

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET

Wednesday, 15th September 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.

Observer: Councillor Mrs. K. M. Gall.

68/04 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY - SHARED SERVICES**

Consideration was given to the initiative to explore the feasibility of developing the concept of shared "back office" services with other local authorities within the County in order to seek to achieve savings in line with the Gershon Review. It was

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and that Officers be requested to work with other authorities to produce a more detailed report later in the year.

69/04 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

The Cabinet considered a report on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was to become fully implemented on 1st January 2005. It was clear that the Council's practices and procedures would need to be reviewed in order to meet requirements of the Act and to deal with requests for information in an appropriate manner. It was noted that the Act would have a significant impact upon the way all public authorities manage information and records. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Corporate Director (Resources) be designated Lead Officer with overall corporate responsibility for Freedom of Information;
- (b) that the post of Asset and Standards Management Assistant be re-designated Information Management Officer and allocated day to day responsibility for Freedom of Information; and
- (c) that arrangements be made for Members to receive training on the subject of Freedom of Information.

70/04 **CINEMA LICENCE FEES**

Having given consideration to the report and the fees charges by neighbouring authorities, it was

RESOLVED: that the following scale of fees in relation to Cinema Licensing be set with immediate effect:

- (a) in the case of a grant or renewal for one year, £600;
- (b) in the case of a grant or renewal for any less period, £200 for each month for which the Licence is granted or renewed, but does not exceed £600 in a 12 months period; and
- (c) in the case of a transfer, £120.

(NOTE:

- (i) Councillor Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths declared a prejudicial interest in this item as a member of the Arts Centre Trust Board and left the room whilst the item was being considered.

- (ii) Councillors R. Hollingworth and D. C. Norton declared their personal interest in this item as members of the Arts Centre Trust Board.)

71/04

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Consideration was given to the future Membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel. It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the current Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be re-appointed to serve on the Panel until 30th September 2006; and
- (b) that should any Member(s) of the Panel be unable or unwilling to serve on it until that date, replacements be appointed following a further public advertisement or nomination by the Chamber of Commerce as appropriate.

72/04

PLANNING SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN 2004-2006

The Cabinet considered the Planning Services Business Plan 2004-2006. A number of areas were highlighted relating to the Building Control and Economic Development Sections and it was

RESOLVED: that the Planning Services Business Plan 2004-2006 be approved.

73/04

RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ON BROMSGROVE TOWN CENTRE RETAIL STUDY

Consideration was given to the report on the outcome of the consultation exercise on the Bromsgrove Town Centre Study. It was felt that the consultation exercise could serve as a model for similar future projects.

Members also considered the next steps to be taken. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the three sites identified, i.e., the bus station area, the High Street and the Market site be confirmed as the most important areas for improvement;
- (b) that in order to progress with the project, Officers be requested to produce a list of development principles, i.e., key constraints on or potential for the sites to be forwarded to developers in order that development proposals can be produced; and
- (c) that in view of the identification within the study of the Victoria Ground, Bromsgrove as a site peripheral to the Town Centre, the site be not considered as a priority for development in the foreseeable future.

74/04

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Cabinet considered the introduction by the Government of a new planning policy system requiring all Local Planning Authorities to begin work towards the production of Local Development Frameworks for their areas. In Bromsgrove, this will require revisions to essential parts of the existing Local Plan by March 2007. In order to commence work towards a Local Development Framework it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that a Local Development Framework Working Group be established as set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report;
- (b) that the remainder of the report be noted; and
- (c) that the Head of Local Plans and the Local Plan Section be thanked for their work in relation to the Bromsgrove District Local Plan.

75/04

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Consideration was given to the draft of the Local Development Scheme attached to the report. The Scheme, which is required as part of the Local Development Framework procedure, sets out a three year work programme for the production of Local Development Framework documents. It was very likely that success in gaining future Planning Delivery Grants would be strongly influenced by the progress made in delivering the Local Development Scheme programme. It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the contents of the Local Development Scheme be approved;
- (b) that the Scheme be submitted to the Government Office for approval; and
- (c) that the proposed consultation exercise be undertaken and feedback reported to Members.

76/04

HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY

The Cabinet considered the latest position in relation to housing land availability as contained in the latest statistics covering the period up to April 2004. It was intended to review Supplementary Planning Guidance 10 as part of the new planning system. At present the strategic targets were comfortably met to 2011. It was

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

77/04

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Members were advised of the Government's proposals contained in their consultation paper "Cleaner, Greener, Safer Communities", together with the comments of the Local Government Association on the document. Whilst the proposals were generally welcomed, concern was expressed regarding the resource implications for local authorities as it appeared at present there was to be no additional Government funding provided. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the views put forward by the Local Government Association on the consultation document be strongly supported and the Government be advised accordingly.

78/04

FORMER COUNCILLOR MR. M. J. SCANLAN

The Cabinet were advised that former Councillor and Chairman of the Council, Mr. M. J. Scanlan, was at present seriously ill in hospital. It was

RESOLVED: that a letter be sent to Mr. Scanlan expressing the Council's best wishes.

79/04

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 items of business the subject of the following Minutes on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, the relevant paragraph of that part, in each case, being as set out below:-

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
80/04	8 and 9
81/04	1
82/04	3
83/04	12

80/04

PURCHASE OF COLUMN LIFTS FOR USE AT DEPOT

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

It was reported that in order to maintain and service the new refuse vehicles, the use of six additional column lifts was required. Officers had investigated the options and it was clear that the most cost-effective solution was to purchase the equipment at an approximate cost of £17,000. This could be met from the budget allocated in the Capital Programme. It was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that four column lifts be purchased at a cost of approximately £17,000;
- (b) that an exception to Contract Procedure Orders be approved to enable the Chief Executive Officer and the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Environmental Health to proceed with the arrangements for the purchase; and
- (c) that in view of the urgency of the matter the Cabinet's decision on the matter be not subject to the Council's call-in procedure.

81/04

RESTRUCTURE OF THE AUDIT, BEST VALUE AND PERFORMANCE SECTION

Consideration was given to the proposed organisational changes to the Audit, Best Value and Performance Section. It was noted that any restructure may be an interim measure in advance of wider re-organisation across the Authority. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the structure set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved;
- (b) that the section be renamed the "Audit and Policy Unit";
- (c) that the Audit, Best Value and Performance Manager post be renamed Audit and Policy Manager;
- (d) that the following internal appointments be made effective from 1st September 2004:
 - (i) holder of the post of Systems Auditor be confirmed in the post of Senior Auditor;
 - (ii) holder of the post of Best Value Officer be confirmed in the post of Senior Policy Officer (Best Value, Performance Management and Risk Management).
- (e) that the Corporate Director (Resources) be authorised to agree the job descriptions for the Senior Auditor and Senior Policy Officer (Best Value, Performance Management and Risk Management) and to make future amendments, if appropriate;
- (f) that the posts of Principal Auditor and Senior Policy Officer (Strategy, Consultation and Partnerships) be advertised as soon as possible;
- (g) that additional support in relation to procurement and risk management be provided by way of a 12 months contractual appointment and funded by the use of savings resulting from the delay in the appointment of the two senior posts and the existing Policy Officer post.

82/04

RIGHT TO BUY MATTER

Consideration was given to the request referred to in the report to the postponement of the Council's Statutory Charge on a property sold under the Right to Buy Scheme.

In view of the financial risk to the Council in these circumstances it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the request to postpone the Council's Statutory Charge be refused;
- (b) that the Standards Committee be recommended to approve an amendment to the Council's Constitution to authorise the Corporate Director (Resources) and the Portfolio Holder for Finance to determine any similar requests received.

83/04

**T.F.60 LIMITED, TRADING AS HOPEWELL CANTONESE RESTAURANT,
RECREATION ROAD, BROMSGROVE**

Following consideration of the circumstances of the case, it was

RESOLVED: that legal proceedings be instigated against T.F.60 Limited for offences under the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995 and Food Safety Act 1990.

The Meeting Closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman