

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Executive

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Monday, 20 April 2015

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Present:

S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)
T M Cartwright, MBE, Public Protection (Deputy Executive Leader)
B Bayford, Health and Housing
K D Evans, Planning and Development
Mrs C L A Hockley, Leisure and Community
L Keeble, Streetscene

Also in attendance:

Miss S M Bell, Chairman of Leisure and Community Policy Development and Review Panel; for item 12(3)

P J Davies, Chairman of Housing Tenancy Board; for items 8(2) and 11(3)

Mrs M E Ellerton, Chairman of Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel

Mrs K K Trott, for items 8(1), 8(2) and 11(3)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given for this meeting.

2. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of Executive held on 2 March 2015.

3. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

As this was the final meeting of the Executive for the municipal year, the Executive Leader thanked everyone for their enthusiastic participation throughout the year. He also gave particular thanks to Councillor C L A Hockley as this would be her last Executive meeting as, subject to the Council's agreement, she will become Deputy Mayor for the next municipal year.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor L Keeble declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 10(1) as he is appointed as Fareham Borough Council's representative to Project Integra and is the Chairman of the Strategic Board. Councillor Keeble remained present at the meeting and took part in the discussion of the item.

Councillor S D T Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 10(1) as he is appointed as a Hampshire County Council representative to the Project Integra Strategic Board. Councillor Woodward remained present at the meeting and took part in the discussion of the item.

Councillor S D T Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 11(3) as he is the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment. Councillor Woodward remained present at the meeting and took part in the discussion of the item.

Councillor Miss S Bell declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 12(3) as she is a Council appointed Trustee of Portchester Parish Hall which leases space to the scout group. Miss Bell remained present at the meeting.

5. PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted at this meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS

The Executive received a written deputation from Dr C Lewis in relation to item 11(1) – River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood Risk and Management Strategy proposed for adoption.

7. MINUTES / REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Planning and Development PDR Panel: 30 March 2015

Minute 6 – River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood Risk and Management Strategy Proposed for Adoption

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Planning and Development on the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood & Erosion Risk Management Strategy, which was proposed for adoption by the Executive following the public consultation undertaken in Autumn 2014.

It was AGREED that:-

- (a) the preferred Strategic Management Options for the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be commended to the Executive for approval;
- (b) the Executive be advised that the Panel additionally recommended that there is a need to clarify the position with regard to planned and responsive inspections and maintenance works in the interim period prior to the delivery of potential capital schemes outline in the proposed Strategy, to address the concerns expressed in the deputation and by several members during consideration of the item;
- (c) the Director of Planning and Development, in consultation with the Chairman, be requested to prepare a suitable recommendation for inclusion in the report to the Executive as referred to in (b) above;
- (d) when drafted, the proposed recommendation, referred to in (b) and (c) above, be circulated to Panel members before it was included in the report to the Executive.

A report on this matter is considered at item 11(1).

Minute 9 – Public Transport Review: Conclusion and Recommendations

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Planning and Development on the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood & Erosion Risk Management Strategy, which was proposed for adoption by the Executive following the public consultation undertaken in Autumn 2014.

It was AGREED that:-

- (b) the Executive be advised that the Panel recommended that the Council should enter into an agreement with First Bus setting out a Protocol for community involvement in the provision of local bus services;
- (c) the Executive be advised that the Panel recommended that Community Action Fareham be invited to submit an application for part-funding (together with an associated business case) to the Council for its proposed scheme to operate a Sunday bus service between Fareham Town Centre and the Highlands area, replacing a similar service recently withdrawn by Hampshire County Council and to be run as a trial over a three-month period;
- (d) the Executive be advised that the Panel recommended that the officers be asked to undertake a feasibility study for a possible ongoing programme of installation of new and/or relocated bus shelters and associated bus stop infrastructure, and for estimating the associated

capital costs, as these measures would assist in influencing mode choice by enhancing the quality of the public transport offer.

A report on this matter is considered at item 11(3).

8. HEALTH AND HOUSING

(1) Proposed Naming of 16 Flats at Palmerston Avenue

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor K K Trott addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to approve the proposed name of "Stevenson Court" for the block of 16 flats; and
- (b) to authorise that preparations be made for a naming ceremony to take place in the summer months appropriate to the construction programme, and including an explanatory plaque.

(2) The Future of the Housing Tenancy Board

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor P J Davies addressed the Executive on this item.

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor K K Trott addressed the Executive on this item.

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:-

- (a) to disband the Housing Tenancy Board with effect from the end of this municipal year 2014/15;
- (b) to transfer responsibility for policy development and performance review relating to the management of Council Housing (including leasehold properties) to the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel;
- (c) to extend an open invitation to the Chairman of the Fareham Housing Tenants and Leaseholders Forum to attend and address the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel on any matters relating to the management of Council Housing in the borough;
- (d) to request officers continue to work with tenants and leaseholders and facilitate up to four meetings of the Tenants and Leaseholders Forum per annum (including the Annual General Meeting) and produce two issues per annum of the tenants newsletter (Tenants Voice); and

- (e) to request the Fareham Tenant and Leaseholder Forum extend an open invitation to the Executive Member for Health and Housing and the Chairman of the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel to attend and address the Forum Meetings, and that the Opposition Spokesman for Health and Housing be invited to attend.

9. LEISURE AND COMMUNITY

- (1) Proposed Funding Arrangements for Citizens Advice Bureau 2015-2018

In introducing the item, Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley expressed her thanks for the excellent work carried out by Fareham Citizens Advice Bureau.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) notes that Fareham Citizens Advice Bureau has continued to provide regular and robust performance figures for the period 2012-2015, showing further increases in demand for their support and services;
- (b) supports the recommendation to fund Citizens Advice Bureau for their core work for a period of three years. If agreed, financial support will result in a payment of £110,000 for 2015/16; £115,000 for 2016/17 and £120,000 for 2017/18;
- (c) agrees that in addition to the SLA payment for core support, the Council makes an additional grant of £35,000 per annum (for 2015-2016 initially), to fund the provision of combined, full time equivalent post, for Housing Debt Advice and Budgeting and Council Tax advice; and
- (d) agrees that the Council's Community Development Manager continues to support Fareham Citizens Advice Bureau to identify potential external funding streams which may assist with their plans to extend their operation and outreach services within the local community, in line with their Business Plan 2015-2018.

10. STREETSCENE

- (1) Project Integra Action Plan 2015-2018

Councillor L Keeble declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 10(1) as he is appointed as Fareham Borough Council's representative to Project Integra and is the Chairman of the Strategic Board. Councillor Keeble remained present at the meeting and took part in the discussion of the item.

Councillor S D T Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 10(1) as he is appointed as a Hampshire County Council representative to the Project Integra Strategic Board. Councillor Woodward remained present at the meeting and took part in the discussion of the item.

RESOLVED that the Executive approves the 2015-18 Project Integra partnership action plan and minor changes to the constitution, as detailed in the briefing paper and appendices.

11. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- (1) River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood Risk & Management Strategy proposed for Adoption

The comments of the deputation were taken into account in considering this item (see minute 6).

The comments of the Planning and Development Performance Development and Review Panel were taken into account in considering this item (see minute 7).

RESOLVED that the Executive adopts the preferred strategic management options for the Strategy as set out below and detailed in Appendix A to the report:

- Strategy Management Zone 1 (North Portsmouth Harbour)
Hold the Line - Delay Sustain. Maximise life of existing defences and then sustain minimum 1:100 year Standard of Protection (phased) from 2030, with environmental improvements to currently eroding former landfill sites
- Strategy Management Zone 2 (Fareham and Gosport, Portsmouth Harbour West):
Hold the Line – Sustain. Sustain a minimum 1:100 year Standard of Protection (phased)
- Strategy Management Zone 3 (Lee-on-the-Solent and Stokes Bay)
Hold the Line - Maintain Protection – Scheduled maintenance and beach recycling to prevent erosion and maintain beaches through the development of a BMP. Accept that the flood risk Standard of Protection is likely to fall in the longer term.
- Strategy Management Zone 4 (Hook Lake to Titchfield Haven)
Environmental Enhancement - Allow natural processes to continue but sustain protection to environmentally important sites at Titchfield Haven and at Hook Lake (with regulated tidal exchange)
- Strategy Management Zone 5 (River Hamble East Bank)
Do Minimum until 2060, but with Solent Way footpath adaptation from 2030, then sustain a minimum 1:100 flood Standard of Protection at key flood risk locations – Maximise life of existing defences managing flood risk with local measures and footpath adaptation from 2030, then provide minimum 1:100 year SoP.

- (2) Building Control Partnership Arrangements

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) agrees to enter into agreement with Portsmouth City Council and Gosport Borough Council using a modified Building Control Partnership legal agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), for the delivery of Building Control functions as detailed in the report;

- (b) agrees to deliver the Building Control function to all three Councils (Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council and Portsmouth City Council) through the Building Control Partnership;
- (c) delegates authority to the Director of Planning and Development after consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Development to enter into such agreements and undertake all ancillary matters as necessary and on such terms as are reasonable; and
- (d) that the Executive Member-level Building Control Partnership Panel meets on a biannual basis, but with quarterly Panel meetings over the next municipal year to oversee the integration of Portsmouth City Council's building control functions into the Partnership's work.

(3) Public Transport Review: Conclusions and Recommendations

Councillor S D T Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 11(3) as he is the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment. Councillor Woodward remained present at the meeting and took part in the discussion of the item.

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor P J Davies addressed the Executive on this item.

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor K K Trott addressed the Executive on this item.

The comments of the Planning and Development Performance Development and Review Panel were taken into account in considering this item (see minute 7).

During the debate on this item, it was agreed that the recommendation of the Planning and Development Performance Development and Review Panel regarding inviting Community Action Fareham to submit an application for part-funding for its proposed scheme (see minute 7), would not be supported by the Executive. This is because it would not be appropriate for the Council to promote a particular scheme for a particular area. It was accepted that should Community Action Fareham submit an application of their own accord, this would be considered on its merits at that time.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) notes the contents of the Final Report relating to the findings and conclusions from the Public Transport Review; and
- (b) approves the following recommendations arising from the Public Transport Review:
 - that the Council should enter into an agreement with First Bus setting out a Protocol for community involvement in the provision of local bus services;
 - that Officers be asked to undertake a feasibility study for a possible on-going programme of installation of new and/or re-located bus shelters and associated bus stop infrastructure, and for estimating the associated capital costs; these measures would assist in

influencing mode choice by enhancing the quality of the public transport offer.

12. POLICY AND RESOURCES

(1) Business Rate Discretionary Rate Relief

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to vary the Charitable Relief Policy to allow relief to be granted in the specific circumstances as detailed in the report; and
- (b) to delegate the award of the discretionary relief, as detailed in the report, to officers in accordance with relevant guidance issued by Government.

(2) Vanguard Progress

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to waive Contract Procedure Rules in order to extend the existing contract with the Vanguard Consultancy; and
- (b) to fund the extension of the existing contract from the spending reserve surplus to be replenished by subsequent savings from the new interventions.

(3) Matched Funding - Quarterly Report

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor Miss S Bell addressed the Executive on this item.

Councillor Miss S Bell declared a non-pecuniary interest for item 12(3) as she is a Council appointed Trustee of Portchester Parish Hall which leases space to the scout group. Miss Bell remained present at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) agrees to defer the item on the matched funding bid of up to £20,000 for the 3rd Portchester Scout Group until issues regarding conditions of use of the hall are resolved; and
- (b) approves a funding award of £8,000 for the provision of Play Rangers services for a further 12 months.

(4) Proposals for the Provision of Internal Audit

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that this item be deferred to a later meeting of the Executive.

13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that it is in the public interest to exclude the public and representatives of the Press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters to be dealt with involve the likely disclosure of exempt

information, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

14. LEISURE AND COMMUNITY

(1) Western Wards Leisure Centre - Funding and Progress Update

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves an additional capital budget of £2,000,000 to construct the new leisure centre at Coldeast (including the road junction, access road, and car park);
- (b) approves expenditure of £110,000 from the Open Spaces Improvement programme to construct the new sports pitches;
- (c) approves the award of the construction contract (as the second phase of the design and build contract) to Balfour Beatty Regional Construction Limited to build the new leisure centre, the new road junction, access road, car park and sports pitches;
- (d) agrees that the new Leisure Centre be named the “Holly Hill Leisure Centre”;
- (e) requests officers bring forward a report detailing the costs, options and sources of funding to build a new cemetery in the Western Wards; and
- (f) agrees that the minute of the decision for this item be no longer treated as exempt information and be open for public inspection.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.26 pm).