

minute book 8

Council

Mon 20 Apr
2009
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk

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COUNCIL

Council

6 April 2009

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Jack Field (Mayor), Councillor Malcolm Hall (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors P Anderson, M Braley, J Brunner, M Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, J Cookson, D Enderby, A Fry, C Gandy, W Hartnett, D Hunt, R King, W King, C MacMillan, P Mould, W Norton, J Pearce, B Quinney, M Shurmer, D Smith, D Taylor, D Thomas, G Chance and G Hopkins

Officers:

T Kristunas, S Mullins, K Dicks, S Hanley, A Walsh, S Skinner, Jackie Smith and C Flanagan

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

126. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present, making particular reference to newly elected Councillors, Greg Chance and Gay Hopkins.

127. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Banks and Hicks.

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Braley declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 8 (Budget Savings 2009/10 – 2011/12) as detailed separately at Minute 133 below.

129. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 March 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

130. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

.....
 Chair

The Mayor's communications and announcements were considered under the following headings:

a) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor thanked Councillors for their good wishes while he was ill.

The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hall, for standing in, during his period of hospitalisation and subsequent recovery, at Council meetings and for attending the following functions on his behalf: the Friends of Auxerre AGM, the Redditch One World Link AGM, the Student Council AGM, the Hereford & Worcester Sports Partnership Awards, an Art & Heritage Day, the Young Musicians of the Year Event, Where Next's Royal Visit by the Duke of Gloucester, Astwood Bank Operatic Society's production of the Count of Luxembourg; and the Chinese New Year Celebrations. The Mayor also thanked Councillors Hunt and Thomas for standing in as Past Mayors for different events.

The Mayor advised that, since his return, he had attended the Civic Dinner which had raised £439 towards his charities; Kingsley College's production of "We will Rock You"; and the City of Worcester, Stratford on Avon District Council and Stourport Town Council's Civic Dinners. He had also visited the Children's Ward at the Alexandra Hospital.

b) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that forthcoming events included receiving visitors from Burg in Germany, Kidderminster's Civic Dinner and the St George's Day Service with the Scouts.

c) Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that he had accepted one late document as urgent business:

Item 8 – Appendix 2 to the Budget Savings 2009/10 – 2011/12.

Other Notices:

d) Church Green Improvements

With the agreement of the Mayor, Members reported that correspondence had been received congratulating the Council for its work to Church Green. It was agreed that thanks would be passed on to the Officers concerned.

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e) Former Councillor George Langston

With the agreement of the Mayor, Members noted with regret the recent passing of former Councillor George Langston.

131. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

Members received the Returning Officer's report of the results of the recent Borough Council By-Elections in the Central Ward, where Cllr Greg Chance had been elected; and the Headless Cross and Oakenshaw Ward, where Cllr Gay Hopkins had been elected.

RESOLVED that

the Returning Officer's report in respect of Borough Council By-Elections held in the Central and Headless Cross and Oakenshaw Wards on 26 March 2009 be received and noted.

132. NOTICE OF MOTION - LABOUR GROUP ALTERNATIVE BUDGET - AMENDMENT

A Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Hartnett in accordance with Standing Orders 6 and 15 in respect of the Budget considered by the Council on 23 February 2009.

The Mayor advised that, as this Notice of Motion related to the following item, the amendment contained within the Notice of Motion would be considered alongside that item, Budget Savings 2009/10 to 2011/12.

133. BUDGET SAVINGS 2009/10 - 2011/12

The Council considered a number of proposals designed to address the budget gap following the end of the period of staff and public consultation on a range of options for achieving the required savings.

The Leader introduced a report detailing which of the basket of options that had been the subject of the consultation process were being recommended to continue to receive funding through the revenue budget. The proposed basket of options was tabled at the meeting.

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Two of the more significant recommendations put forward saw the management of the Pitcheroak Golf Course and the REDI Centre being transferred to alternative providers. A potential service provider had already been identified for the golf course whereas the management of the REDI Centre would be the subject of a formal procurement process.

A number of further recommendations were highlighted. The provision of Christmas lights, a rat control service and the annual firework display were to remain in the Council's revenue budget going forward. A decision on the Neighbourhood Groups was to await the outcome of an Overview and Scrutiny review. Proposed car parking charges were now being recommended only for the Town Hall Car Park and Trescott Road Car Park until 6.00 pm at weekends.

During the course of the discussion, the following proposed amendment in respect of Budget Savings 2009/10 to 2011/12, and as detailed in the previously mentioned Notice of Motion, was the subject of a named vote in accordance with Standing Order 16:

'Following the public consultation on the Council budget for 2009/10, we move an amendment to the Budget considered by Council on 9 March 2009 (should read 23 February 2009). The amendment is as attached.' (at pages 11-12 of the Council agenda)

Members voting FOR the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Chance, Cookson, Enderby, Fry, Hartnett, Hunt, R King, W King, Mould, Shurmer and Taylor. (11 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Hopkins, Field, Gandy, Hall, MacMillan, Norton, Pearce, Quinney, Smith and Thomas.
(16 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

None.

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Accordingly, the amendment fell.

Prior to the above named vote being taken, a further amendment to the original motion, which proposed the adoption of a range of further options in respect of revenue and capital bids, was the subject of a second named vote in accordance with Standing Order 16:

Members voting FOR the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Chance, Cookson, Fry, Hartnett, Hunt, R King, W King, Mould, Shurmer and Taylor. (10 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Hopkins, Field, Gandy, Hall, MacMillan, Norton, Pearce, Quinney, Smith and Thomas.
(16 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

Councillor Enderby.
(1 vote)

Accordingly, this second amendment to the Motion fell and it was subsequently

RESOLVED that

- 1) the proposals for the General Fund budget for 2009/10 to 2011/12, as set out below, be approved:

| | 2009/10 £'000 | 2010/11 £'000 | 2011/12 £'000 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| SAVINGS | | | |
| Pitcheroak Golf Course | 42.7 | 56.9 | 56.9 |
| Planning | 53.2 | 53.2 | |
| Shared Services | 40.0 | 290.0 | 390.0 |
| Vacancy Management | 125.0 | 125.0 | 125.0 |
| REDI | 60.0 | 160.0 | 160.0 |
| Print Unit | 52.0 | 52.0 | 52.0 |
| Procurement | 70.0 | 70.0 | 70.0 |
| Corporate Training | 50.0 | 50.0 | 50.0 |
| Arrow Valley Countryside Centre | 24.0 | 24.0 | 24.0 |
| Building Control | 20.7 | 20.7 | 20.7 |

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| | | | |
|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Head of Asset & Maintenance | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| Switchboard | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| In-Curtilage Parking | 10.0 | | |
| Committee Services | 14.0 | 14.0 | 14.0 |
| Benefits Subsidy | 40.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Pay Award | 60.0 | 120.0 | 180.0 |
| Property Services | 10.3 | 10.3 | 10.3 |
| Licensing Officer | 13.3 | 13.3 | 13.3 |
| Community Meeting Rooms | 45.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 |
| Support Service Costs | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| Councillors' Personal Budgets | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.5 |
| | | | |
| INCOME | | | |
| Forge Mill | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| Private Sector Lifeline | 28.4 | 28.4 | 28.4 |
| Car Parking (Town Hall / Trescott Road) | 12.0 | 22.0 | 22.0 |
| Dial-a-Ride | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| Arrow Valley Countryside Centre | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL SAVINGS / ADDITIONAL INCOME | 870.1 | 1,370.3 | 1,477.1 |
| | | | |
| Less additional bids: | | | |
| Rat Control Service | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Fireworks Display | 15.0 | 15.0 | 15.0 |
| Support for Minor Land Sales | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| | | | |
| Revenue implications of savings | 25.1 | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | 815.0 | 1340.3 | 1447.1 |

- 2) the Council not proceed with the suspended transfer of the REDI service, and the leasing of the REDI Centre, to the Trust (REDI Centre Limited);
- 3) the variations to, and impacts on the budget of, those matters formally consulted upon be noted; and
- 4) Officers provide a future options report to enable Members to consider the potential for re-investment in services to assist with the economic downturn.

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000,

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Councillor Braley declared a personal but not a prejudicial interest in this item, in view of the fact that he was a governor of an institution which might at some future time be considered as an alternative provider for the services at the REDI Centre.)

134. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no Urgent Business decisions under Standing Order 36 for consideration at this meeting.

135. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

There were no separate items of Urgent Business for consideration at this meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.36pm

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Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee

2 March 2009

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, B Clayton and M Hall

Also Present:

M Chalk and M Shurmer

Officers:

R Bamford, S Hanley, G Harris, A Walsh and A Williams

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

243. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor MacMillan.

244. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

245. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Leader's Announcements.

246. CORE STRATEGY EVIDENCE BASE

The Committee received the finalised versions of a number of key documents to add to the suite of documents that had been produced for the purposes of public consultation. The meeting was informed that all of the documents had been considered by the Planning Advisory Panel at some stage.

The Employment Land Review prompted questions regarding the siting of additional employment land and the types of units envisaged. Much of the proposed development was sited at the

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Chair

Executive

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boundaries of the Borough within adjacent Districts. Officers corrected a typographical error in paragraph 5.3 of the covering report, noting that the figure in the final sentence should have read 59 hectares rather than 51 hectares. This reflected the target for employment land calculated through the Planning Advisory Panel.

There was some concern that the majority of employment development within the Borough comprised large units whereas there had been less success in attracting smaller units and office-based businesses. This was in part the result of the type of speculative development that had taken place on existing sites by the landowners concerned.

With regard to the Open Space Needs Assessment, it was noted that there may be a need to modify the recommendation as Members and Officers were to undertake a site visit prior to the recommendation being considered at the Council meeting on 9 March 2009.

The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment had concluded that the capacity of the Borough for new dwellings was considerably lower than the target that was being considered through the draft Regional Spatial Strategy. The Borough's proposed target of 2232 dwellings was predicated on the assumption that ADR land should not be used for development. The revised figure had been reached through assumptions being made on dwelling density and the use of indicative layouts.

The remainder of the housing allocation for the Borough was expected to be sited outside of the Borough but adjacent to the Borough Boundary in Bromsgrove and Stratford on Avon Districts. Members had some sympathy with the neighbouring authorities in that it was not necessarily considered that proposed development contiguous to the Redditch Borough boundary was the most desirable outcome for either community.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Employment Land Review, Open Space Needs Assessment, 'Public Open Space Standards in the Borough', Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Bromsgrove and Redditch SFRA and WCS Addendum, 'Study into the Future Growth Implications of Redditch Second Stage Report' and Technical Paper - Sustainability Appraisal and Sustainability Appraisal**

Executive

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2 March 2009

Refresh be endorsed for the purposes of a period of public participation commencing on the 27 March 2009 and ending on the 8 May 2009.

- 2) **authority be delegated to the Acting Development Plans Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Environment, Planning and Transport, to make any further minor revisions to any appendices prior to the participation period commencing on the 27 March 2009 and this might include the addition of technical appendices to the SHLAA.**
- 3) **authority be delegated to the Acting Development Plans Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Environment, Planning and Transport to accept the final draft of the Water Cycle Strategy and publish for the purposes of public consultation commencing on 27 March and ending on 8 May 2009.**

247. BROMSGROVE AND STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCILS' CORE STRATEGY RESPONSES

Members' retrospective approval was sought for responses to the documents produced by Bromsgrove and Stratford on Avon District Councils entitled "Core Strategy Draft Document", both of which had been put out for consultation in November 2008.

The response to Stratford on Avon prompted most discussion amongst Members. Officers clarified that the land adjacent to the A435 on either side of the boundary between the two authorities had been treated in a complementary fashion by Redditch and Stratford on Avon. It was proposed to define much of this as green belt. Members were not content with the response in respect of the Winyates Green Triangle and the proposal to use this site for employment land with access from Far Moor Lane. It was agreed that the type of desired use be more closely defined and the strong wish for access from the A435 rather than from Far Moor Lane be stated.

Officers undertook to provide Councillor Hall with further information concerning Gypsy, Traveller and Show People's sites in Bromsgrove District following the meeting.

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Committee

2 March 2009

RESOLVED that

the responses from Redditch Borough Council to the Bromsgrove and Stratford Draft Core Strategy Documents (Appendices A and B) be retrospectively endorsed, subject to the submission of an addendum to the response to Stratford-on-Avon expressing the Council's desire to see B1 (Business) use only on the Winyates Triangle site and access to this site being gained from the A435, with the wording to this addendum being agreed in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

248. THE WORCESTERSHIRE ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN

The Committee considered the draft Worcestershire Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan as developed through the Economy and Transport Theme Group of the Worcestershire Partnership. Officers were concerned that the Plan did not accurately reflect either the Borough Council's economic priorities or the Borough's proposed designation as a Settlement of Significant Development. A number of proposed amendments had been included within the document for consideration.

It was stated that the Council would have the opportunity to make representations to other Members of the Partnership but the interests of the Borough would have to be weighed against the interests of the other partners. There was a general consensus that the town had much to commend it as a base for employment and it was suggested that this message needed to be more effectively put across. Members were keen that both local Civic and Business Leaders be actively engaged in the role of ambassadors for the town in order that Redditch might be promoted as a place in which to do business and that this be reflected in the developing Redditch Economic Strategy.

RESOLVED that

if Redditch is designated a Settlement of Significant Development in the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Worcestershire Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan be endorsed subject to the amendments in Appendix A;

or

Executive Committee

if Redditch is not designated a Settlement of Significant Development in the Regional Spatial Strategy, the Worcestershire Economic Strategy and Delivery Plan be endorsed subject to the amendments in Appendix B.

249. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of a recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The minutes incorporated the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the final report from the Worcestershire Joint Scrutiny into Flooding Task and Finish Group. A number of recommendations had arisen from consideration of this report.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 4 February 2009 be received and noted;**
- 2) a working party of relevant Officers assess the implications of the Worcestershire Joint Scrutiny into Flooding final recommendations for Redditch Borough Council;**
- 3) the working party of Officers present the Task and Finish Group's final recommendations at a meeting of the Executive Committee alongside their comments; and**
- 4) an all Member emergency planning training session be set up.**

250. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS, NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS ETC.

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.55pm

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Chair

Executive Committee

11 March 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor M Braley (Vice-Chair) in the Chair, and
 Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, B Clayton and C MacMillan

Also Present:

Councillors D Hunt and Mr M Collins (Standards Committee)

Officers:

G Revans, J Smith, J Staniland, H Halls, S Hanley, C Wilson, S Mullins,
 E Hopkins, C Walker, A Highway and P Bellamy

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

251. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gandy and Hall.

252. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

253. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Leader apologised and withdrew comments he had made in the debate on Redditch Children's & Young People's Action Plan regarding Worcestershire County Council and Social Workers in general at the Executive Committee meeting held on 18 February 2009.

The Deputy Leader also advised that the following matter had been accepted as Urgent Business:

Item 10 – Asset Maintenance – Extension of Term Contracts.

.....
 Chair

254. MINUTES**RESOLVED that**

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 January 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

255. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

Members considered proposed amendments to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy and Redditch Home Choice Scheme, which were approved by this Committee on 7 March 2007 and implemented on 6 September 2007.

The Committee was informed that the proposals were as a result of a review of the scheme 12 months after its introduction to ensure that the needs of the local community and the Council's legal obligations were being met.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the revised Allocations Policy be adopted; and**
- 2) the Policy be added to the Constitutional Policy Framework.**

256. COMMERCIAL RE-USE OF COUNCIL INFORMATION

The Committee considered a report setting out a policy to comply with the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005.

The report outlined the requirements of the Regulations as follows:

- a) to publish an Information Asset Register of documents which would be available for re-use;
- b) to provide a clear statement on arrangements for the re-use of information;
- c) to clearly explain any applicable charges for re-use and any licence terms and conditions;
- d) to process applications for re-use in a timely, open and transparent manner and through fair, consistent and non-discriminatory processes; and
- e) to establish a quick and easily accessible complaints process.

Officers described the Information Free Trader Scheme (IFTS) which had been developed by the Office of Public Sector Information to set and assess standards for public sector bodies together with an on-line assessment which would demonstrate basic compliance with IFTS principles and Regulations.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the policy attached to the report at Appendix 1 be approved and added to the Constitutional Policy Framework; subject to which**

RESOLVED that

- 2) **the model licences attached to the report at Appendix 2 be approved; and**
- 3) **the Council undertake the online assessment for the Office of Public Sector's Information Free-Trader Scheme.**

257. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MONITORING - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2008

Members considered a report on all aspects of the Council's performance for the period October – December 2008 compared with the same period in 2007. Officers provided an Exception Report which highlighted Performance Indicators that exceeded their target , were below target or where no data had been provided for the quarter.

Officers were asked to check the percentage figures for NI157(b) which measured processing of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks.

RESOLVED that

the update on key performance indicators for the period October – December 2008 be noted.

258. SERVICE PLANS 2009 - 2012

The Deputy Chief Executive gave a presentation highlighting the work done over a 4 month period to develop Service Plans for all

11 March 2009

areas of the Council's business. She informed Members of the timetable for endorsement of both the Service Plans and the Corporate Plan.

The Committee thanked Officers for their work in producing the Service Plans.

Council Members were asked to give notice to relevant Officers of any questions arising from the Service Plans for discussion at Council on 20 April 2009.

RECOMMENDED that

the Service Plans for the Authority be endorsed and considered alongside the Corporate Plan at the Council meeting on 20 April 2009.

259. ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Members received a report which provided information regarding the current status of the Environmental Enhancement Programme (EEP). The Committee noted that the programme would contribute to the Council's Corporate Priorities and the national agenda of creating Cleaner, Greener, Safer, Sustainable and Stronger Communities.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the current sites in Woodrow, Winyates and Lodge Park be completed in accordance with the agreed project plans and that the £100,000 detailed at paragraph 4.5 of the report remain in the Capital Programme as it is;**
- 2) the direction of the project be amended to focus on the issue of addressing the growing problem of parking provision on many of the Borough's Estates (£250,000), including the removal of poor quality garage stock in the Council's ownership to facilitate the creation of additional general parking and for the Capital Landscape Project (£25,000) to pick up any relevant landscape enhancements;**
- 3) Officers bring forward proposals to a future meeting of the Executive Committee regarding environmental improvement schemes where the remaining £800,000 could be spent;**

- 4) authority to expend up to the sum(s) approved, be agreed in accordance with Standing Order 41, for the purpose indicated; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 5) a budget of £250,000 per year for four years be approved for addressing the issues of parking provision and that an additional sum of £25,000 per year be added to the Capital Landscape Project budget for the purpose described in option 2(b).

260. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 February 2009 be received and noted.

261. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

Members considered an update report on the work of the Executive Committee's Advisory Panels, and similar bodies which report to the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED that

the report on the work of the Committee's Advisory Panels etc. be received and noted, subject to the following updates:

- 1) the Community Safety Advisory Panel – need for the group to be investigated;
- 2) a further three dates for the Economic Advisory Panel meetings had been identified;
- 3) the next meeting of the Housing Advisory Panel would be on 14 April 2009;
- 4) the next meeting of the Procurement Steering Group would be on 6 April 2009; and

11 March 2009

- 5) **Member involvement in the Value for Money Officer Group be investigated.**

262. ACTION MONITORING

Members noted the Action Monitoring Sheet and confirmed which tasks had been completed and, therefore, could be deleted from future reports.

RESOLVED that

subject to Member's suggested amendments, the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 9.05pm

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Chair

REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Audit & Governance

Committee

4th March 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Robin King (Chair), and Councillors M Braley and W Norton

Also Present:

Councillor K Banks, Mr David Evans – Audit Commission

Officers:

Sue Mullins, Teresa Kristunas, B Haycock, J Chamberlain and C Kenyon

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

41. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hall, Hartnett and MacMillan.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

43. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

44. EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Members considered a report from the Audit Commission that showed progress against the 2008/09 audit plan agreed by this Committee in May 2008. The status of work in progress was reported as follows:

Systems Work

Work had started on an audit of Authority systems. This work had been undertaken in partnership with the Council's Internal Auditors

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Chair

Audit & Governance

Committee

4th March 2009

who had agreed to test the operation system controls required for the Commission's opinion audit.

Use of Resources

The Commission's assessment report for 2007/08 had been completed and was subject to discussion with the Council's Internal Auditors. A meeting had been arranged to discuss the assessment for 2008/09.

Direction of Travel

Fieldwork had been completed and the findings would be included in the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.

Benefits Inspection

Inspection completed.

It was reported that the following National Reports had been issued:

- a) Well Disposed: responding to the waste challenge
- b) Back to Front: the efficiency of back office functions in local government.
- c) Crunch time: the impact of the economic downturn on local government finances.
- d) Tired of Hanging Around: Using sport and leisure activities to prevent anti-social behaviour by young people.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

45. ACTION SHEET

Members considered an Action Sheet from their meeting on 21 January 2009.

With reference to Item 5 Officers reported that, following discussions, the format of the Shared Services Financial Summary would be amended. The revised version would be presented to Members once finalised.

Audit & Governance

Committee

4th March 2009

RESOLVED that

the reported be noted.

46. REPORT ON GOVERNANCE

The Committee considered a report outlining progress towards improved governance arrangements within the Council. Officers reported that in 2007 CIPFA and SOLACE had produced the 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' Framework for the delivery of good governance in local government. The 6 core principles of the Framework were outlined as follows:

- Principle 1:** Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area;
- Principle 2:** Members and Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles;
- Principle 3:** Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour;
- Principle 4:** Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk;
- Principle 5:** Developing the capacity and capability of Members and Officers to be effective;
- Principle 6:** Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.

The Framework provided a series of questions for Members and Officers to complete to assess how good the governance arrangements are at the Council.

It was reported that Officers had considered the Framework and self-assessment questions and had identified a number of gaps. An Action Plan had been produced to address some of the gaps.

Members also needed to consider the self-assessment questions to identify issues to be included in the Action Plan.

Audit & Governance

Committee

4th March 2009

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted;**
- 2) **a Working Party be formed and training provided to enable Members to complete the self assessment questions; and**
- 3) **a letter be sent to all Members seeking expressions of interest in joining the Working Party.**

47. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - DIAL A RIDE SERVICE

Members received a report about the Value For Money (V.F.M.) exercise that had been undertaken on the Dial-A-Ride service.

Officers reported that the V.F.M. exercise had identified the cost to the Council of each journey made by the Dial-A-Ride service together with the cost per Council Tax household for each journey. The audit identified that no statistics were available to quantify the potential number of people within Redditch who could register for the service, no statistics were maintained for 'dead' mileage and no information was held on the vehicle down time. It had also been difficult to make comparisons with schemes run by other Local Authorities.

Members recognised the value of the service provided by Dial-A-Ride.

RESOLVED that

the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to set up a Task and Finish Group to further investigate the issues raised in the V.F.M. exercise.

48. INTERNAL AUDIT - MEMBER SUGGESTIONS OF AREAS FOR FUTURE AUDIT ACTIVITY

Members considered the template for the Annual Audit Plan 2009/10.

Audit & GOVERNANCE

Committee

4th March 2009

RESOLVED that

- 1) the report be received; and
- 2) that Members inform Officers of any priority areas for work.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.50pm

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Chair

Planning Committee

3 March 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), Councillor David Smith (Vice-Chair) and Councillors K Banks (substituting for Councillor Field), D Enderby, N Hicks and R King.

Also Present:

Mr M Collins (Standards Committee Vice-Chair).

Officers:

R Bamford, A Hussain, H Rajwanshi and A Rutt and S Skinner.

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth.

76. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Field and Hartnett.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor R King declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Planning Application 2009/010/FUL (application for the erection of new perimeter fencing, insertion of five new windows to south elevation, erection of new substation, external compressor and paper trim compactor at 1 Claybrook Drive, Matchborough) as detailed in Minute 83 below.

78. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on the 6 January and 3 February 2009 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

.....
Chair

79. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

The Committee considered and determined four Planning Applications as detailed in the subsequent minutes below.

Officers tabled an update report detailing any late responses to consultation, changed recommendations, further conditions and any additional Officer comments in relation to each application. This report was further updated orally at the meeting as appropriate to each application.

Public speaking was permitted, in accordance with the Council's agreed procedures, in relation to two of the applications being considered.

80. PLANNING APPLICATION 2008/342 /FUL - 5 WILLOW WAY, BATCHLEY

Erection of a two-storey detached dwelling and garage
Applicant: Abbey and Lyndon

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informatives detailed in the report.

81. PLANNING APPLICATION 2008/386/FUL - ABBEY HOTEL, GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, DAGNELL END ROAD, BORDLESLEY

Erection of 25 Lodge-Style accommodation units
ancillary to the main hotel with associated
landscaping and infrastructure
Applicant: RSM Leisure Ltd

The following people addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules:

Mr J Longley – Objector

Mr P Lewis – Objector

Mr M Blake – Chairman of the Board, on behalf of the Applicant.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informatives detailed in the report and the following additional conditions:

“22. Retention of hedging to northern boundary adjacent Dagnell End Road.

23. Barriers to be provided for pedestrian safety adjacent Hither Green Lane.”

82. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/002/FUL - 56 HITHER GREEN LANE, BORDESLEY

Variation of elevations approved under Application 2008/275/FUL to include ground floor front and rear elevations, side chimney extension and rear side canopy
Applicant: Mr N Jinks

Mr D Jones, Agent, addressed the Committee under the Council's public speaking rules.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions stated in the report.

83. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/010/FUL - 1 CLAYBROOK DRIVE, MATCHBOROUGH

Erection of new perimeter fencing,
insertion of 5 new windows to south elevation,
erection of new substation, external compressor and paper trim compactor
Applicant: Kalamazoo Secure Solutions

RESOLVED that

having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, Planning Permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions and informative detailed in the report.

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor R King declared a minor personal but not prejudicial interest in view of the fact that he had been employed by the Applicant some years previously.)

Planning Committee

3 March 2009

84. INFORMATION REPORT

The Committee received an item of information in relation to the outcome of an appeal against the issue of an Enforcement Notice in respect of Priestbridge Barn, Church Road, Bradley Green. Officers reported that it was their understanding that a Planning Application for the barn was to be lodged in due course.

RESOLVED that

the item of information be noted.

85. ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTROL

The Committee considered two contraventions planning law, as detailed in the subsequent minute below.

86. ENFORCEMENT REPORT 2006/351/ENF - OTHER ROAD, TOWN CENTRE

Non-compliance with the requirements of an Enforcement Notice

RESOLVED that

authority be delegated to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Property Services, in consultation with the Acting Head of Planning and Building Control, to take Enforcement action by way of instigating proceedings in the Magistrates Court to secure a cessation of the breach of planning control.

87. ENFORCEMENT REPORT 2007/215/ENF AND 2008/275/ENF - POLESWORTH CLOSE, MATCHBOROUGH

Non-compliance with the requirements of an Enforcement Notice

RESOLVED that

authority be delegated to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Property Services, in consultation with the Acting Head of Planning and Building Control, to take Enforcement action by way of instigating proceedings in the Magistrates Court to secure a cessation of the breach of planning control.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.00pm

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Chair