

minute book 3

Council Committee

Mon 14th Sept
2009
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch



www.redditchbc.gov.uk



Council

27 July 2009

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

B Warwick (Standards Committee) and C Williams (West Midlands Local Government Association).

Officers:

K Dicks, H Halls, S Hanley, T Kristunas, S Mullins, S Skinner, Jackie Smith and D Sunman

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth.

33. WELCOME

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

34. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Field, Fry and Mould.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Banks, Chance, Hartnett and Taylor declared personal and prejudicial interests in Item 8 (Regulatory Committees) as detailed separately at Minute 40 below.

.....
Chair

36. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

subject to the deletion of Councillor Hopkins' name from the record in relation to Minute 24 (Declarations of Interest) and Minute 27 (Executive Committee), the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 22 June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

37. COMMUNICATIONS AND MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

a) Mercian Regiment

It was with regret that the Mayor announced the death of another member of the, Mercian Regiment, Private Robert Laws of the local 2nd Battalion, who had been killed in action in Afghanistan. The Mayor was proposing to send the Council's condolences to the Regiment and Private Law's family.

b) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that since the previous meeting of the Council he had attended various functions, including: the Redditch Railway Exhibition – display in the Kingfisher Centre; the North Worcestershire Partnership Games presentation at the Abbey Stadium; the opening of Tenacres First School summer fete; the opening of a new Council Park at Overdale Close, Astwood Bank; the formal lowering of the Armed Forces Day flag and its presentation to a local veteran; an Arts & Craft Fair for the Salvation Army at St Stephens; the Alexandra Hospital League of Friends Annual Summer Fete; a celebration of young people's achievements at the Palace Theatre; inspected the Schools Gardens competition entries; attended Lifeline's 25th birthday celebration; attended the official homecoming in Worcester of the Queen's Royal Hussars; attended the Voices & Visions concert at Kingsley Theatre with Lilian Boutte; and opened a further bus shelter which had been decorated by local youngsters in Winyates.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Banks for stepping in and taking on engagements he had been unable to attend and for serving as his Consort at a number of events.

c) Forthcoming events

The Mayor advised that, forthcoming events included, a Monks' supper at Evesham; a charity coffee morning at Droitwich and judging Scarecrows at Arrow Valley Countryside Centre.

The Mayor also advised that, he was hoping to invite to a future suitable occasion, a former serving Officer from HMS Kingfisher whom he had met at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

d) Urgent Business

The Mayor advised that he had accepted late papers for consideration in respect of:

Item 6 – Executive Committee Decision Notice for the 22 July 2009; and

Item 9 – Shared Services Board – Business Case.

e) Additional Matters

During consideration of the Mayor's announcements, he gave permission to a number of Members to make further announcements in relation to matters not listed on the agenda, namely:

i) Standard Newspaper Headlines

The Council Leader raised the matter of the recent front page article in the Redditch Standard Newspaper in relation to results of a national survey which had designated Redditch as one of the worst towns in England. The Leader advised that the negative results of the survey did not, she was sure, reflect the views of the people of Redditch themselves and thanked everyone for their support and positive responses in the Standard's Letter Section and at a recent community roadshow. She also welcomed the Standard's decision to promote the very many positive aspects of Redditch and confirmed that the Council and its partners would be working together to address and respond to the survey.

ii) Retirement of Head Teacher – Oakhill First School

The Council was advised of the recent retirement of Mrs Cherrill Illingworth, Head Teacher at Oakhill First School, following twenty-seven years teaching in Redditch. Members agreed that a letter be sent to Mrs Illingworth in recognition of her services to the education of the children of Redditch.

38. LEADERS' QUESTIONS

The Leader responded to a question which had been submitted in accordance with Standing Order 8A, namely:

“Himbleton Close – Kitchen Refurbishment”
(Mr G Marsden)

Mr Marsden’s question related to delays in the kitchen refurbishment programme for Himbleton Close, Lodge Park.

The Leader responded that financial constraints over several years had resulted in the Council having to review delivery of its Capital Programme, which included such refurbishments. However, earlier in the year, additional funding had been identified and approved which would enable the five year planned programme to be completed. Regular monitoring of the programme would be undertaken and she was able to advise that the refurbishments referred to by Mr Marsden would take place in April / June 2010.

The Leader advised that she understood and appreciated residents’ concerns and extended the Council’s apologies to Mr Marsden and other affected residents for the situation.

39. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members received the Minutes and Decision Notice of the meetings of the Executive Committee held on the 1st and 22nd July 2009 respectively.

In respect of the minutes of the 1st July 2009 meeting, Members’ received additional information in relation to Minute 36 (Insurance Premium Savings) in respect of the need to change Resolution 36.3 (giving delegated authority to an Officer of the Council) to a recommendation for the Council’s consideration, as detailed in paragraphs 2 and 3.1 of the Matters Arising report.

Members’ also received additional information In relation to Minute 43 (Delegations to Officers – Enforcement Powers) in respect of a further explanation of the delegations, as set out in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the Matters Arising report.

No decisions were taken in respect of these two matters.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 1st July 2009 be received and adopted and all recommendations approved; and**

- 2) **the Decision Notice of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 22nd July 2009 be received and all recommendations approved, subject to:**

in respect of Decision 7 (Min 60) (Off-Street Car Parking Policy), it being recorded, in accordance with Standing Order 16, that Labour Group Members did not support the proposal so approved.

40. REGULATORY COMMITTEES

The Council received the minutes of recent meetings of the Council's Regulatory Committees.

Planning Committee 16th June 2009

In respect of Minute 27 (Planning Application 2009/081/ADV – Display of Flags other than permitted National Flags – Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch) the Chair of the Planning Committee drew Members' attention to the additional Informative included in the resolution, which related to the Committee's concerns about the potential display of commercial and other inappropriate advertisements at the Town Hall. Officers reported that a referral report on the matter would be taken to the Executive Committee for consideration in the very near future.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 30th June 2009 be received and adopted;**
- 2) **the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16th June 2009 be received and adopted; and**
- 3) **the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 24th June 2009 be received and adopted.**

(During consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillors Banks, Chance, Hartnett and Taylor declared personal and prejudicial interests in Minute 28 (Affordable Housing Tenure Clauses – Variation to a Section 106 Agreement – Former Megabowl Site) of the Planning Committee Minutes for the meeting held on 16th June 2009 in view of the fact that they were Board Members on Redditch Co-operative Homes, the Registered Social Landlord for the development, and refrained from voting in respect of that minute.)

41. SHARED SERVICES BOARD - BUSINESS CASE

The Council considered the recommendations of the meeting of the Shared Services Board of 29th June 2009 and those of the Executive Committee meeting held immediately prior to the Council meeting in respect of the Business Case for joint and shared working arrangements between Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council and the post of Acting Joint Chief Executive of the two authorities. Prior to the debate, the Mayor announced his intention to take separate votes on each of the recommendations before Members.

Members were referred to the covering report and recommendations appended under Additional Papers 1 and informed of two amendments which had been agreed by the Executive Committee, to the printed recommendations, namely that recommendation 2.b).i) be deleted, as it dealt with business for Bromsgrove District Council, and 2.b).ii) be amended to correct Officer Titles.

A further amendment to 2.c) to correct an error relating to the reference to recommendation 2.b) was also agreed by Council.

A notice of an amendment was proposed by Councillor Hartnett, Leader of the Opposition. The amendment proposed that:

“decision on all the proposed recommendations be deferred for public consultation.”

On Cllr Hartnett’s requisition, and in accordance with Standing Order 16, the following Named Vote was recorded in respect of the proposed amendment:

Members voting FOR the amendment:

Councillors Chance, Cookson, Hartnett, Hunt, R King, W King, Shurmer and Taylor. (8 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Banks, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Enderby, Gandy, Hall, Hicks, Hopkins, MacMillan, Norton, Pearce, Quinney, Smith and Thomas. (18 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

None.

Accordingly, the amendment fell.

The Council then considered the original motion, to approve recommendation 1, as printed in Additional Papers 1.

On requisition of a Member, and in accordance with Standing Order 16, the following Named Vote was recorded :

Members voting FOR Recommendation 1:

Councillors Anderson, Banks, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Enderby, Gandy, Hall, Hicks, Hopkins, MacMillan, Norton, Pearce, Quinney, Smith and Thomas. (18 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the motion:

Councillors Chance, Cookson, Hartnett, Hunt, R King, W King, Shurmer and Taylor. (8 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

None.

Accordingly, the motion was approved and it was therefore

RESOLVED that

1) the creation of a single management team be approved;

Following further debate, notice of an amendment to recommendation 2.e) was given by Councillor Chance and circulated for Members' information.

The amendment proposed that:

- “e) the Council’s approach to the Serco case be that the roll out of shared services will be considered on a case by case basis in order to deliver the best possible services across a range of provision and that, in pursuing this approach, the Council acknowledges that:**
- i) the business case as produced by Serco requires this Council to continue to pursue joint working with its neighbouring Authorities;**
 - ii) the Council is committed to delivering effective and efficient services and, where the sharing of service delivery is in the true interest of the people of Redditch, it will be actively and positively pursued;**

- iii) **in pursuing the Joint working agenda the independence and sovereignty of Redditch will be paramount.”**

On requisition of a Member, and in accordance with Standing Order 16, the following Named Vote was recorded in respect of the proposed amendment to recommendation 2e):

Members voting FOR the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Chance, Cookson, Hartnett, Hunt, R King, W King, Shurmer and Taylor. (8 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Banks, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Enderby, Gandy, Hall, Hicks, Hopkins, MacMillan, Norton, Pearce, Quinney, Smith and Thomas. (18 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

None.

Accordingly, the motion to amend Recommendation 2e) fell.

The Council then considered the original motion, as proposed by Councillor Gandy, to approve, subject to the agreed amendments, the Executive Committee's Recommendation 2.

On requisition of a Member, and in accordance with Standing Order 16, the following Named Vote was recorded in respect of Recommendation 2 and its agreed amendments:

Members voting FOR the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Banks, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Cookson, Enderby, Gandy, Hall, Hicks, Hopkins, MacMillan, Norton, Pearce, Quinney, Smith and Thomas. (19 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the motion:

Councillors Chance, Hartnett, Hunt, R King, W King, Shurmer and Taylor. (7 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

None.

Accordingly, the motion was approved and it was therefore

RESOLVED that

- 2) in pursuit of the above:
 - a) the current secondment arrangements in relation to the Acting Joint Chief Executive be extended up to the end of 2012/13;
 - b) authority be delegated to Redditch Borough Council's Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services and Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services, in consultation with the Leader, to determine and agree the necessary amendments to the Secondment Agreement;
 - c) any costs associated with Recommendation (2b) above be shared equally by Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council;
 - d) the post of Acting Joint Chief Executive be re-titled Joint Chief Executive for the duration of the extension to the secondment arrangements;
 - e) the Business Case as produced by Serco be approved in principle noting the management team response;
 - f) the Joint Chief Executive be tasked with preparing and presenting more detailed proposals to the Shared Service Board by the first week of September 2009 in relation to:
 - i) the structure of the single joint management team;
 - ii) the detailed financial arrangements to meet the requirements of both Councils' Medium Term Financial Plans;
 - iii) details in relation to the legal implications, employment implications and implementation arrangements of a single joint management team; and
 - iv) a timetable for the implementation of the Business Case to include specific milestones;

- g) the post of Joint Chief Executive be re-evaluated for the duration of the extension to the secondment arrangements and that the West Midlands Local Government Association be requested to undertake this; and**
 - h) the Joint Chief Executive be authorised to commence negotiations with the relevant Trade Unions in relation to the creation of a single joint management team and the harmonisation of terms and conditions of employment; and**
- 3) the Concordat between the authorities be reviewed, to ensure that it is sufficiently robust to enable the proposed shared service arrangements to function effectively.**

(Prior to consideration of this Item, Mr Kevin Dicks (Acting Joint Chief Executive), Mrs Sue Hanley (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), Mrs Teresa Kristunas (Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services) and Mrs Jackie Smith (Director of Housing, Leisure and Customer Services), who were deemed to have personal and prejudicial interests by virtue of their employment with the Council, withdrew from the meeting for its consideration.

Mrs Sue Mullins, the Council's Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services and Monitoring Officer, who had also withdrawn from the meeting in view of her personal and prejudicial interest was, during the course of the debate, called back into the meeting and remained to provide clarification on legal matters. In the absence of these Officers, Mr Colin Williams of the West Midlands Local Government Association was present, as an independent party, and provided necessary advice to the Council, in response to Members' queries.)

(Prior to consideration of this matter, and in view of the fact that discussions would necessitate disclosure of exempt information, it was agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed in relation to the financial or business affairs individuals, including the authority holding that information.

There is nothing exempt, however, in this record of the proceedings.)

42. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The Council considered a number of minor administrative matters.

RESOLVED that

the following appointments be made:

- 1) Relate (Worcestershire) – Councillor A Clayton;**
- 2) Worcestershire Partnership Theme Groups (Environment) – Councillor B Clayton (Portfolio for Housing, Local Environment and Health); and**
- 3) Shared Services Board (Named Substitutes) – Councillors Anderson, Braley, Shurmer and Thomas.**

43. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

Members noted an Urgent Business decision, which had been approved in accordance with Standing Order 36, namely:

Land Charges Fees
(UB Reference 477)

RESOLVED that

the matter be noted.

44. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

There were no separate Urgent Business items to be considered at this meeting.

45. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that

under S.100 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, with the exception of independent member(s) of the Council's Standards Committee, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 2, 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act, as amended.

Council

27 July 2009

Shared Services Board – Recommendations (as detailed at Minute 41 above).

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 10.33 pm

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CHAIR



Executive Committee

10 June 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, B Clayton, W Hartnett, N Hicks, C MacMillan and M Shurmer

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

K Dicks, R Griffin, S Hanley, A Heighway, T Kristunas, A Marklew, S Mullins, Jackie Smith, J Staniland and L Tompkin

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

15. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following items of business, scheduled on the Forward Plan to be dealt with at this meeting, had been re-scheduled to a later meeting:

- Revised Constitutional Model;
- Energy Strategy; and
- Asset Disposal Programme.

The Chair also advised that she had accepted the following matters as Urgent Business:

Item 7 – Capital Programme – Outturn 2008/09; and
Item 8 – Consolidated Revenue – Outturn 2008/09.

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Chair

18. MINUTES

Members noted that the minutes included a correction at Paragraph 300 (1) following publication of the Decision Notice as follows:

“applications be invited from house owners in the Borough aged 60 or over, living in a Council Tax band A to D property and not in full time employment or in receipt of benefits, to have loft and / or cavity wall insulation installed in their homes free of charge;”

RESOLVED that

Subject to the above correction, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19. FUNDING OF VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS - POLICY

Members considered a report which requested approval for two new policies, which had been produced in line with the recommendations of the Third Sector Task and Finish Group that had been approved by Council in January 2009:

- a) Policy for Funding Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations using the Shopping, Investing and Giving Framework (Appendix 1 of the report); and
- b) Policy for the Award of Grants by Redditch Borough Council to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (Appendix 2 of the report).

Officers reported that a number of amendments had been made to each of the policies as follows:

Appendix 1

3.2 **Shopping** refers to the procurement and contractual arrangements with external providers to deliver services on behalf of the Council that the Council has a statutory duty to provide **or priority areas the Council wishes to invest in.** *(The remainder of this paragraph was unaltered.)*

3.5 The Executive Committee will consider and make a decision on which services and funding mechanisms the Council will seek to provide under the Shopping element of this framework subject to agreement by full Council. **e.g. Advice Services, Waste Management / recycling services.**

Appendix 2

- 3.2 **Shopping** refers to procurement and contractual arrangements with external providers to deliver services on behalf of the Council and that the Council has a statutory duty to provide **or priority areas the Council wishes to invest in.** *(The remainder of this paragraph was unaltered.)*
- 4.3 The Council will require that all grant awards ~~will~~ support Council objectives. *(The remainder of this paragraph was unaltered.)*
- 6.4 **Full cost recovery will not be considered for any grant awarded projects under £5,000 (small grants).**
- 9.12 Unsuccessful applicants will be offered feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their application. ~~and will be signposted to appropriate organisations for support with securing funding from alternative sources.~~
- 10.3 *(The following sentence to be added at the end of the paragraph.)* **The length of the bidding process will be proportionate to the type and value of the grant.**

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the policy for funding Voluntary and Community Sector organisations using the Shopping, Investing and Giving framework, attached to the report at Appendix 1, be approved subject to amendments to paragraphs 3.2, and 3.5 as detailed above;**
- 2) **the policy for the award of grants by Redditch Borough Council to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, attached to the report at Appendix 2, be approved subject to amendments to paragraphs 3.2, 4.3, 6.4, 9.12 and 10.3 as detailed above; and**
- 3) **further work be undertaken on the Council's relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector, as recommended by the Third Sector Task and Finish Group, in the manner outlined in paragraphs 5.10 to 5.15 of the report.**

20. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

Members considered a report which detailed a review of the Financial Management processes and arrangements within the Council following the 2009/10 – 2011/12 budget process.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Action Plan, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;**
- 2) **the business planning timetable, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report , be approved;**
- 3) **the proposed format for revenue budget monitoring, as detailed in Appendix 4 to the report, be approved;**
- 4) **any consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the above decisions be made; and**
- 5) **reports to Executive Committee be included in the performance management cycle.**

21. CAPITAL PROGRAMME -OUTTURN 2008/09

The Committee received a report on the actual expenditure and funding of the Capital Programme for 2008/09. Officers reported that the approved Capital Programme for 2008/09 totalled £14.2 million and that the Programme included a number of schemes that spanned more than one financial year. Members were informed that Appendix 1 of the report showed actual expenditure of £11.9 million of which £1.4 million had been included for work in progress. Appendix 1 also showed the variances between the budget and actual spend.

Officers advised that there had been an overspend on Disabled Equipment and Adaptations (C1222) because two jobs, both subject to internal audit investigations, had cost significantly more than originally anticipated. It was also reported that a further report on the Redevelopment of Church Hill (C1120) would be prepared for a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 2) **the reported overspend of £53,000 on Disabled Equipment and Adaptations be met from the Housing Revenue Account.**

22. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE OUTTURN 2008/09

Members considered a report which detailed the Council's overall outturn for the 2008/09 financial year. The report showed the actual income and expenditure for the 2008/09 financial year and compared it to the budget for General Fund Services and the Housing Revenue Account.

Officers reported that savings of £363,000 above estimate had been made. The majority of the additional outturn savings were accounted for as follows:

	£
Corporate Activities - year end accounting adjustment to reserves	36,468
Concessionary Travel - demand led, outturn uncertain. First year of new scheme	132,437
Housing Benefit Subsidy - savings not clarified until last week of March 2009	100,000
Crematorium - additional income due to closure of Oakley Wood Crematorium and increased demand during last quarter	65,658
Total	334,443

Members noted that two different formats for figures had been used in the preparation of the report and suggested that there was a need for consistency to ensure clarity.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

23. BENEFITS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Members received a report which sought approval of an Improvement Plan for the Benefits Service in line with the recommendations made by the Audit Commission following their inspection of the service in February 2009.

Officers were asked amend the Action Plan to include contact with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in Redditch with a view to negotiating a similar agreement to that concluded with Redditch Co-operative Homes.

Members congratulated Officers on the work undertaken in the preparation of the Action Plan.

RESOLVED that**the Benefits Services Improvement Plan be approved.****24. PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

The Committee considered a report which sought agreement to adopt a Partnership Governance Framework and Toolkit together with a definition of the partnerships to which the Framework and Toolkit would apply. Members were informed that the report had been amended following consideration by the Audit and Governance Committee on 26 May 2009.

Officers reported that the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) would place more emphasis on partnership working.

RECOMMENDED that**the draft Partnership Governance Framework and Toolkit set out at Appendix 1 of the report be adopted.****25. CCTV - AUDIO AND HELP POINT SCHEME - REVIEW**

The Committee received a 12 month review of the 6 Audio Points and 1 Help Point linked to the Council's CCTV since its introduction in the Town Centre area in May 2008.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the outcome of the review of the Interactive CCTV and the evidence of its effectiveness be noted; and**
- 2) the scheme continue with a further review in 12 months time.**

26. SHARED SERVICES BOARD

The Committee received the Minutes of the Shared Services Board held on 28 May 2009. There were no matters for the Executive Committee's decision.

RESOLVED that**the minutes of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 28 May 2009 be noted.**

Executive Committee

10 June 2009

27. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members received the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 30 April 2009. There were no matters for the Executive Committee's decision.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 30 April 2009 be received and noted.

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

There were no minutes of referrals to this meeting.

29. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

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

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

30. ACTION MONITORING

Members noted the Action Monitoring Sheet. Officers were requested to provide Councillor Hartnett information on employment of agency staff.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.00 pm

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Chair



Executive Committee

22 July 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors P Anderson, B Clayton, W Hartnett, N Hicks, C MacMillan and M Shurmer

Also Present:

Councillor P Mould (Chair – Overview and Scrutiny Committee)
M Collins (Vice-Chair – Standards Committee)

Officers:

B Ashby, L Bellaby, K Dicks, C Flanagan, S Hanley, T Kristunas, A Marklew, S Mullins, C Hemming, G Revans, H Saunders, Jackie Smith and L Tompkin

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

54. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brunner.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

56. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair advised that she had accepted the following matter as Urgent Business:

Item 13 – Arrow Valley Countryside Centre – Review – External Support.

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Chair

57. MINUTES**RESOLVED that**

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 July 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

58. COUNCIL FLAT COMMUNAL CLEANING REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

Councillor Mould attended to present a report from the Council Flat Communal Cleaning Task and Finish Group

The Task and Finish Group had reviewed the arrangements currently in place to clean communal areas in blocks of Council flats. The group had also considered whether to recommend that those areas not included in the present contract for cleaning should be included in the next contract which would be implemented in July 2010.

On investigation it was found that cleaning arrangements were only in place in a small number of council flat communal areas and the specification for cleaning each of these areas varied. Where no cleaning arrangements were in place, it was written into tenants' contracts that they were expected to clean the areas themselves.

Members of the Task and Finish Group had visited communal areas in Council flats that were both cleaned and not cleaned and found that the standard of cleanliness between them was very different. It was felt that all Council flat tenants and leaseholders should benefit from a basic level of cleaning and that all communal areas in Council flats should meet a good standard of cleanliness that could be maintained.

Consultation that had taken place with tenants and leaseholders showed that the majority of those who expressed a view thought cleaning should be introduced. Most were also in favour of paying a small service charge to cover costs.

In addition, other elements that could contribute to the overall condition of communal areas were examined. These included professional cleaning of some floors; better lighting; a method to eliminate unpleasant odours and graffiti removal.

Officers were asked to provide an estimated service charge for cleaning communal areas to be used when consulting residents.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the Council undertake statutory consultation procedures with secure tenants and consultation with leaseholders to establish if support exists for the introduction of a service charge to cover cleaning arrangements in communal areas in Council flats. Consultation to include sheltered housing complexes;**
- 2) **a further report be prepared to Executive Committee regarding the feasibility of introducing a service charge for cleaning in communal areas when consultation with residents has been completed;**
- 3) **a revenue bid be submitted to enable the flooring in Three Storey flats in Batchley to be stripped, cleaned and sealed to bring it up to a suitable standard;**
- 4) **lighting occupancy sensors be trialled in one block of the Three Storey flats in Batchley to monitor the impact and benefit of this system to residents when entering and leaving the communal areas funded from the current cleaning budget;**
- 5) **a trial use of wall mounted air fresheners be undertaken in one of the communal stairwells funding from the current cleaning budget;**
- 6) **correct no smoking signs be installed in all communal areas where none are currently situated; and**
- 7) **use of graffiti wipes by cleaners be included in the Council's future cleaning contracts.**

59. CONSTITUTION - ADOPTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Members considered a report which outlined a new form of governance for the Council's Executive arrangements for implementation after its elections in May / June 2011.

RESOLVED that

the report be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee together with an additional report regarding the introduction of a four yearly election cycle.

60. OFF-STREET CAR PARKING POLICY

Members received a report which proposed the adoption of a policy for charging for off-street parking at the private car parks owned by the Council at Trescott Road and the Town Hall together with associated parking charges. Delegated authority for drafting, finalisation, publication and implementation of an Off Street Parking Order to enable charges to be implemented was sought.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the Council adopt a policy of charging for off-street parking in its car parks at the Town Hall and Trescott Road, as shown in Appendix 2 to the report, on the days, times and terms set out in the report in accordance with the draft Order contained within Appendix 1 of the report:**
- 2) **authority be delegated to the Director of Housing, Leisure and Customer Services and the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services to take all the necessary steps to publish, consult upon, make and implement an Off Street Parking Order in terms similar to the draft “Redditch Borough Council (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2009” (“the Order2), attached at Appendix 1 of the report; and**

subject to the necessary Order being made

- 3) **authority be delegated to the Director of Housing, Leisure and Customer Services to issue any passes or season tickets in accordance with the Order; and**
- 4) **authority be delegated to the Director of Housing, Leisure and Customer Services to suspend the operation of the Order in relation to the Town Hall car park for such days and times as may be appropriate to enable use of the Town Hall car park by Civic Suite hirers; and**
- 5) **the car parking charges, as set out in the draft Order, be added to the Council’s Schedule of Fees and Charges.**

61. CORPORATE IDENTITY - REVISIONS

Members considered a report which sought adoption and implementation of a revised Corporate Identity across the Council.

Members were informed that the last revision of the Corporate Identity had been carried out in 2006 and that future reviews would be carried out annually.

Officers were asked to investigate the cost implications of a change of logo.

RESOLVED that

the Council's revised Corporate Identity, as detailed in the guidelines and the summary of the guidelines, attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report respectively, be formally adopted and implemented across the Council.

62. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND PLAN 2010/11 TO 2012/13

Members considered a report outlining the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan for managing the Council's finances over the three year period from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013.

Officers reported that the Council had experienced a significant reduction in income from planning and building control fees, local land charges and Right to Buy sales and the downturn in the economy had also affected its ability to generate capital receipts.

It was anticipated that high levels of government borrowing and debt would make it almost certain that there would be a reduction in financial support from Central Government in the period beyond 2010/11.

It was noted that Central Government had already announced changes to efficiency targets for Local Government, equivalent to an extra 1% saving each year on top of the 3% annual savings already expected. Further efficiency savings would likely be announced for the period 2011/12 to 2013/14.

Officers also reported uncertainty regarding the future of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) with a consultation paper due to be issued by Central Government in the near future.

Members were informed that the Council had not yet quantified the financial impact of implementing job evaluation from April 2010.

RECOMMENDED that

the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved.

63. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007 - IMPLICATIONS

Members received a report advising them of the implications of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the powers for Councils and communities contained within the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 be noted;**

and RECOMMENDED that

- 2) **the Council adopt a light touch approach to the legislation and associated process, with a report to the Committee following publication of further guidance to review the findings of the initial round of proposals and decisions.**

64. DUTY TO INVOLVE - IMPLICATIONS

Members received a report on the implications of the Duty to Involve, which came into effect on 1 April 2009 and seeks to ensure effective involvement of local people in planning for and delivering services.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the requirements of the Duty to Involve be noted:**
- 2) **a self assessment be conducted in order to establish areas of compliance, analyse gaps and identify actions required in order to meet the Duty to Involve; and**
- 3) **a Communications and Engagement Strategy be developed, taking into account the findings from the gap analysis.**

65. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

Members considered a report which sought approval for forestry management by the Council in future.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the current five year programme of works be remodelled into a two year rolling programme;**
- 2) **the existing arrangement with the external forestry consultant be continued until 31 March 2010. Officers**

will appoint a suitable consultant via the Council's procurement procedures with effect from 1 April 2010 for a period of four years with the option to extend the contract for one additional year;

- 3) the works be let on a bi-annual basis based on competitive quotations and subject to availability and satisfactory performance by the contractors; and**
- 4) proposals for works to improve the aging footpath network within the woodland areas and any consequential capital bids be brought to the Committee in due course, including the identification of any potential external sources for funding of new or improved footpaths.**

66. ARROW VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE - REVIEW - EXTERNAL SUPPORT

Members considered a report from Officers which sought approval to commission external support to undertake a review of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre. Officers reported that following a presentation to Portfolio Holders, which detailed the current practices and activities that are facilitated from the Countryside Centre, further exploratory work had been identified to:

- a) consider the potential options for how the Centre can deliver value for money for the Council;
- b) identify alternative ways of delivering the service for the community's benefit;
- c) look at the length of the contract period against the investment potential from prospective partners; and
- d) define how best a contract specification can be packaged bearing in mind the number of activities that are currently managed from the facility.

A report was also received from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee suggesting that a Task and Finish Group be established to undertake the review.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) up to the sum of £10,000 be approved from General Fund balances to commission the work; and subject to which**

Executive Committee

22 July 2009

RESOLVED that

- 2) **Officers commission an external consultant to support the review of the future management of the Arrow Valley Countryside Centre and its local environment.**
- 3) **the consultant's final report be subject to pre-scrutiny prior to presentation to the Executive Committee.**

67. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 17 June 2009 be received and noted subject to Paragraph 20, Recommendation 1 be amended to read:

*"the policies and procedures regarding watercourse dredging maintenance, drainage and landscape maintenance and drainage enforcement **be considered for approval** by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 12 August 2009."*

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

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

69. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

The report be noted.

70. ACTION MONITORING

Officers to present reports on Staff Vacancy and Sickness Absence to the next meeting of the Committee.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 10.10pm

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Chair



Executive Committee

27 July 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors P Anderson, J Brunner, B Clayton, W Hartnett, C MacMillan and M Shurmer

Also Present:

B Warwick

Committee Services Officers:

S Skinner, D Sunman, J Smyth

71. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

73. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Leader's announcements.

74. SHARED SERVICES BOARD - BUSINESS CASE

Members considered the recommendations of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 29 June 2009 in respect of the Shared Services arrangements between Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council and the post of Acting Joint Chief Executive of the two authorities.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the minutes of the meeting of the Shared Services Board held on 29 June 2009 be noted; and

.....
Chair

Executive Committee

RECOMMENDED that

- 2) **the creation of a single management team be approved;**
- 3) **in pursuit of the above:**
 - a) **the current secondment arrangements in relation to the Acting Joint Chief Executive be extended up to the end of 2012/13;**
 - b) **authority be delegated to Redditch Borough Council's Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services and Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services, in consultation with the Leader, to determine and agree the necessary amendments to the Secondment Agreement;**
 - c) **any costs associated with Recommendation (3) above be shared equally by Bromsgrove District Council and Redditch Borough Council;**
 - d) **the post of Acting Joint Chief Executive be re-titled Joint Chief Executive for the duration of the extension to the secondment arrangements;**
 - e) **the Business Case as produced by Serco be approved in principle noting the management team response;**
 - f) **the Joint Chief Executive be tasked with preparing and presenting more detailed proposals to the Shared Service Board by the first week of September 2009 in relation to:**
 - i) **the structure of the single joint management team;**
 - ii) **the detailed financial arrangements to meet the requirements of both Councils' Medium Term Financial Plans;**
 - iii) **details in relation to the legal implications, employment implications and implementation arrangements of a single joint management team; and**
 - iv) **a timetable for the implementation of the Business Case to include specific milestones;**

Executive

Committee

- g) the post of Joint Chief Executive be re-evaluated for the duration of the extension to the secondment arrangements and that the West Midlands Local Government Association be requested to undertake this; and
 - h) the Joint Chief Executive be authorised to commence negotiations with the relevant Trade Unions in relation to the creation of a single joint management team and the harmonisation of terms and conditions of employment; and
- 4) the Concordat between the authorities be reviewed, to ensure that it is sufficiently robust to enable the proposed shared service arrangements to function effectively.

(During the consideration of this item, Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was, therefore, agreed to move to exclude the press and public prior to any further debate on the grounds that information might be revealed that related to an individual or which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual and contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relation matters between the authority and employees of the authority.

There is nothing exempt, however, in this record of the proceedings.)

75. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**RESOLVED that**

under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following matter(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

Shared Services Board – Business Case (as detailed in Minute 74 above).

The Meeting commenced at 6.05 pm
and closed at 6.45 pm

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Chair



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Audit & Governance

Committee

4th August 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Robin King (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors M Braley and W Norton

Also Present:

B Warwick (Standards Committee)

Officers:

B Haycock, T Kristunas and S Mullins

Committee Officers:

D Sunman

21. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Hall and Hopkins.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings held on 26 May and 30 June 2009 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

24. GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Members considered a report on the principles contained in 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' Framework. They also considered a Members' and Officers' self assessment of the Council's Governance arrangements including an Action Plan, which had been implemented to address some of the gaps that had been identified.

.....
Chair

Audit & Governance

Committee

4th August 2009

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the principles contained in the ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework’ be endorsed;**
- 2) **the draft Local Code of Governance, attached to the report at Appendix 3, be adopted; and**

RESOLVED that

- 3) **Members’ and Officers’ self assessment of the Council’s Governance arrangements, attached to the report at Appendix 1, be noted; and**
- 4) **Further reports be brought back to Committee on the areas of governance identified by the Committee for improvement.**

25. PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

Members received a report outlining the details of the Council’s partnership activity, which had been requested at an earlier meeting of the Committee. Officers reported that the Council had adopted the Partnership Governance Framework and Toolkit at its meeting on 22 June 2009. Members were informed that the first review of partnerships has been planned to take place at the beginning of 2010.

RESOLVED that

the Council’s partnership activity be noted.

(Officers were asked to amend the following Partnership details:
Redditch Community Safety Partnership – correct spelling for Cllr Hartnett.
Redditch Partnership – add Cllr Hartnett to list of elected Members.)

26. ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER - ACTION PLAN

The Committee received a report, which advised Members of the Action Plan prepared in response to the Audit Commission’s Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2007/08.

Audit & Governance

Committee

4th August 2009

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **a further report be prepared to update Members on current position regarding the issues identified in the Action Plan.**

27. RISK MANAGEMENT UP-DATE

Members considered a report which provided an update on the Council's risk management arrangements in line with the corporate risk management framework including risk management developments and activity. Officers circulated a 'hard' copy of the current Corporate Level - Risk Register and also presented the document electronically to enable clarification, where required.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

(Officers were requested to circulate copies of the Corporate Level – Risk Register to Members prior to meetings.)

28. INTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

The Committee received the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2008/09 and the Internal Audit Manager's annual opinion on the overall adequacy of the Council's internal control environment.

Officers reported that Internal Audit had been unable to complete its planned programme of works for 2008/09 due to a number of factors. These included:

- 1) the amount of staff sickness had been higher than anticipated;
- 2) the time taken to complete ongoing audits had been higher than anticipated;
- 3) time spent on other corporate projects and non-audit works had exceeded time planned; and
- 4) time spent on contingency items covering fraud and other special investigations had been higher than planned.

Audit & Governance

Committee

4th August 2009

Members were informed that as a result of the above factors, only 385 person days had been spent on planned audits as opposed to the 562 days originally included in the 2008/09 plan, the 21 audits affected had been rolled forward into the 2009/10 Audit Plan.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

29. ACTION MONITORING

Members considered an Action Monitoring Report, including a verbal up-date regarding Business Continuity.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

30. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report on the planned work programme for 2009/11.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) meetings of the Committee be arranged in March, June, September and December each year, with an additional meeting at the end of June for approval of the Statement of Accounts; and**
- 3) the Calendar of meetings be amended accordingly.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.05 pm
and closed at 8.35 pm



Planning Committee

14th July 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Chalk (Chair), Councillor Kath Banks (Vice-Chair) and Councillors D Enderby, J Field, W Hartnett, N Hicks, D Hunt, R King and D Smith

Also Present:

D Andrews (Chair, Standards Committee) and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

R Bamford, S Edden, A Hussain and A Rutt and S Skinner

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

30. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16th June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

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

.....
Chair

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.

34. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/082/FUL - ABBEY RETAIL PARK, REDDITCH

Installation of 1777m² of floor space at mezzanine level
Homebase Ltd, Abbey Retail Park, Redditch
Applicant: Essex County Council Pension Fund

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

Mr Mace - Objector
Mr J McAllister Jones - Agent for 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 summarised in the report and the amendment of Conditions 2-5 as detailed below and the following additional Condition 6:

- “2. Development to be carried out in accordance with drawing no. 4376-29 (proposed site layout plan showing cycle parking)**
- 3. Travel plan to be submitted prior to the commencement of development and agreed and implemented in accordance with included programme**
- 4. Development to be carried out in accordance with plans submitted with application:**

Drawing no: 4376-28 - Site Location Plan

Drawing no: 4376-34 - Existing Plans

Drawing no: 4376-36 - Existing and Proposed Indicative sections

Drawing no: 4376-37 - Proposed Plans

5. The mezzanine area to the 'New Unit' as shown as highlighted in brown on drawing number 4376-37 (proposed first floor plan) shall be used for storage use only and shall not be used for retailing to the general public.
6. The mezzanine area to the current Homebase store highlighted in a light yellow colour on drawing number 4376-37 (proposed first floor plan) shall be used for storage and display use ancillary to the main retail use of the store, and shall not be used for retailing to the general public."
35. **PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/093/FUL - KIDS COMMUNITY NURSERY, BATCHLEY FIRST SCHOOL, CHERRY TREE WALK, BATCHLEY**

Proposed new powder coated covered steel ramp and canopy to the front of the building incorporating an enclosed buggy store and the erection of an outside canopy with fabric roofing to the rear of the building.

Kids Community Nursery, Batchley First School

Cherry Tree Walk, Batchley

Applicant: Mrs Nicola Whittington

RESOLVED that

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

36. **PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/096/FUL - TOOKEY'S FARM, TOOKEY'S DRIVE, ASTWOOD BANK**

Outdoor manège (horse riding arena) on commercial equine land Tookey's Farm, Tookey's Drive, Astwood Bank

Applicant: Mr I Burford

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

Mrs Hussey - Objector

Ms M Marling - Agent for the Applicant.

RESOLVED that

having regard to the development plan and to all other material considerations, planning permission be GRANTED, subject to the conditions summarised in the report with the deletion of Condition 6 (That the development is not artificially lit).

37. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/110/FUL - 15 HOLLOWFIELDS CLOSE, SOUTHCREST

Detached double garage
15 Hollowfields Close, Southcrest
Applicant: Mr Darren Houl

(This application, which would normally have been dealt with under Officer Delegated Powers, was exceptionally considered by the Committee in view of the fact that the Applicant was the husband of a member of Council staff.)

RESOLVED that

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

- “3. The accommodation authorised here shall be used incidentally to the dwelling house currently known as 15 Hollowfields Close only and shall at no time be sold, let or otherwise severed therefrom to form a separate unit of accommodation.**

Reason:- In order to satisfy the need for this type of accommodation and to ensure that the whole building <and outbuilding> remain as one dwelling and in accordance with Policy of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3”

38. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/119/LBC - FLAT 4, YEW TREES, 1190 EVESHAM ROAD, ASTWOOD BANK

Internal alterations to listed building
Flat 4 – Yew Trees, 1190 Evesham Road, Astwood Bank
Applicant: Miss E Greenfield

(This application, which would normally have been dealt with under Officer Delegated Powers, was exceptionally considered by the Committee in view of the fact that the Applicant was an employee of the Council.)

RESOLVED that

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

39. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/123/FUL - FORMER CLAYBROOK FIRST SCHOOL, DILWYN CLOSE, MATCHBOROUGH

Construction of 36 Affordable Homes, two, three and four bedrooms, with access of Milhill Road
Former Claybrook First School, Dilwyn Close, Redditch
Applicant: Westbury Partnerships

RESOLVED that

subject to expiry of the consultation period on 17th July 2009 with no new material considerations raised, having regard to the Development Plan and to all other material considerations, authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Control to GRANT planning permission, subject to

- a) **the agreed planning obligation ensuring that the 36 units are for the provision of affordable housing in perpetuity; for the transfer of the on-site open space to Redditch Borough Council for its retention and payment towards its maintenance; the provision of funds towards an equipped toddler play facility on the site; the provision of funds for the enhancement of the underpass and two bus stops on Milhill Road; the provision of the commuted sum for playing pitch provision in the vicinity of the site; and**
- b) **the conditions and informatives summarised in the report, the amendment of Condition 1 to give 5 years to commence development, deletion of Condition 8 (Permeable surfaces wherever hard) and the following additional informative:**

“9. It is requested that noise disturbance to the surrounding residential properties be kept to a minimum by preventing the queuing of delivery vehicles on the surrounding public highway network prior to the commencement of construction each morning, and similarly at the end of each working day. (NB Condition 8 above regarding hours of work on site)”

40. REDDITCH BUS STATION - TAXI RANK ARRANGEMENTS - VARIATION OF PLANNING OBLIGATION (SECTION 106 AGREEMENT)

The Committee received information relating to a variation to the Section 106 Agreement associated with the taxi rank arrangements

at Redditch Bus Station which was deemed desirable as two areas of the agreed taxi strategy had proved to be unworkable.

It was therefore suggested that they should be waived from the remaining requirements of the taxi strategy.

RESOLVED that

the variation to the Section 106 Agreement, dated 3rd November 2000 and made between 1) Thornfield Properties (Redditch) No.1 Ltd, 2) Bank of Scotland, 3) Mable Commercial Funding Ltd, 4) The Council of the Borough of Redditch and 5) Worcestershire County Council, regarding the taxi strategy obligations therein, be agreed: namely that the requirement for the use of the feeder rank and signage be now waived and deleted from the Section 106 Agreement, as it has in practice proven to be ineffective and unhelpful to taxi customers.

41. INFORMATION REPORTS

Planning Application 2008/265/FUL –
Land at Uphill, Sambourne Lane, Astwood Bank, Redditch
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of four new dwellings

The Committee received a report relating to the outcome of an appeal against a refusal of full planning permission (under Officer's delegated powers) for the erection of two detached dwellings.

Members noted that the appeal against the Planning Authority's decision to refuse the Application had been DISMISSED by the Planning Inspectorate.

RESOLVED that

the item of information be noted.

42. ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTROL

The Committee considered a contravention of planning law, as detailed in the subsequent minutes below.

**43. ENFORCEMENT REPORT 2009/134/ENF - BLAKEMERE CLOSE,
WINYATES EAST**

Conversion of a single family dwelling house into
two separate residential units

The Committee considered a report which detailed an enforcement matter relating to the reinstatement of a property into a single family dwelling.

RESOLVED that

in relation to a breach of planning control, namely, without planning permission, the carrying out of a conversion of a dwelling into two separate dwellings, authority be delegated to the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services, in consultation with the Acting Head of Planning and Building Control, to take enforcement action by way of:

- a) **the issuing of Planning Contravention Notices to establish ownership of various plots of land, names of interested persons and dates works were carried out;**
- b) **the service of Enforcement Notices alleging material changes of use of that land, if required; and**
- c) **the institution of legal proceedings in the event of non-compliance with such Notices.**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 8.33pm

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Chair



Planning Committee

11th August 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Kath Banks (Vice-Chair) and Councillors D Enderby, J Field, N Hicks, D Hunt, R King and D Smith

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chair of Standards Committee)

Officers:

A Hussain, I Mackay, A Rutt, J Staniland and I Westmore

Committee Services Officer:

J Smyth

44. APOLOGIES

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

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

46. APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

The Committee considered and determined a Planning Application as detailed in the subsequent minute below. An update report, tabled at the meeting, provided additional information relating to a petition that had been received in relation to the Application being considered.

Public speaking was permitted on the Application, in accordance with the Council's agreed procedures.

.....
Chair

**47. PLANNING APPLICATION 2009/124/FUL- LAND AT 31
WHEATCROFT CLOSE, BROCKHILL**

Erection of 1 no. 3 bedroomed end terraced dwelling
With associated parking
Applicant: Mr A Wilkins

Ms L Povah, objecting on behalf of herself and other local residents and Mr A Wilkins, the Applicant, 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 REFUSED for the following reasons:

- 1. the proposed development, by reason of its additional ridge height above the existing terrace, its footprint stepping back at the rear and its closer proximity to the bund and Brockhill Drive relative to others in Wheatcroft Close, is considered to be out of keeping with the character and pattern of development in the area and as such is contrary to Policies B(HSG)6 and B(BE)13 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3;**
- 2. the proposed development, by reason of its siting and the resultant loss of garden area to No.31 would result in an overdevelopment of the site that would be visually intrusive within the streetscene, and thus is contrary to Policy B(BE)13 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.3; and**
- 3. the proposed ingress and egress to parking areas is considered to be inadequate and as such would be likely to result in a danger to highway safety and conflict between vehicle users in the communal parking area to the front of the existing and proposed properties. As such the proposal is considered to be contrary to PPG13 which seeks to ensure safe and adequate manoeuvring spaces for vehicles.**

(This decision was taken contrary to Officer recommendation for the reasons stated above.)

Planning Committee

11th August 2009

48. INFORMATION REPORT

The Committee received information on statistics relating to enforcement activity in the previous six months.

RESOLVED that

the information report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.55 pm

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CHAIR

