

Notice of Decisions

Present:

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

Officers:

K Dicks, Jackie Smith, E Storer, A Heighway, C Wilson, R Kindon, A Marklew, A Baldwin and B Barr

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

76. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Brunner, Hartnett and MacMillan.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

78. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Item 9 – Maintenance of Unadopted Paved Areas.

79. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 July 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

80. PLANNING FOR PROSPEROUS ECONOMIES

RESOLVED that

- 1) the response from the Acting Head of Planning and Building Control to Communities and Local Government regarding the consultation document on new Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Prosperous Economies,

as detailed in Appendix A of the report, be retrospectively endorsed; and

- 2) where possible, Officers submit such future items for prior consideration by the Planning Advisory Panel.

81. WORCESTERSHIRE LAND DRAINAGE PROTOCOL

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) subject to the Council's subsequent approval of the financial implications, the land drainage and flooding policies and protocols attached at Appendices 1 to 5 to the report, as recommended by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 17 June 2009, be approved; and
- 2) the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, be authorised to amend the Council's land drainage and flooding policies and protocols as appropriate to take account of subsequent changes to the draft legislation.

(It was agreed that a letter be sent on behalf of the Committee to Worcestershire County Council outlining Members' concern that the cleansing of highways gullies be treated as a matter of urgency given the potential impact on flood prevention on a failure to maintain these assets).

82. CHURCH HILL DISTRICT CENTRE - REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

RESOLVED that

- 1) progress on the scheme be noted;
- 2) the marketing testing planned to commence in October 2009 be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that

- 3) additional revenue funding of £19,850 be approved to progress the scheme for the year 2009/10 up to and including the Industry market testing day in October 2009, with a further review.

(Officers undertook to provide a formal legal response from the Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services to Members')

questions in respect of the transfers of land to and from Worcestershire County Council.

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 debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to the business affairs of the Council's tenants, disclosure of which was not considered to be in the public's best interests.

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

83. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING APRIL 2008 - MARCH 2009

RESOLVED that

the update on key performance indicators for the period April 2008 – March 2009 be noted and commented upon.

(The Leader congratulated staff for their performance in the following areas in particular:

BVPI 212/LIB 240, BVPI 213, HIP 001, HIP 002 and MWO 10.

Officers undertook to provide Councillors Hicks with an explanation for the performance recorded in respect of Performance Indicator BV205.)

84. MAINTENANCE OF UNADOPTED PAVED AREAS

RECOMMENDED that

an annual budget of £100k for three years (2009 to 2012) be allocated from HRA reserves to facilitate the timely repair and maintenance of Council owned, un-adopted, paved area assets.

(Officers undertook to provide clarification to Members as to the actual extent of hard paved area to be maintained by the Borough Council, given the doubt expressed at the figure quoted within the report).

85. SHARED SERVICES BOARD

RECOMMENDED that

Business Case – IT Services

- 1) the Business Case for Shared IT Services, hosted by Bromsgrove District Council, phase 1, be agreed in principle, subject to further work being undertaken to agree a suite of charging mechanisms (for this and for other Shared services projects), for the further consideration of the Board / both Councils;**
- 2) it be noted that detailed business cases for phases 2 and 3 outlined in the report to the Board will be required in line with the wider shared service agenda;**
- 3) similar core principles be worked up for the development of Shared services in terms of pensions funding and the allocation of redundancy costs; these to be based on a 50:50 recharge to both Councils; and**
- 4) the Business Case template be modified to express all future risk ratings only in 'mitigated' terms.**

Business Case – CCTV / Lifeline

- 5) the Business Case for Shared CCTV / Lifeline Services, hosted by Redditch Borough Council, be agreed in principle, subject to further work being undertaken to agree a suite of charging mechanisms (for this and for other Shared services projects), for the further consideration of the Board / both Councils;**
- 6) the proposed Shared Service structure be endorsed, subject to consultation; and**
- 7) savings be based on the total reported £292,000 at this stage, rather than on the originally proposed 60:40% split, pending further the financial reports and subsequent agreements.**

(It was noted that the apologies of Councillor Hall had not been recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Board despite his being engaged on other Council business)

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 debate on the grounds that information would be revealed relating to contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters between the authority and employees of the authority, disclosure of which was not considered to be in the public's best interests.

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

86. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8 July 2009 be received and noted.

87. REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL ESTABLISHMENT

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

88. CORPORATE SICKNESS STATISTICS

RESOLVED that

1) the statistics be noted; and

2) the programme outlined in the report to reduce sickness absence be approved.

(Officers undertook to investigate whether there were national statistics available to use as comparators to those generated locally within the authority).

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

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

90. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

(It was noted that meetings of both the Customer Services Advisory Panel and the Church Hill District Centre Members' Panel were planned for September).

91. ACTION MONITORING

It was noted that the action arising in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 July 2009 had been completed.

92. 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 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

Church Hill District Centre – Redevelopment Update (as detailed at Minute 82 above); and

Shared Services Board (as detailed at Minute 85 above).