



Executive Committee

1 July 2009

Notice of Decisions

Present:

Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors J Brunner, B Clayton, W Hartnett and M Shurmer

Also Present

Scarlet Ashwin and Kelly Louise Johnson (Students, Trinity High School) and Ms J Neale (Teacher, Trinity High School)

Officers:

S Hanley, Jackie Smith, E Storer, R Kindon, L Bellaby, R Bamford, D Wheeler, P Stirling, A Baldwin, J Staniland, T Kristunas, T Beech and S Mullins and A Walsh

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

31. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anderson, Gandy, Hicks and MacMillan.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

33. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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

Item 9 – Appendix B to the Redditch Economic Strategy; and

Item 12 – Appendix 1 to the Local Validation Checklist Review.

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Chair

The Chair further advised that a Redevelopment Update on the Church Hill District Centre would be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 12 August 2009.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

35. PROPOSALS FOR RE-INVESTMENT - ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the proposals and projects contained within Appendix 1 be funded for the relevant periods;**
- 2) the funding for the projects/posts be met from the £255,000 currently set aside; and**
- 3) Members consider whether the £32,500 remaining balance be held for any future bids.**

(Officers undertook to respond to Councillor Hartnett following the meeting in respect of a proposal to establish a Service Level Agreement with Registered Social Landlords to enable them to act as verification agencies on behalf of the Council – n.b. Officers identified that this action had been included in the Benefits Service Improvement Plan at a later point in the meeting.

The Chair invited Members to respond to Officers should compelling proposals be identified for the remaining balance.)

36. INSURANCE PREMIUM SAVINGS - CONSORTIUM TENDER

RESOLVED that

- 1) the success of the tendering exercise be noted;**
- 2) a sum of £15,000 per year for the duration of the Insurance contract be set aside for risk management purposes; and**

- 3) authority be delegated to the Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Services, in consultation with the Risk Monitoring Group and the relevant Portfolio Holder, to utilise these monies.

37. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

RECOMMENDED that

the Performance Management Framework document attached to the report at Appendix 1 be approved.

38. BOROUGH OF REDDITCH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME NO 3

RECOMMENDED that

the timescales within the Local Development Scheme No.3 for a range of Development Plan Documents be agreed and Local Development Scheme No.3 be submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM) for approval.

39. REDDITCH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) subject to the outcome of a separate budget bid, the Redditch Economic Development Strategy as detailed in Appendix A be endorsed;
- 2) the video clip for the Redditch Economic Development Strategy as prepared by students of Trinity High School, and as presented at the meeting, be endorsed for inclusion on the Council's website and other related forums; and
- 3) authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, to produce final versions of the Executive Summary and Action Plan based on the ideas in the documents prepared by the students of Trinity High School.

(A Member posed a series of questions, as set out below, for consideration at some later date by the students who had attended the meeting to present the Executive Summary and video clip:

- i) what is good about Redditch;
- ii) what is not so good about Redditch; and
- iii) in which direction ought the Council go in respect of further economic development in the Borough.)

40. SCHEDULE OF BUILDINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

RECOMMENDED that

the Schedule of Buildings of Local Interest as updated in 2009 be endorsed as a background document to the Borough of Redditch Local Development Framework.

41. PRE-APPLICATION PLANNING DISCUSSION PROTOCOLS

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the protocol and information at Appendix 1 be adopted for use and added to the Constitution's associated documents subject to the minor amendments noted in the preamble above (*below for the purposes of this notice*);**
- 2) the implementation of the protocol be reviewed jointly by Officers and Members after 12 months;**
- 3) training for all Members and Officers involved be provided; and**
- 4) the resultant amendments to the Constitution, proposed at Appendix 2, be adopted.**

(Officers highlighted two minor amendments to be made to the Protocol:

Page 48 – Criteria for Member Involvement in Pre-Application Planning Discussions – deletion of Point 4 as this factor was replicated elsewhere (Point 8) ; and

Page 49 – Replacement of the words “Appendix Two” with “Section One” in the first sentence headed “***Either***”.)

42. LOCAL VALIDATION CHECKLIST REVIEW

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the revised checklist at Appendix 1 be adopted for use from 1 September 2009 in replacement of that currently in circulation; and
- 2) authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Building Control in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to make minor alterations to the document as set out in the proposed framework at Appendix 2.

43. DELEGATION TO OFFICERS - ENFORCEMENT POWERS

RECOMMENDED that

the proposed additions to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, as detailed at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, be adopted, subject to the comments in the preamble above
(below for the purposes of this notice)

(Officers undertook to propose arrangements, prior to Council, so as to take account of Members' ward interests and matters of potential wider interest in respect of the additions to the Scheme of Delegation).

44. LEISURE AND ARTS SERVICE - SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S POLICY UPDATE

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the attached Safeguarding Children's Policy be adopted for the Leisure and Arts Service; and

RESOLVED that

- 2) a working group of Officers be set up to progress a corporate safeguarding policy for Redditch Borough Council.

45. ABBEY STADIUM SPORTS CENTRE - FITNESS SUITE

RESOLVED that

the current contract for fitness suite provision, in partnership with Competition Line (UK) Ltd, at the Abbey Stadium Sports Centre be extended for a period of two and a half years to the end of 2011 in accordance with Standing Order 46 E.5. (c) (i) (ii).

46. HEWELL ROAD SWIMMING POOL - REALLOCATION OF CAPITAL FUNDING

RECOMMENDED that

approval be given for the reallocation of the previously approved sum of £44,000 for filter refurbishment to the more urgent priority of electrical upgrade at Hewell Road Swimming Pool within the Capital Programme; and

RESOLVED that

approval be given to incur up to the expenditure detailed above, in accordance with Standing Order 41.

47. ASSET MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

RESOLVED that

- 1) progress on asset disposals to date be noted;
- 2) the assets scheduled in Appendix 2 to the report be declared surplus, in accordance with current policy; and
- 3) the Council's Minor Land Disposal programme be incorporated into the Asset Disposal Programme; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 4) the definition of Minor Land under the Policy be amended to the definition set out in paragraph 5.6 of this report and that the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended accordingly; and
- 5) the Scheme of Delegation in relation to forfeiting of business leases be amended as set out in paragraph 5.7.

(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 would be revealed which could reveal provisional terms of land disposal subject to negotiation which may affect the Council's bargaining position with individual owners, tenants and third parties.

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

48. CORPORATE SICKNESS STATISTICS

RESOLVED that

- 1) the statistics be noted; and**
- 2) the programme outlined in the report to reduce sickness absence be approved.**

(Members suggested minor amendments to the recording method for sickness absence, proposing that the "No Reason" category might be termed "Other" and that there be a more explicit breakdown of the work-related and non-work related absences due to "Bones, Joints and Fractures".)

49. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 May 2009 be received and noted.

(The Head of Legal Democratic and Property Services undertook to respond to Councillor B Clayton in respect of the exact budget allocation of the cost of training courses attended by two Overview and Scrutiny Members).

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

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

51. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

52. ACTION MONITORING

It was noted that the Actions arising from the meetings on 20 May and 10 June 2009 had been carried out.

53. 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 matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

Asset Management and Disposal Programme - Update (as detailed at Minute 47 above).

The Meeting commenced at 7.00pm
and closed at 9.14pm.

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Chair