

Executive Committee

4th October 2011

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Carole Gandy (Chair), Councillor Michael Braley (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Juliet Brunner, Greg Chance, Malcolm Hall, Jinny Pearce, Debbie Taylor and Derek Taylor

Officers:

M Bough, C Flanagan, S Hanley, T Kristunas and J Staniland

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

91. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Brandon Clayton.

92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Malcolm Hall and Jinny Pearce declared personal and prejudicial interests in Item 5 (Redditch Borough Council's Grants Programme 2012/13 as detailed at Minute 95 below.

93. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Safeguarding Policy and Procedure

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

- IT Systems relating to Mapping and Planning – Request for Funding
- Learndirect – Options for Future Operation

(Not on the Forward Plan for this meeting)

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Chair

94. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 13th September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

95. REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL'S GRANTS PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Committee received a report which sought approval for changes to the Grants Policy 2011 and agreement of the funding split and themes for the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grants process for 2012/13.

Members were informed that paragraph 9.13 of the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy, attached to the report at Appendix 1 had been amended as follows:

“Only 2 applications may be submitted by any one organisation under each theme of the grants programme.”

Officers reported that the change was to ensure that a wide range of voluntary organisations could apply for grants through the programme.

Officers explained the rationale for the figure of £15,000 being included for a 3 Year Training & Support Project.

Officers were complimented on the ‘Shout About’ magazine which gave information on how the VCS could access funding from other sources.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the updated Voluntary Sector Grants Policy attached to the report at Appendix 1 be approved;**
- 2) the following themes and percentages of funding be allocated for the 2012/13 voluntary and community sector grants process: (see Appendix 3 of the report for details on themes)**

Enterprising Communities	43.5%	=	£105,000
Safe/ Clean & Green	8%	=	£20,000
LSP theme - Health and Wellbeing	8%	=	£20,000

LSP theme - Education & Learning	27%	=	£65,000
LSP theme – Stronger Communities	6.5%	=	£15,000
3 Year Training & Support Project	6.5%	=	£15,000

and

- 3) **£1,000 (0.5%) be allocated from the Grants budget for the use by the Grants Team to deliver:**
- a) **networking and promotional events;**
 - b) **advertising and communication support;**
 - c) **newsletters.**

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Councillors Malcolm Hall and Jinny Pearce declared personal and prejudicial interests in view of their involvement with VCS groups who might make applications for grant funding and left the meeting and took no part in voting.)

96. IT SYSTEMS RELATING TO MAPPING AND PLANNING - REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Members considered a report requesting funding for an urgent upgrade to the Council's IT software.

Officers reported that the upgrades required had been identified as necessary and would have been included in a capital bid in the financial year 2012/13.

Members were informed that changes to procedures and data transfer formats in communicating data between Central and Local Government meant that the urgency of upgrading the software had increased and would avoid the risk of defaulting on a Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA) contract and incurring a fine.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **a sum of £22,350 be allocated in the 2011/12 Capital Programme to enable the necessary IT upgrades and the Capital Programme be amended accordingly; and subject to which**

RESOLVED that

- 2) **authority be given for expenditure of up to the sum detailed in 1), above, for the reasons summarised in this report.**

97. HEWELL ROAD POOL - DISPOSAL

The Committee received a report requesting approval to dispose of the site of Hewell Road Pool following opening of the new pool at Abbey Stadium.

Members were advised that the site map, attached to the report, should have included the playground area. Officers confirmed that a play area could be relocated on the site following development or replaced elsewhere using S 106 monies.

Officers reported that the site was considered a 'high risk' and should be demolished on closure.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the site of Hewell Road Pool be declared surplus upon the opening of the new pool at the Abbey Stadium;**
- 2) **arrangements be made for the demolition and security of the site prior to disposal;**
- 3) **Officers be instructed to identify options for disposing of the site for residential use;**
- 4) **authority be given for expenditure for up to the sum detailed in 5), below, for the reasons summarised in the report; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 5) **a sum of up to £210,000 be allocated in the Capital Programme to cover the cost of demolition and security of the site and the Capital programme be amended accordingly.**

98. LEARNDIRECT - OPTIONS FOR FUTURE OPERATION

Members considered a report on the future operation of the Learndirect adult learning service based at the Greenlands Business Centre following withdrawal of funding from the University for Industry (UFI) for the forthcoming academic year 2011/12 and

subsequent negotiations with North East Worcestershire College (NEWC).

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the contents of the report be noted; and**

RECOMMENDED that

- 2) **subject to formal endorsement by NEWC Board, the funding agreement / contract proposed by NEWC be accepted and that the Learndirect services be rebranded and run on a NEWC franchise basis.**

99. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6th September 2011.

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

100. MINUTES / REFERRALS - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, EXECUTIVE PANELS ETC.

There were no minutes or referrals under this item.

101. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received an update on the work of the Council's Advisory Panels and similar bodies.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

102. ACTION MONITORING

The Committee received the latest Action Monitoring report.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.