

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Wednesday, 21st July 2004 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors D. C. Norton (Executive Leader), Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor (Deputy Executive Leader), B. L. Fuller C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, R. Hollingworth and P. J. Whittaker.

Observers: Councillors A. L. Deakin and N. Psirides J.P.

### 43/04 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 7th July 2004 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Meeting be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

### 44/04 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

In accordance with the procedure agreed by the Council for answering Public Questions, the following questions in relation to the Victoria Ground, Bromsgrove, were asked by Mr. D. Best:

- (1) (a) Have Aberdeen Harbour Investments submitted their proposals?  
(b) If not, why not?
- (2) If such a scheme has been submitted, what course of action does your Council propose to take?

The answers given were as follows:

- (1) (a) No.  
(b) The question should be addressed to Aberdeen Harbour Investments or to the Company which has now taken them over. The Council understands, however, that they are waiting for the outcome of the Council's Town Centre Study before taking the matter further.
- (2) As no scheme has been submitted, the Council cannot answer this question.

### 45/04 **ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

#### (1) **WHEELIE BIN PLANNING GUIDANCE**

Consideration was given to the comments of the Housing and Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee relating to the production of informal guidance on wheelie bin storage for new residential properties in the District. This would be prior to the possible incorporation of guidance on this matter through the Local Development Framework. It was,

**RESOLVED:** that informal guidance be produced on wheelie bin storage for new residential properties and that in due course the guidance be incorporated into a Residential Design Guide.

### 46/04 **REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/05**

Consideration was given to the Revised Capital Programme 2004/05. It was reported that the Programme which was suggested in the report could be amended in respect of the transfer of funds relating to Affordable Housing and to discretionary home repair assistance and housing renewal grants from 2004/05 to 2005/06. It was,

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that the Revised Capital Programme for 2004/05 totalling £9,272,000, as shown in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (b) that the transfer of £1,504,000 from 2004/05 to 2005/06, in respect of Affordable Housing be approved;
- (c) that the transfer of £75,000 from 2004/05 to 2005/06, in respect of discretionary home repair assistance and housing renewal grants, be approved; and
- (d) that all schemes included in the Revised Capital Programme for 2004/05, be allowed to proceed subject to a detailed report on the proposals and costs involved being submitted to Executive Cabinet and any further conditions listed in paragraph 7 being met.

47/04

**GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Following consideration of the merits of each of the applications, it was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a)
  - (i) that Age Concern - Bromsgrove and District be awarded a grant of £1,000 towards the running costs of their Information and Advice Centre;
  - (ii) that the application from the Primrose Hospice and Cancer Help Centre be refused;
  - (iii) that the application from the Bromsgrove and Redditch Advocacy Group be refused;
  - (iv) that the application from Bromsgrove Rovers Football Club Limited be deferred for more detailed consideration; and
  - (v) that Age Concern be awarded a grant of £200 in respect of the cost of using the Market Hall for an exhibition.
- (b) that a review be undertaken of all revenue grants made by the Authority, including the application process and the basis on which grants are considered.

48/04

**ADDRESS FORMATS - LICKEY AREA**

Consideration was given to a request received from Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council that the Royal Mail be urged to include the word "Lickey" in the official postal address of properties in the Lickey area. It was

**RESOLVED:** that representations be made to the Royal Mail in support of the Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council's request to include the word "Lickey" in the official postal addresses of properties in the Lickey area.

49/04

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED:** that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting during the consideration of the item of business the subject of the following Minute on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, the relevant paragraph of that part being as set out below:-

Minute No.  
50/04

Paragraph  
8

50/04

**BROMSGROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

(The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this item as a matter of urgency as a decision was required thereon prior to the next Meeting of the Cabinet.)

The Corporate Director (Resources) reported on the background to the provision of a "One Stop" Shop in Bromsgrove as part of the Worcestershire Hub Programme. He referred in particular to the difficulties which had arisen in respect of the premises in the High Street originally identified as the location for the Customer Service Centre element of the project. There would be an unacceptable delay in gaining access to this site and alternative options had therefore been considered and investigated.

It was reported that the preferred option was to locate both the Service Centre and the Contact Centre at the Dolphin Centre. The necessary work could be carried out as part of a modified scheme of refurbishment at the Dolphin Centre. It was anticipated that the cost of the building works would be approximately £485,000 which was to be split equally between this Council and Worcestershire County Council. There was a sum of £350,000 included in the Capital Programme for the work. It was reported that final costings would be reported to Council and that it was anticipated that these were maximum figures and that build costs could be reduced. Following discussion it was

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that the Customer Service Centre and the Contact Centre for Bromsgrove be located at the Dolphin Centre; and
- (b) that the existing Contract with Seddons in relation to the Dolphin Centre project be extended to cover the additional works, and that an exception to Contracts Procedure Rules be approved to enable this.

The Meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

Chairman