

## **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

Wednesday, 12th July 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

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

OBSERVER: Councillor G.N. Denaro, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., N. Psirides J.P. and C.J.K. Wilson.

15/06 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. M. A. Sherrey.

16/06 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 28th June 2006 were submitted.

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

17/06 **AUDIT BOARD**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Board held on 13th June 2006 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations set out in the Minutes be approved and adopted.

18/06 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Performance Management Board held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations set out in the Minutes be approved and the remainder of the minutes be noted.

19/06 **SCRUTINY STEERING BOARD**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Scrutiny Steering Board held on 31st May 2006 and 4th July 2006 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:** that the contents of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Scrutiny Steering Board held on 31st May 2006 and 4th July 2006 be noted.

20/06 **ISSUES ARISING FROM THE SCRUTINY STEERING BOARD**

(a) **Bromsgrove Museum and Tourist Information Centre**

The Cabinet considered recommendations made by the Scrutiny Steering Board regarding options for the future of Bromsgrove Museum which were set out in the report of the Task Group. The Cabinet paid tribute to the extensive work undertaken by the Task Group on this issue and noted the two options which had been put forward. It was felt however, that there may be additional options available and following discussion it was,

**RESOLVED:** that a Cabinet Advisory Group be set up comprising three members of Cabinet to consider further options for the future of Bromsgrove Museum, including relocation and that the Group report back to Cabinet in October 2006.

(b) Culture And Community Services

Members considered recommendations made by the Scrutiny Steering Board regarding whether Culture and Community Services provided value for money which were set out in the report of the Task Group. The detailed work undertaken by the Task Group was appreciated and it was noted that a number of the recommendations were already in the process of implementation. Reference was also made to the need to consider the volume of background information submitted with Scrutiny Reports. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:** that the recommendations of the Scrutiny Steering Board contained within the report of the Culture and Community Task Group be approved.

21/06

**ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

Consideration was given to a report outlining the Council's approach to delivering the annual efficiency savings as required by the Government and in particular those in relation to 2005/06 and 2006/07. It was

**RESOLVED:** that the Annual Efficiency Statement for 2006/07 be approved.

22/06

**APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER**

It was reported that there was a requirement to review the appointment of the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Mr. K. Dicks, Acting Chief Executive Officer be appointed as the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

23/06

**STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report which related to the need to carry out a public consultation on the Council's draft Statement of Gambling Policy in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Draft Statement of Gambling Policy attached to the report be approved and the Head of Planning and Environment Services be authorised to carry out the necessary consultation in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

24/06

**LAND AT VICTORIA ROAD BROMSGROVE**

The Cabinet received a report on an approach received regarding the possible disposal of land owned by the Council off Victoria Road Bromsgrove, presently leased on a long term basis to Bromsgrove Rovers Football Club, together with land at the junction of Birmingham Road and Stourbridge Road, Bromsgrove which is currently used as a public car park. The Cabinet noted the approach but was mindful of the current use of the areas of land in question and the future development and planned regeneration of the Town Centre area. It was felt that the disposal of the land to facilitate the development proposed would be likely to detract from the future regeneration of the Town Centre. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:** that the request that the Council enters into discussions with a view to disposing of the land referred to in the report be refused.

25/06 **CONSTITUTION OF THE APPEALS PANEL**

Consideration was given to a report on the constitution of the Council's Appeals Panel when dealing with appeals relating to Homelessness. It was noted that a twelve month trial period, during which a two-stage appeal process had been in operation, had recently expired. The report contained a number of options for an appeals procedure in future. Members were mindful of the need to have a balance between the needs of applicants to have the benefit of a fair and timely process and the Council's requirement to improve performance to meet Audit Commission targets. It was

**RESOLVED:** that a one stage process be adopted in accordance with option B in the report which would involve the applicant being given the choice between a paper based review to be undertaken by an independent expert, or an appearance before an appeals panel comprising an independent expert and a representative from the Council's Strategic Housing section.

26/06 **WORCESTERSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS**

Consideration was given to a report which gave an update on the latest developments in relation to the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement and to steps to be undertaken in forthcoming months. It was

**RESOLVED:** that the progress made be noted

27/06 **COUNCIL PLAN 2007/ 2010**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report which set out an approach to facilitating the development of a Council Plan for 2007/2010 and to updating the existing Recovery Plan. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the CPA key lines of enquiry and what is required to achieve a score of level 2 be noted;
- (b) that it be noted that on the advice of the Government Monitoring Board, the Council will need to go through a CPA rating in order to come out of voluntary engagement;
- (c) that the need to be able to deliver a significant shift in performance in order to achieve an improved CPA rating be noted;
- (d) that it be agreed that the existing Recovery Plan be extended and updated to match recommendation (c) above and that in particular, it be noted that a stronger emphasis on performance improvement and customer service will be required;
- (e) that it be noted that the development of a Council Plan 2007/2010 which is intelligence led, holistic and supported by resources and managed through a robust performance management framework will be a key component to achieving an improved CPA rating;
- (f) that the delivery of an updated Recovery Plan and Council Plan 2007/2010 to include consultation with partners, scrutiny and staff be agreed and that subject to the amendment of the date of the next meeting of the Government Monitoring Board to 18th July 2006, the timetable and actions set out in the report be approved ;
- (g) that the engagement of I&DeA to undertake this work in order to make the best use of the remaining Top Team development days, to provide continuity with work previously undertaken and provide value for money, be approved;
- (h) that the Council use a balanced scorecard as a technique to develop the Council Plan 2007/2010 and to prioritise the budget process;
- (i) that the offer from Walsall MBC to work with Cabinet and Management Team to update the Recovery Plan in accordance with the response to the Minister's letter be accepted;
- (j) that in view of the timescale involved, public consultations already programmed such as the 2006/07 budget consultation be utilised for consultation on the Council Plan 2007/2010;
- (k) that future consideration be given on how to engage "hard to reach" groups.

28/06

**MODERN COUNCILLOR PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the report on the development of the Council's "Modern Councillor Programme". The report referred to the roles and responsibilities of Members and to the "essential" and "desirable" training requirements for each of the roles. The work undertaken on this matter by the Interim Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development and Group Leaders was acknowledged. Following discussion, it was

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) that the roles and responsibilities for Councillors together with the training requirements for each role, as contained in Appendices A and B to the report respectively, be approved in principle, subject to the establishment on a cross party basis of a small Group of Members with delegated authority to finalise the details of the roles and responsibilities for Councillors and to progress the development programme;
- (b) that the roles and responsibilities as finalised by the Group referred to in (a) be adopted as part of the Council's Constitution;
- (c) that the procurement of a provider to work in partnership with the Council to deliver its member training requirements be approved;
- (d) that the intention to gain external accreditation in respect of the member development programme be approved;
- (e) that the intention to progress towards the achievement of the I&DeA national charter on member development be approved;
- (f) that a set of protocols be compiled to cover the working relationships between members and between members and officers; and
- (g) that members be required to undertake the appropriate training programme in relation to their particular role either prior to becoming a member of a Committee or Board, or if this is impractical within three months of becoming a member of that Committee or Board and that if a member does not undertake the appropriate training they be removed from the Committee or Board in question.

29/06

**SECTION 151 OFFICER**

Consideration was given to the need to appoint an alternative Section 151 Officer on a temporary basis. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Ms. J. Pickering be appointed as the Council's Section 151 Officer whilst Mr. K. Dicks is in the role of Acting Chief Executive.

30/06

**PROPOSED ITEM FOR SCRUTINY**

The Leader of the Council raised the possibility of establishing a Cabinet Advisory Group to consider the cumulative effect of some of the Council's Planning Policies in certain areas of the District. Whilst individual applications had been approved this had resulted in a change of the character of the area. Following discussion and in view of the commitment to focus on improving performance, it was

**RESOLVED:** that no action be taken in relation to this matter at the present time.

31/06

**AMENDMENTS TO CAR PARKING ORDER**

Consideration was given to a report relating to a number of minor amendments to the Car Parking Order. Following discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that a maximum waiting time of two hours be applied to Catshill Car Park, Golden Cross Lane, Catshill;
- (b) that the cost of applications to change concessionary parking permits before the expiry of that permit be discounted by an amount equal to one twelfth of the Annual fee for each whole calendar month remaining;

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- (c) that the changes referred to in (a) and (b) above be implemented from 1st September 2006 and in accordance with Appendices A and B to the report respectively.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Head of Street Scene and Waste Management, in agreement with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder be authorised to make amendments to the Car Parking Order with the exception of alterations to car parking charges.

The Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman