

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday, 8th September 2008 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor E. Watts – Chair

Councillors J.E. Bennett, K. Bowman, A.J. Hodkin, D. Kelly, D. McGregor, B.R. Murray-Carr (from Minute No. 309), A.M. Syrett and A.F. Tomlinson.

Officers:- W. Lumley (Chief Executive Officer), S. E. A. Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council), P. Campbell (Head of Housing), John Sherwood (Residential Principal Environmental Health Officer), F. Bacon (Head of Revenue Services), B. Truswell (Head of Procurement), S. K. Bidwell (Head of Environmental Health and Street Services (to Minute No. 306)), R. Owen (Senior Valuation Officer (for Minute No. 315 only)), D. Troop (for Minute No. 316 only)) and A. Bluff (Democratic Services Officer).

Also in attendance was Mandy Chambers, Head of Health Improvement at Derbyshire County PCT (to Minute No 306).

302. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

303. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

304. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute No.	Member	Level of Interest
(318 (part))	A.F. Tomlinson	2

305. MINUTES – 4TH AUGUST 2008

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 4th August 2008 be approved as a true and correct record.

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Minute No. 252 – Proceeds from the sale of Bolsover Baths Exempt – Paragraph 3

A query was raised as to whether a meeting had taken place with CISWO. The Leader advised Members that a meeting had not yet been arranged.

306. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH AUGUST 2008 – DRAFT HEALTH IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

Mandy Chambers, Head of Health Improvement at Derbyshire County PCT, gave a slide presentation on the Draft Health Improvement Strategy for Bolsover.

The Strategy was a Health Improvement Plan for people living and working in Bolsover with the aim of addressing the wider issues that affect health and well being such as employment, education, community safety and housing, and also to give support to people to improve their own health through lifestyle choices.

Members asked various questions and lengthy discussion took place.

The Leader expressed his thanks on behalf of the Authority to Maureen Whitaker, Mandy, Judy Derricott and their team for a fantastic job and their hard work in putting the document together.

Mandy advised that feedback from Members was requested by week ending 19th September 2008.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts and seconded by Councillor A. F. Tomlinson
RESOLVED that 1) the adoption of the Health Improvement Plan be approved,

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that 2) the Health Scrutiny Group be clear on its role and remit,

3) the Health Scrutiny Group be responsible for;

- Monitoring the delivery of the Health Improvement Plan
- Monitoring the LSP Health and Wellbeing Action Group action plan
- Monitoring dentistry – as per PPMG3's review recommendation
- Dealing with local health issues that affect many residents e.g. GP Surgeries, P.P.G's
- Scrutinising the performance of the LAA health targets,

4) there be a scheduled meeting every six months (which would be open to the public) for the purpose of monitoring the plans and performance,

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5) when other issues are raised, ad hoc meetings will be arranged, but must be agreed in advance by the Scrutiny Committee,

Moved by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that 6) Councillor E. Watts be nominated as the Portfolio Holder with responsibility to drive the health improvement agenda in the District,

7) the Chief Executive Officer be asked to designate a senior officer as the lead officer for health improvement to work closely with the Portfolio Holder to drive the health improvement agenda forward.

Reason for Decision: In order to promote improvement in the health of those within the District by the implementation of the Health Improvement Strategy.

With regard to Resolution 7, the Chief Executive Officer advised the meeting that Doctor Maureen Whitaker, Associate Director of Public Health, was the nominated lead officer for health improvement. Other officers would also be involved.

(Scrutiny and Policy Officer / Head of Democratic Services)

Mandy Chambers and The Head of Environmental Health and Street Services left the meeting.

Councillor McGregor left the meeting at this point.

307. RECOMMENDED ITEM FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22ND JULY 2008 – MUTUAL EXCHANGE POLICY

The Head of Housing presented the proposed Mutual Exchange Policy.

Members asked questions.

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor J.E. Bennett
RESOLVED that the Mutual Exchange Policy be approved.

Reason for Decision: In order to deal with mutual exchanges in an open, transparent and fair way and to be able to demonstrate this.

(Head of Housing)

Councillor McGregor returned to the meeting at this point.

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308. RENT ARREARS – VERBAL UPDATE

The Head of Housing circulated information on area based targets in respect of housing rent areas to the end of August 2008.

He advised the meeting that Housing Officers would now spend one full working day per week focusing on rent arrears to meet set targets.

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor J. E. Bennett
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason for decision: To keep Members updated on the present position of housing rent arrears.

Councillor Murray-Carr entered the meeting at this point.

309. KEY DECISION NOTICES FROM THE JOINT BOARD HELD ON 29TH JULY 2008

Councillor Watts presented the key decisions notices from the Joint Board held on 29th July 2008.

It was noted that none of the key decision notices had been called in by Bolsover's Scrutiny Committee or either of the Scrutiny Committees of North East Derbyshire District and Chesterfield Borough Councils.

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor K. Bowman
RESOLVED that the key decision notices from the Joint Board held on 29th July 2008 be accepted.

Reason for decision: To keep Members informed of key decisions made by the Leader as part of the Joint Board.

310. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2008 – 2010

The Head of Procurement presented a new Procurement Strategy for 2008 – 2010.

The new Procurement Strategy would take into account the work and functions of the Shared Procurement Unit (SPU). A similar Strategy would be implemented at North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield Borough Councils as well as Bolsover thus SPU would be working to one set of standards.

The Head of Procurement informed the meeting that targets would be presented to a future meeting.

Members asked questions.

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Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor J.E. Bennett

RESOLVED that 1) the Procurement Strategy be adopted to provide a framework for strategic procurement activity across the Council, subject to the provision of baseline evidence to feed into the targets (these targets to be presented to a future meeting),

2) the Procurement Strategy be adopted in its current form in order to provide a consistent strategic procurement framework across the three partner Councils for whom the Shared Procurement Unit works.

(Head of Shared Procurement)

Reason for decision: In order to provide a consistent strategic procurement framework across the three partner Councils for whom the Shared Procurement Unit works.

311. ARREARS – IRRECOVERABLE ITEMS OVER £1000

The Head of Revenue Services presented the report to seek Members approval to write off outstanding debts, including costs, amounting to £113,695.30 in respect of persons; unable to trace / bankrupt or companies in liquidation.

Members asked questions.

Moved by Councillor J. E. Bennett, seconded by Councillor A. M. Syrett

RESOLVED that the irrecoverable items including costs amounting to £113,695.30 be written off with the proviso that should any of the debts become collectable the amounts be re-debited.

(Head of Revenue Services)

Reason for decision: In order that outstanding debts can be written off where they are uncollectable.

312. DISCRETIONARY NATIONAL NON DOMESTIC RATE REVIEW

The Head of Revenue Services presented the report which set out criteria for determining discretionary rate relief from April 2009.

Members asked questions.

Moved by Councillor A. M. Syrett, seconded by Councillor D. Kelly

RESOLVED that 1) the criteria as set out in the report for determining Discretionary Rate Relief from April 2009 be approved,

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2) awarding Discretionary Rate Relief above the 80% level be restricted to applicants who can demonstrate that the level of the award saves the Council expenditure it would otherwise have to incur if the organisation did not supply the service. The maximum to be limited the amount saved within the 20% maximum discretion,

3) the delegation scheme as set out in the report be recommended to the Standards Committee for approval.

(Head of Revenue Services / Head of Democratic Services)

Reason for decision: **To ensure that the way of assessing the appropriateness of awarding Discretionary Business Rate Relief against a set criteria is fair and consistent to all applications and to introduce a delegation for the Director of Resources to determine the awards to be given.**

313. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor J. E. Bennett, seconded by Councillor E. Watts

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

314. ARREARS – IRRECOVERABLE ITEMS OVER £1000 EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Head of Revenue Services presented the report to seek Members approval to write off irrecoverable items, including costs, amounting to £16,879.14 where it would not be cost effective to pursue.

Members asked questions.

Moved by Councillor A. M. Syrett, seconded by Councillor J. E. Bennett

RESOLVED that the irrecoverable items, including costs, amounting to £16,879.14, be written off with the proviso that should any of the debts become collectable the amounts be re-debited.

(Head of Revenue Services)

Reason for decision: **In order that outstanding debts can be written off where uncollectable.**

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315. 1 & 2 GEORGE INN COURT, WHITWELL EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Senior Valuation Officer presented the report to seek Members approval to sell 1 & 2 George Inn Court, Whitwell.

Further information relating to an additional recommendation that application had to be made to the Secretary of State for consent to sell the property without any restrictions had been previously circulated to the meeting.

Subject to a reply from the Secretary of State, it was proposed that the property be offered for sale by auction on the 14th October 2008. The Council's agents had advised a reserve figure of £185,000 for the property.

Members asked questions.

After discussion the Chief Executive Officer advised the meeting that the capital receipt from the sale of the property should be used for regeneration or affordable housing purposes and this should be added as a further recommendation.

Moved by Councillor A. F. Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor E. Watts

RESOLVED that 1) application be made to the Secretary of State for consent to sell the property without any restrictions,

2) the reserve price for the property be agreed,

3) delegated powers be given to the Head of Regeneration to exchange contracts to sell 1 & 2 George Inn, Whitwell, at any price that meets or exceeds the reserve,

4) delegated powers be given to the Head of Regeneration to accept an offer for the properties at a price that the agents recommend that the Council accepts,

5) the capital receipt from the sale of the property be used for regeneration or affordable housing purposes.

(Senior Valuation Officer)

Reason for decision: In order to secure a capital receipt for the Council from the sale of properties that are surplus to the Council's requirements.

The Senior Valuation Officer left the meeting.

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316. TARRAN BUNGALOWS OPTIONS APPRAISAL STUDY EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Head of Housing presented a report in respect of the Tarran Bungalow Options Appraisal Study.

Discussion took place and Members asked questions.

Councillor Watts informed the meeting that in light of an announcement from the Housing Minister that suggested that additional money may be made available to councils to build new properties, he had spoken to the MP for Bolsover and suggested that a meeting be arranged with the Housing Minister, Bolsover Council and the MP to see if there was an opportunity for Bolsover to carry out demolition and new build. Councillor Bowman would arrange the meeting.

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor

RESOLVED that 1) a meeting be arranged with relevant Housing Ministers and government departments to see if there was an opportunity to gain additional funding to enable Bolsover to carry out demolition of the Tarran bungalows and to build replacement properties.

Moved by Councillor A. F. Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor K. Bowman

RESOLVED that 2) demolition Option 2 or 3 for Bolsover and Option 3 for New Houghton and Langwith Junction be approved,

3) Members note the intention to continue to engage with Tarran bungalow tenants and residents commencing September 2008 by public meeting, letter and personal visit to inform of the decision to pursue the option of demolition and redevelopment,

4) Members approve the decision to go out to competition in the Autumn of 2008 to select a Registered Social Landlord partner to deliver the Option approved above,

5) Members delegate to the Solicitor to the Council in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration (Strategy) the authority to agree the terms of the legal agreements,

6) Members be informed of the outcomes of Registered Social Landlord competition and the likelihood of capital receipt from Bolsover, Langwith Junction and New Houghton sites through a report to the Executive,

7) Members approve the temporary amendment of the Housing Allocations Policy to allow the award of 40 points to the secure tenants of Tarran Bungalows,

8) Members confirm the decision not to relet Tarran bungalows with the exception of short term, non-secure tenancies,

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9) Members approve the ending of all garage and garage plot agreements in all garage sites relevant to Tarran bungalow rehousing,

10) Members approve the cessation of letting of all accommodation in the Stratton Road area to enable a pool of voids to be created to allow people to move more quickly.

(Head of Housing / Head of Regeneration)

Reason for decision: **In order to resolve the issue of the construction of the Tarran Bungalows being not up to the Decent Homes standard and to provide suitable accommodation for the residents who currently live in Tarran Bungalows across the District.**

317. TENDER OPENING – TENDER FOR NEW HOUGHTON REGENERATION WORK EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

Five tenders for the above contract had been received before the deadline.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that 1) the Executive witness the opening of the tenders,

2) the tenders be passed to the Evaluation Team for final evaluation,

3) once evaluation has been completed, a Report for Information be submitted for Members.

Reason for decision: In order to secure the tender which gives the best value for money.

The date of final evaluation of the tenders would be 9th September 2008 at 1100 hours.

(Head of Shared Procurement / Head of Democratic Services)

Councillor Tomlinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item in respect of the receipt of a tender from Crestra Ltd (Groundwork Creswell) and left the meeting.

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318. TENDER OPENING – TENDER FOR CAVITY WALL AND LOFT INSULATION EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

Three tenders for the above contract had been received before the deadline.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that 1) the Executive witness the opening of the tenders,

2) the tenders be passed to the Evaluation Team for final evaluation,

3) once evaluation has been completed, a Report for Information be submitted for Members.

Reason for decision: In order to secure the tender which gives the best value for money.

(Head of Shared Procurement / Head of Democratic Services)

Councillor Tomlinson returned to the meeting.

319. TENDER UPDATES EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Head of Shared Procurement gave a verbal update to the meeting on the progress for tenders opened at the July and August meetings being uPVC doors, asbestos removal services and provision of security at Pleasley Vale Mills, respectively.

Members asked questions.

Moved and seconded that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 1215 hours.