Cllr P J Morgan
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr Mrs J Helson	Cllr D A Weir
Cllr T Livings	Cllr Mrs M A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs R A Amner, V H Leach

SUBSTITUTES

Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn, G A Mockford

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	Chief Executive
R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
J Honey	Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
G Woolhouse	Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
Mrs M Martin	Committee Administrator

412 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs D R Helson and Mrs J Helson both declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on The Market Car Park, Rayleigh by virtue of being acquainted with the applicant.

Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn and T Livings both declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on Concessionary Bus Pass Renewals - Resource Implications.

413 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the 17 April 2001 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

414 TOWARDS INCLUSION - CIVIL RIGHTS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

The Sub-Committee received the report of the Chief Executive which brought to Members' attention a consultation paper published as the Government's response to the Disability Rights Task Force. Responses to the consultation paper were required by 22 June, so urgency powers would be sought to ensure that the Council's views are submitted by the deadline.

Members concurred with the officer comments included in the report and agreed they should form the basis of the Council's response. In particular, it

was felt that the following comments from the report in particular be emphasised in the response to the consultation paper:-

- the suggestion that authorities should be allowed to "appoint from a shortlist made up exclusively of disabled applicants" could cause problems.
- the proposed shift in the burden of proof in cases of unfair dismissal raises concerns, as does the extension of the Act to public authorities where they are exercising other public functions, given the lack of specific examples in this area.

Recommended

That the officer comments in the report, and particularly the comments above form the basis of the response to the consultation document. (CEx)

415 CONCESSIONARY BUS PASS RENEWALS - RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management concerning the resource implications for the renewal of concessionary Bus Passes for the travel year 2002/3.

The District Council had revised its renewal regime so that from the next financial year and subsequent years all passes would run from April until March. By October 2001 all existing concessionaires should have had their passes renewed until March 2002.

Recommended

- (1) That funding be provided in future Budget Strategy and that specific funding of £3,500 be incorporated into the revised budget for 2001/2.
- (2) That an interim report detailing the cost of the exercise be brought to the meeting of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee to be held on 3 October 2001. (HRHM)

416 MOBILE EXHIBITION UNIT

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought Members' view as to whether the new mobile exhibition unit should be made available for use by other agencies and, if so, whether any conditions should be placed upon that use.

During debate, Members noted the following points:-

- the Unit is already well used within the District but as requests are coming in from other organisations, a policy needs to be agreed
- District Council usage should take priority

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- the hirer would pay for insurance cover against any damage to the unit and this should be with the agreement of the District Council
 - the most likely additional usage would be at a weekend
 - a few officers are trained to drive, set up and dismantle the Unit; these costs would be paid for by the hirer
 - additional officers could be hired out to staff the Unit if required
 - hiring could be limited to partner organisations that meet our corporate objectives
 - the hirer would need to secure satisfactory security arrangements and highways permissions
 - a sum of £150 per day would be an initial satisfactory hire charge

Recommended

- (1) That the hire of the Mobile Exhibition Unit be limited to partner organisations that meet our corporate objectives at an initial rate of £150 per day, plus any other staffing costs that accrue such as overtime.
- (2) That the Hirer be required to provide evidence of satisfactory insurance cover.
- (3) That a report be brought to a meeting of the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee in 6 months' time to review the situation. (CEX)

417 BACK LANE CAR PARK, ROCHFORD

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management relating to a request from the owner of 6 South Street, Rochford to create a licence to secure two car parking spaces in Back Lane Car Park to provide private parking facilities.

There was concern amongst Members that this would set a precedent for other residents to make similar applications for securing public parking spaces for private use.

Members agreed that the applicant should be invited to apply in the normal way for a Season Ticket to that Car Park. A reduced rate exists for residents and town centre workers.

On a Motion moved by Councillor Mrs M A Weir and seconded by Councillor D A Weir it was:-

Recommended

That the request for two car parking spaces in Back Lane Car Park be refused. (HRHM)

418 THE MARKET CAR PARK, RAYLEIGH

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management relating to a request for the exclusive use of an area within the Market Car Park, Rayleigh for the storage of motor vehicles.

The applicant provides a taxi and schools transport service within the District and they would shortly be losing their existing parking facility. The vehicles concerned would be the size of a minibus.

This car park hosts the Rayleigh Market which renders it unavailable for parking between 2.30 pm on Tuesdays until 5.30 pm on Wednesday. The car park provides 65 car parking bays. The request, if granted would result in a loss of seven bays.

A right of way serves the businesses which front onto the car park and a scenery store which is let to the Rayleigh Operatic and Dramatic Society who hold an annual licence on the building. Members noted that the store is in a very delapidated condition.

On a Motion moved by Councillor Mrs J Helson and seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn, and a further Motion moved by Councillor D A Weir and seconded by Cllr Mrs M A Weir it was:-

Recommended

- (1) That authority be given to officers to negotiate the relocation of the occupants of the scenery store and the demolition of that building.
- (2) That the request for the exclusive use of an area in the Market Car Park, Rayleigh be refused. (HRHM)

419 RAYLEIGH CIVIC SOCIETY: PLANNING SERVICES MINUTES

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services which sought Members' views on a request for a reduction in the Annual Charge by the Council for the supply of Planning Services Agenda, Minutes and Schedule of Planning Applications to the Rayleigh Civic Society.

Members noted that the Society, as a local interest Group, are consulted on a number of Planning Applications throughout the year although they are not Statutory Consultees.

A request from the Rayleigh Civic Society for a reduced subscription for this paperwork had been considered by the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee last July. Members had agreed to reduce the annual subscription to £40 per annum. This further request was to reduce the subscription to £25. A copy of a letter detailing the request was appended to the report.

Whilst Members concurred with the recommendation, it was agreed that Officers should remind the organisation of the availability of the Council's public documents in the local Public Libraries and in the future through the Council's web site.

Recommended

That the request by Rayleigh Civic Society to reduce the cost of Planning Services Committee documents to £25 be agreed. (HAMS)

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

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 1 and 7 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

420 HOMELESS AND HOUSING ADVICE - STAFFING ISSUES

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which sought Members' agreement to changes in the establishment of the Homelessness and Housing Advice Team, arising from the pilot Best Value review.

The meeting of the Community Services Committee on 30 January 2001 had resolved that the establishment of the Homelessness and Housing Advice team proposed in the Best Value report, comprising a Senior Homelessness and Housing Advice Officer, a Homelessness and Housing Advice Officer and an Administrative Assistant, using the proposed budget allocation for 2001/02 be referred to this Sub-Committee for consideration.

Recommended

That the establishment of the homelessness and housing advice team, as detailed in the report, be approved with immediate effect. (HHHCC)

421 APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE FEES, OPEN AIR CONCERT & CUSTOM/CLASSIC SHOW, MALYONS FARM, LOWER ROAD, HULLBRIDGE

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care relating to an application for the waiver of Public Entertainment Licence fees relating to an open air concert and custom/classic show due to take place on Sunday 5 August 2001 within the grounds of Malyons Farm, Lower Road, Hullbridge.

This event had first been held and licensed in 1996 and had continued each year since that time. In the first two years a 100% fee waiver was granted and in subsequent years an 80% fee waiver had been granted.

Whilst noting that it could be a deterrent to holding fund raising events if amateur groups were asked to provide properly audited accounts, Members were of the opinion that Officers should inform the applicant that greater accounting accuracy would be required in future.

Recommended

That a waiver of 80% of the fee due for a public entertainment licence be granted. (HHHCC)

422 POST NUMBER 22600 - PLANNING SERVICES DIVISION

Note: The Chairman admitted this as an item of urgent business in view of the need to consider the temporary nature of this contract.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which sought Member approval for this post to be confirmed as permanent on the establishment.

Recommended

That post 22600 be made permanent from 26 March 2002 and that the current postholder be offered a contract on that basis. (HPS)

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Chairman

Date