

Executive Committee

22 July 2009

Notice of Decisions

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 & 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

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brunner.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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Chair

4. 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.

5. COUNCIL FLAT COMMUNAL CLEANING REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

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 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.**

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

6. CONSTITUTION - ADOPTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED that

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

7. OFF-STREET CAR PARKING POLICY

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.**

8. CORPORATE IDENTITY - REVISIONS

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.

(Officers to investigate the cost implications of a change of logo.)

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

RECOMMENDED that

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

10. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007 - IMPLICATIONS

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.**

11. DUTY TO INVOLVE - IMPLICATIONS

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.**

12. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - FORESTRY MANAGEMENT

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.**

13. ARROW VALLEY COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE - REVIEW - EXTERNAL SUPPORT

RECOMMENDED that

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

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.**

14. 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.”*

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

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

16. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

The report be noted.

17. ACTION MONITORING

It was noted the lack of a report on staff vacancies at the meeting.

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

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 10.10 pm