

Executive Committee

31st January 2012

MINUTES

Present:

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

Also Present:

Councillors Andrew Brazier and David Bush and Michael Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

R Bamford, C Flanagan, J Godwin, A Heighway, T Kristunas, S Morgan, J Pickering, G Revans and L Tompkin

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

151. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Derek Taylor.

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

153. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Housing Revenue Account – Outcome of Review
- Street Naming Policy

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Chair

She also advised that she had accepted the following Item as Urgent Business:

- Item 10 – Referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24th January 2012.

(Not meeting the publication deadline)

154. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10th January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

155. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2013/14 - 2014/15

Members considered a report on the Revenue and Capital bids to be included in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2012/13 – 2014/15 and whether to propose any revisions or additions.

Officers reported that a number of Revenue and Capital bids had been developed for Members consideration. Only those bids that had been rated as “High” had been included for funding within the Medium Term Financial Plan, as detailed in Appendices A and B of the report.

The Committee received a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requesting that consideration be given to increasing the rating to “High” for an Energy Advisor to be employed jointly by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council.

Members agreed to include a further revenue bid, rated as “High” to fund an extension of the Service 61 bus route from the Redditch Bus Station to the Abbey Stadium for one year at a cost of £3,000. Use of the services would be monitored. Officers agreed to investigate whether ‘Choose How You Move’ funding could be accessed.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the Revenue and Capital bids, attached to the report at Appendices A and B be noted;**
- 2) the Revenue bid for an Energy Advisor to be employed jointly by Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council, be supported as a “High” priority;**

- 3) a Revenue bid to fund an extension to the Service 61 bus route from Redditch Bus Station to the Abbey Stadium at a cost of £3000 for one year, be added as “High” priority; and
- 4) the current position for 2012/13 – 2014/15, as outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the report, be noted.

156. FEES AND CHARGES 2012/13

The Committee received a report seeking approval of the proposed fees and charges for 2012/13 for the Council’s chargeable services.

Members noted amendments to Appendices 1 and 2, previously circulated.

Officers reported a number of minor amendments to Appendix 7 as follows:

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL
Housing Services
Scale of Proposed Charges 1st April 2012

Current 2011/12 £	Proposed charge from 01/04/12 £
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(VAT outside scope unless otherwise stated)

Service Charges

	Current 2011/12 £	Proposed charge from 01/04/12 £
Three Storey Flats*	6.25	6.40
Woodrow Estate	3.10	3.20
Evesham Mews	5.15	5.30
St David's House	10.60	10.90
Queen's Cottages	4.20	4.40
Replacement Key Fobs (each)	5.50	5.70

* no increase as this charge covers the cost of the service

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	Current 2011/12 £	Proposed charge from 01/04/12 £
Home Support Service		
Full Charge	12.25	14.20 13.22
Protected Charge	3.50	4.00
Lifeline - full charge (48 weeks)	3.46	3.58
Emergency Response Home Support	3.50	3.60

RESOLVED that

the fees and charges for 2012/13 as amended , attached at Appendices 1 - 8 of the report, be approved; other than in cases where:-

- a) **fees or charges are statutory;**
- b) **fees and charges are set externally; or**
- c) **other Council- approved circumstances apply.**

157. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT 2012/13

The Committee received a report which sought approval of the Initial Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account for 2012/13 and the proposed dwelling rents for 2012/13.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) **the draft 2012/13 Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account, attached to the report at Appendix 1, be approved;**
- 2) **the actual average rent increase for 2012/13 be 7%; and**
- 3) **£2 million be transferred to a reserve as a Revenue Contribution to Capital to fund the future Capital Programme.**

158. ANTI-BRIBERY POLICY AND OFFICERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

Members considered a report which sought approval of a Corporate Anti-Bribery Policy and amended Officer Code of Conduct.

Officers reported that in accordance with the Bribery Act 2010 the Council must comply with the requirement to have an anti-bribery policy, which will also demonstrate that the Council has "adequate procedures" in place to prevent bribery by both Members and Officers. The Act is also required to be incorporated into the Officer Code of Conduct, which has been amended for this purpose and updated generally.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1) the Corporate Anti-Bribery Policy, attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be adopted and added to the Council's Constitution;**
- 2) the amended Officer Code of Conduct, attached at Appendix 2 of the report, be adopted; and**
- 3) the Constitutional pack be updated accordingly.**

159. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee received the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10th January 2012.

Members were informed that all recommendations had been considered at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 10th January 2012.

RESOLVED that

the minutes be noted.

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

The Committee received a referral from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding a Petition that had been considered at their meeting on 24th January 2012 about provision of Short Stay Parking in the town centre.

RESOLVED that

Officers facilitate a meeting with relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the petitioners, to discuss proposals for short stay car parking in the town centre.

161. ADVISORY PANELS - UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the latest Advisory Panels report.

Members noted that there had been further meetings of the Grants Panel since September 2011.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

162. ACTION MONITORING

Members considered the Committee's Action Monitoring report. It was noted that the Write-Off of Debts and Quarterly Monitoring of the Benefits Service Improvement Plan could be removed from the report.

RESOLVED that

subject to the amendments detailed in the preamble above, the report be noted.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.40 pm

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Chair