

## Policy & Finance Committee – 9 March 2004

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Policy & Finance Committee** held on **9 March 2004** when there were present:-

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

Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr A J Humphries  
Cllr C A Hungate  
Cllr C J Lumley  
Cllr J R F Mason

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

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K H Hudson.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
D Deeks	-	Head of Financial Services
S Fowler	-	Head of Administrative and Member Services
J Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

### **122 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs M A Starke declared a personal interest in the item on Grants to Outside Bodies by virtue of being a parishioner of Saint Mary and All Saints Church, Stambridge and the item on Continuation of Term of Office by virtue of acquaintance with the Councillor concerned.

Councillor D A Weir declared a prejudicial interest in the item on Grants to Outside Bodies by virtue of his wife being Chairman of the Rochford and District Old People's Welfare Committee and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillors C J Lumley and D G Stansby each declared a personal interest in the item on Concessionary Bus Pass Renewals by virtue of being holders of concessionary bus passes.

### 124 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

#### 1. Rayleigh Market Car Park

The Committee considered the report of the Finance & Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the operator licence relating to the Rayleigh market car park.

#### **Resolved**

That the licence with the current operator, Rayleigh Chartered Market, for the use of the market car park be renewed for a term of 7 years at a market rent and:-

- (1) On condition that the arrangements be reviewed should there be some material change in circumstances.
- (2) Together with such other terms and conditions as the Head of Legal Services considers appropriate. (HLS)

### 125 GRANTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Financial Services on grant applications to be considered for support in 2004/05.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the grant awards for 2004/05 be on the basis of the amounts proposed at Appendix 4 of the report.
- (2) That officers enter into discussions with the Rochford & Rayleigh Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd and report back on the possibility of a three year service level agreement covering the service. (HCP)
- (3) That this Committee receives a presentation on the Essex Savers Net Credit Union. (HFS)

### 126 ESSEX GREEN BUYERS CLUB – GREEN PROCUREMENT CODE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services on joining the Essex Green Buyers Club.

#### **Resolved**

That the Council join the Essex Green Buyers Club and adopt Part A of the Green Procurement Code. (HAMS)

### 127 CONCESSIONARY BUS PASS RENEWALS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on changing the date of renewal of concessionary bus passes.

#### **Resolved**

That concessionary bus passes be renewed for an 18 month period with expiry in September 2005 and then annually thereafter. (HRHM)

### EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

#### **Resolved**

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 5 and I of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

### 128 NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATING – APPLICATIONS FOR RELIEF

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on one application for rural rate relief and one application for discretionary rate relief.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That 50% Discretionary Rural Rate Relief be granted to the applicant set out in the exempt report with effect from 5 September 2003.
- (2) That 20% Discretionary Rate Relief be granted to the applicant set out in the exempt report with effect from 2 February 2003. (HRHM)

### 129 CONTINUATION OF TERM OF OFFICE

Note: the Chairman had admitted this item of business as urgent due to time scale.

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (Law Planning & Administration) on the granting of approval to the continuation of a term of office. The decision on this item would take immediate effect.

#### **Resolved**

That the term of office of the Councillor identified in the exempt report be extended for a six-week period, i.e. until 20 April 2004. (HAMS)

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The Meeting closed at 7.36pm

Chairman .....

Date .....