



Executive Committee

10th March 2010

Notice of Decisions

Present:

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

Also Present

Councillor R King and M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

S Hanley, C Flanagan, A Walsh, H Bennett, T Kristunas, K Cook, J Godwin, D Taylor, E Hopkins, D Wheeler and M Bough and J Divala

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

257. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Braley.

258. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Anderson and B Clayton declared personal and prejudicial interests and Councillor Gandy declared a personal interest in Item 13 (Voluntary Sector Grant Applications 2010/11) as detailed separately at Minute 269 below.

259. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader announced, with great regret, the passing that afternoon of Councillor Jack Field. Those present were invited to respect a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Field and his service to the Council and local community.

The Chair advised that the following items of business, scheduled on the Forward Plan to be dealt with at this meeting, had been removed from the Forward Plan:

- Enforcement Policy; and
- Shared Electoral Services

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

Item 4 – Executive Committee Minutes, 22nd February 2010;

Item 14 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes, 3rd February 2010;

Item 15 – Shared Services Board Minutes, 1st March 2010; and

Item 20 – REDI Centre – Procurement of Alternative Service Provider - Update

260. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 2nd February, 17th February and 22nd February be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

261. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING - QUARTER 3, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that

the update on key performance indicators for the period ending December 2009 be noted.

(Officers undertook to provide:-

- i) Councillor Hartnett with additional information on the numbers of concessionary journeys per year (ET 015) following the meeting;
- ii) Councillor Anderson with an update on the projected year end figures for the number of working days lost to the local authority due to sickness absence per FTE staff member (BV 012) following the meeting; and
- iii) Councillor MacMillan with additional information on the impact of fraud on Housing Benefits overpayments (BV 079b (iii)) following the meeting.)

262. QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING - QUARTER 3, SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

263. QUARTERLY MONITORING OF FORMAL COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS - QUARTER 3, SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that

the update on complaints and compliments for the period October – December 2009 be noted.

(Officers undertook to speak to Councillor Shurmer following the meeting in respect of problems concerning the disabled blue badge scheme about which he had been notified by a number of residents.)

264. QUARTERLY MONITORING OF THE BENEFITS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN - QUARTER 3, SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

265. HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Council agree the commencement of the new Countywide Home Improvement Agency (HIA) from April 2010 provided by Festival Housing Group;**
- 2) the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services finalise and enter into the necessary legal arrangements to implement the transfer and commencement of the new service; and**

RESOLVED that

- 3) the new HIA be supported through the use of revenue and capital base budget contributions that are**

committed to the current service arrangements with the North Worcestershire Care & Repair Agency.

266. REDDITCH HOUSING ADVICE AND HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND ENHANCED HOUSING OPTIONS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDED that

subject to community consultation and Members' comments, the Enhanced Housing Options Strategy be approved and implemented.

267. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2010/11 TO 2012/13 AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Prudential Indicators as set out in the report be approved; and
- 2) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2010/11 be based on the estimated life of the assets financed from borrowing.

268. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

RECOMMENDED that

the Treasury Management Strategy for 2010/11 be approved.

(Officers highlighted an amendment that was to be made to the Strategy, as printed, this being the reduction of the maximum amount placed with any single institution from £1 million to £500,000 [Appendix A, Paragraph 7.1 - Specified Investments – Monies placed on call or for less than 3 month])

269. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT APPLICATIONS 2010/11

RESOLVED that

- 1) grants be awarded to voluntary sector organisations as detailed in paragraph 5.4 of this report, subject to Council approval of the budget;
- 2) £3,000 be donated to Redditch Arts Council, for 2010/11; and

- 3) **the policy on funding the voluntary and community sector organisations be reviewed.**

(Members wished to clarify that the figure of £10,000 in paragraph 5.7 had been incorporated as a purely indicative figure and did not represent a financial limit imposed by the Council.)

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillors Anderson and B Clayton declared personal and prejudicial interests in view of their involvement in local voluntary sector organisations, and withdrew from the meeting. Councillor Gandy declared a personal interest in view of her spouse's nominal financial interest in a local voluntary sector organisation.)

270. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd February 2010 be noted.

271. MINUTES / REFERRALS - SHARED SERVICES BOARD, 1ST MARCH 2010

RESOLVED that

the following targets be approved:

- a) **Cohesive Single Management Team.**
- b) **Achieve the savings targets associated with Shared Services / Joint working included within the Medium Term Financial Plan of both Councils.**
- c) **Ensure effective financial management arrangements are in place for shared service arrangements (Activity Based Costings).**
- d) **Ensure changes to the management structure / implementation of shared services are seamless from a customer perspective (to be monitored by self assessment and complaints and commendations).**
- e) **Harmonisation of Terms and Conditions.**
- f) **Implement medium term business cases – CCTV / Lifeline and ICT.**
- g) **Produce business case for North Worcestershire Shared Economic Development Unit and implement if agreed.**
- h) **Complete recruitment to the Single Management Team.**

- i) **Develop programme for consideration of further shared services between Redditch and Bromsgrove.**
- j) **Further implementation of shared services programme between Redditch and Bromsgrove Councils.**
- k) **Implementation of Regulatory Services.**
- l) **Ensure delivery of performance and financial aspects of agreed shared services.**
- m) **Ensure effective performance monitoring of shared service arrangements.**

272. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

(It was reported that the next meeting of the Church Hill District Centre Members' Panel would take place in April.)

273. ACTION MONITORING

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

(It was reported that the visit by Members to the swimming pool in Coventry was scheduled to take place on 10th April 2010.)

274. 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 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended.

REDI Centre – Procurement of Alternative Service Provider - Update (as detailed at Minute 275 below);

275. REDI CENTRE - PROCUREMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE PROVIDER - UPDATE

(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 contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with a labour relations matter between the authority and employees of the authority.)

(This report had been accepted as a matter of Urgent Business – not on the Forward Plan and not having met the publication deadline – and was considered at the meeting as such, with the approval of the Chair, in accordance with the Council's constitutional rules and the powers vested in the Chair by virtue of Section 100 (B) (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 to agree to matters of urgency being discussed by reason of special circumstances.

In this case the special circumstances were that the information, which was not available at the time of the agenda going to print, was required to be considered at the present meeting in order to provide the maximum opportunity for Officers to explore possible options and secure funding for adult education services at the facility.)

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 9.03 pm