

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Monday, 20th February 2006, at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors B. L. Fuller C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., (Chairman), P. M. McDonald (Vice-Chairman), G. N. Denaro, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., Mrs. J. D. Luck (substituting for N. Psirides J.P.), D. C. Norton (substituting for J. A. Ruck) and E. C. Tibby (substituting for C. B. Lanham).

(NOTE: Councillors Miss D. H. Campbell J.P., Mrs. K. M. Gall, Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor and Mrs. M. A. Sherrey J.P., were also in attendance.)

16/05

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. B. Lanham, N. Psirides J.P., and J. A. Ruck, and the Chief Executive.

17/05

BUSINESS PLANS

Further to the meeting held on the 17th February 2006, a number of other Business Plans for the year 2006-07 were considered and the following comments/recommendations were made:-

Business Plan

Comment/Recommendation

E-Government and
Customer Services

- (1) That the Executive Cabinet be informed that the Board has concerns concerning the capacity of the Customer Service Centre to take on the additional work of the Highways Partnership Unit or any other area of work without a more detailed investigation into the ramifications thereof, otherwise this could lead to under-performance.
- (2) That, further to (1) above, the Officers be requested to submit a report to the next meeting on the consequences of any such transfer of work insofar as it affects the future use of the Burcot Room;
- (3) that the Executive Cabinet be made aware that the Board are of the opinion that staff training and the acquisition of hardware need to be better co-ordinated;

Street Scene and Waste
Management

- (4) that the Officers submit a report to a future meeting on the number of phone calls and/or complaints received, together with prosecutions pursued, relating to dog fouling;
- (5) that the Executive Cabinet be reminded that the Waste Education and Awareness Programme which has been established will be a very limited programme unless resources are provided either by the Government or from our own budget;
- (6) that the Executive Cabinet be made aware of the Board's concern over the delay in fully implementing the refuse and recycling modernisation agreement;
- (7) that the Executive Cabinet be advised that the current situation regarding partnership working

with the County Council insofar as grass verges, paths and hedgerows is concerned, needs to be resolved at the earliest possible opportunity;

Financial Services (8) that the Executive Cabinet be advised that a fully automated accounting system is seen as essential by the Board.

Corporate Communications, Policy and Performance Team (9) It was agreed that the Assistant Chief Executive should submit a report to a future meeting on the attendance records of stakeholders in the Local Strategic Partnership and on its possible future structure and direction.

NOTES: (10) On a general note, it was agreed that the Executive Cabinet should have regard to the wider picture of the Council's objectives (through the Corporate Plan) and not simply consider its priorities piecemeal, Business Plan by Business Plan.
(11) It was also agreed that the Executive Cabinet be advised that the Board are concerned that there was not too much evidence of effective Project Management from the planning stage through to completion and that a Project Management methodology needs to be adopted by the Council.

18/05 **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 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, the relevant paragraph of that part being as set out below:-

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Paragraph</u>
19/05	7

19/05 **BENEFITS FRAUD INSPECTORATE INSPECTION REPORT**

The Report of the Revenues and Benefits Manager outlining the progress made to date and the expected completion times for all the recommendations highlighted within the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate's report to the Council was submitted.

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) that the 18 recommendations, as set out in Annex A of the Report be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that an action plan is in place to deliver the 18 recommendations;
- (3) that the robust arrangements for monitoring progress against detailed quarterly action plans as set out in Annex C to the Report be noted and approved;
- (4) that it be noted that 50% of the recommendations made had been completed by the 31st December 2005;
- (5) that it be noted that significant improvements had been made to the benefits service and this had been clearly demonstrated in the latest performance figures;

- (6) that details of the number of benefit fraud prosecutions taken out, together with the time taken from depositing the papers with Legal to getting to Court be provided for consideration at a future meeting; and
- (7) that a further progress report be made to the Board in May 2006 and quarterly thereafter in line with the benefits action plan.

20/05

DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the dates of future meetings of the Board be as follows:-

- Monday, 20th March 2006
- Friday, 21st April 2006
- Friday, 19th May 2006
- Friday, 16th June 2006
- Friday 14th July 2006
- Friday, 18th August 2006
- Friday, 15th September 2006
- Friday, 20th October 2006
- Friday, 17th November 2006
- Friday, 15th December 2006
- Friday, 19th January 2007
- Friday, 16th February 2007
- Friday, 16th March 2007

The Meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

Chairman