

# EXECUTIVE

## Committee

17th February 2010

## MINUTES

### Present:

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

### Also Present:

Councillor J Pearce and Michael Collins (Standards Committee)

### Officers:

A Rutt, D Riley, S Hanley, R Cooke, K Stokes, H Halls, J Godwin, D Taylor, J Bough and K Cook

### Committee Officers:

D Sunman

### 238. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

### 239. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 240. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Information Management Strategy

The Chair also advised that she had accepted the following matter as urgent business:

Item 9 – Leisure Contracts Advisory Panel – Abbey Stadium Redevelopment

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Chair

### **241. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED that**

**The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th January 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

### **242. PLANNING SERVICES - SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICERS - AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TREE PROTECTION ORDERS**

Members considered a report which sought approval to amend the current scheme of delegation to Officers relating to Tree Preservation Orders in order to provide a more efficient service, with quicker response times, which would improve the natural environment of the Borough.

#### **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) authority be delegated to Officers, as summarised at Appendix 1; and**
- 2) the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the report, be adopted.**

### **243. PLANNING SERVICES - INCREASE IN CHARGING FOR PRE-APPLICATION DISCUSSIONS**

Members considered a report which sought approval to alter the current scale of fees for Permitted Development enquiries and pre-application advice to a common county-wide scale of charges and approach to service provision and to maintain the fees at the same level as other districts within Worcestershire. Officers were asked to circulate Appendix 2 prior to the meeting of Council on 29th March 2010. Officers were asked to circulate Appendix 2 prior to the meeting of Council on 29th March 2010.

#### **RECOMMENDED that**

- 1) the schedule of charges, detailed at Appendix 1, be adopted and implemented by Planning Services from 1st April 2010; and**
- 2) authority be delegated to Officers to maintain the fees at a standard county-wide level in future.**

### 244. FILM PROPOSAL

The Committee received a report requesting approval for the Council's participation in a documentary film which would be produced by Fatum Films.

Officers reported that following the success of the Morton Stanley Festival in 2009 an approach had been made to the Council by the owner of Fatum Films who was interested in producing a documentary, which would involve media students from NEW College as part of their work experience.

#### **RESOLVED that**

**participation in a documentary film produced by Fatum Films be approved.**

### 245. IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS

The Committee received a report which sought approval to write off 29 cases of irrecoverable debt amounting to £87,773.62.

Officers reported that all appropriate debt recovery action had been attempted to recover the debts and that no further action could be taken to enforce payments.

Members were asked to note that any debt that had been written off could be retrieved and pursued if it came to the Council's attention that the debtor had the means to pay the debt.

#### **RESOLVED that**

**the debts totalling £87,773.62 (£40,557.07 General Fund; £47,218.55 Housing Revenue Account), detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be written off as irrecoverable.**

(During 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 debate on the grounds that it included information relating to individuals; the identity of individuals; and the financial or business affairs of particular persons (including the authority holding that information.)

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

**246. LEISURE CONTRACTS ADVISORY PANEL - ABBEY STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT**

Members received the notes of the meeting of the Leisure Contracts Panel on 1st February 2010 and were asked to approve the associated recommendations.

Officers stated that, in their opinion, no Members of Planning Committee had fettered their discretion in any subsequent Planning Committee deliberations through their involvement in the decision-making on the above matter.

Officers were asked to arrange a visit for Councillors to a leisure centre in Coventry, which had been subject to a similar refurbishment to that being suggested at the Abbey Stadium.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) **progress to date on the Abbey Stadium redevelopment be noted; and**
- 2) **Stage D design, as indicated in the separate 'artists' impression' Appendices, be formally approved for the purposes of seeking planning permission.**

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

There were no minutes of referrals under this item.

**248. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT**

**RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

**249. ACTION MONITORING**

**RESOLVED that**

**the report be noted.**

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## 250. 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 paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.**

**Irrecoverable Debts – [as detailed at Minute 245 (Item 8) above]; and**

**Arrow Valley Countryside Centre – Review of Alternative Management Arrangements [as detailed at Minute 251 (Item 14) below];**

## 251. ARROW VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE - CONSULTANT'S REPORT

(During the consideration of this item Members discussed matters that necessitated the disclosure of exempt information. It was therefore agreed to exclude the press and public prior to any debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the financial or business affairs of any person including the authority holding that information and contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with a labour relations matter between the authority and employees of the authority.)

## 252. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES / REFERRALS (IF ANY)

There were no confidential minutes of referrals.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm  
and closed at 8.28 pm

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Chair