

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Wednesday, 27th October 2004 at 4.00 p.m.

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

Observers: Councillors Mrs. A. E. Doyle, Mrs. J. D. Luck, P. M. McDonald, W. R. Newnes, N. Psirides J.P., C. R. Scurrrell and C. J. K. Wilson.

100/04 **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor B. L. Fuller C.B.E. Q.F.S.M.

101/04 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 13th October 2004 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Meeting be approved and confirmed as a correct record, subject to Councillor N. Psirides J.P. being added to the list of observers present.

102/04 **DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN FOR BROMSGROVE**

The Cabinet considered the draft Recovery Plan for Bromsgrove which had been prepared as part of the Council's Voluntary Engagement with the Government.

Part one of the draft Recovery Plan described the main elements of the Plan including the background to the Council's position, the approach it had taken in the preparation of the Plan and the views and comments received in order to establish the baseline from which it would recover. It also set out the difference people would see within the first 12 months of recovery, the main headings the Minister wished to be addressed and the eight themes through which the Council would channel its development. Part two of the draft Plan set out in more detail each of the actions required to address more specific pieces of work including the target timescales, the improvement measures, the risks and the responsible officers.

Following discussion, it was

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that approval be given to the draft Recovery Plan for submission to the Minister for comment. Members recognise the draft Recovery Plan, which will include the further development of all measurable targets to be set during the next six weeks, will be the subject of discussion by the Monitoring Board;
- (b) that the Leader and Chief Executive be requested to submit the draft Recovery Plan to the Minister by 29th October 2004;
- (c) that approval be given to the establishment of a joint senior officer and cross-party Member Working Group to act as an internal Monitoring Group and that the membership includes three Members from the majority group and the three Leaders of the larger opposition groups or their nominees.

103/04

**PROCUREMENT REQUEST – KERBSIDE RECYCLING VEHICLES**

Consideration was given to a proposal to purchase four second hand Kerbside recycling vehicles in order to continue the roll-out of the new kerbside recycling service across the District. A financial analysis of alternative procurement options showed that the proposed course of action was the most cost-effective option. It was therefore

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that approval be given to the purchase of four second hand Kerbside recycling vehicles at a total cost of £135,000, as detailed in Option 5 of the report, in order to continue the roll-out of the recycling scheme;
- (b) that approval be given to the funding being made available from the £500,000 set aside in the Revised Capital Programme 2004/05 for the purchase of vehicles and plant;
- (c) that an exception be made to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to facilitate the above course of action.

104/04

**ARTRIX FUNDING**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the Council's funding arrangements for the new Arts Centre (Artrix) in the light of a request received from the Chairman of the Arts Centre Operating Trust with regard to the payment of 'start-up' funding and for the Council to consider restructuring its deficit funding payments in order to assist with cash flow during the early years. Members acknowledged that it had previously been the Council's intention to pay a 'start-up' contribution, but were not convinced that the Arts Centre Trust would have cash flow difficulties during the first years of the Arts Centre's operation and so concluded that it was not necessary to restructure the payments. It was therefore

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that approval be given to the provision of 'start-up' funding for Artrix of £41,000 to be met from the allocation within the Revenue Budget for 2004/05 for the Arts Centre;
- (b) that the agreement to pay 'shortfall' funding of up to £120,000 per annum for the next ten years to Artrix commence with effect from 1st April 2005, to be paid on receipt of audited accounts and to be reviewed after eight years;
- (c) that the Arts Centre Trust be advised that there will be no further revenue funding available from the Council in the current financial year;
- (d) that the remaining sum of £5,500 within the current year's Revenue Budget allocation for the Arts Centre be retained to cover any costs the Council may incur related to utility accounts, insurance and so on.

(NOTE: Councillors Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, R. Hollingworth and D. C. Norton declared a personal interest in this item as members of the Arts Centre Operating Trust).

The Meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.

Chairman