

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday, 6th April 2009 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, A. Syrett and A.F. Tomlinson.

Officers:-

S. Tomlinson (Director of Strategy), K. Shillito (Principal Solicitor), D. Hill (Head of Finance), F. Bacon (Head of Revenue Services), P. Brown (Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager) (to Minute No. 865)), L. Khella (Consultant Programme Manager Chief Executive's and Partnership Team) (to Minute No. 865), L. Hickin (Leisure Operations Manager) (to Minute No. 866)), C. Hirst (Arts Development Officer) (to Minute No. 866)), P. Campbell (Head of Housing)(to Minute No. 867)), D. Eccles (Head of Regeneration) (for Minute No. 867)) and A. Bluff (Democratic Services Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting was M. Hankinson (Manager of the Family Employment Initiative, Coalfields Regeneration Trust) (to Minute No. 865)) and A. Humberstone (Cultural Consortium Ltd) (to Minute No. 866)).

860. APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer.

861. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

862. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

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863. MINUTES – 16TH MARCH 2009

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting held on 16th March 2009 be approved as a correct record.

864. WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND MONITORING REPORT AND FAMILY EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

The Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager presented the report.

The Consultant Programme Manager gave a progress report and financial update to the meeting and also sought Members approval to suspend contract standing orders 4.8.3 to enable a programme with Disability Dynamics Ltd to commence following a successful pilot.

Meg Hankinson, Manager of the Family Employment Initiative (FEI), from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) gave a slide presentation to the meeting regarding the work that has been carried out through the FEI.

Members asked questions and discussion took place.

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

RESOLVED that Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3 be suspended for the reasons given in the report in relation to Disability Dynamics Ltd.

(Chief Executive Officer / Chief Executive's & Partnership Manager)

Reason for decision: **To ensure that WNF is targeted to best effect and where needed and to ensure that the tendering process does not unjustifiably distort the result.**

The Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager, the Consultant Programme Manager and Meg Hankinson left the meeting.

865. A PUBLIC ART STRATEGY FOR BROOK PARK, SHIREBROOK, AND THE BOLSOVER DISTRICT

The Leisure Operations Manager presented a report to seek Members approval to adopt a Public Art Strategy for Brook Park, Shirebrook and the Bolsover District. The Public Art Strategy would include a revised public art policy and procedures for the management of public art. If approved, the Strategy would be reviewed annually and subject to a report to Executive on progress.

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Alan Humberstone from Cultural Consortium Ltd gave a slide presentation to the meeting entitled "What is Public Art?"

Councillor Kelly raised concern that Members were not involved in the early stages of the process of public art applications. He further raised concern regarding the internal charge for the project management fee which could be used for other arts projects in the community.

The Director of Strategy drew Members attention to the flow chart in the Public Art Strategy document which included consultation with Members before any consent was approved. With regard to the project management fee, he advised Members that there was a cost to the Authority in managing arts projects which is why a nominal fee of 5% was suggested; this still gave an additional 15% towards public art contributions, compared with previous arrangements with external contractors / organisations where the cost had been 20% to the Authority.

Further discussion took place and Members suggested that the table at Appendix 3, in the Public Art Strategy document, be amended to reflect Members involvement in the process of public art applications.

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

RESOLVED that 1) the Public Art Strategy for Brook Park, Shirebrook and the Bolsover District be approved,

2) the Leisure Operations Manager be granted delegated authority to make minor changes as necessary to the document in consultation with Director of Strategy and Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion,

3) the opportunity to levy a charge of 5% of the total project cost (thus leaving a 15% saving overall based on previous management arrangements) for internal project management fees be approved,

4) the flow chart in the Public Art Strategy document be amended to reflect Members involvement in the process of public art applications.

(Leisure Operations Manager / Arts Development Officer)

Reason for decision: **To adopt a Public Art Strategy for Brook Park, Shirebrook and the Bolsover District.**
To give approval for the Procurement of Public Art Management and Delivery.

The Leisure Operations Manager, the Arts Development Officer and Alan Humberstone left the meeting.

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866. RENT ARREARS – VERBAL UPDATE

The Head of Housing circulated information on area based targets in respect of housing rent arrears.

A total of 454 people were in rent arrears at the end of March 2008 compared to 382 at the end of March 2009. Rent arrears still continued to fall despite the general economic climate.

Members asked questions.

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor B. R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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

The Head of Housing left the meeting.

867. REPRESENTATION ON THE DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

The Directory of Strategy presented the report to seek Members approval of representation on behalf of the Authority at the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP).

From 1st April 2009 the membership would be extended to include representatives of the three North Eastern Derbyshire local authorities (Bolsover, North East Derbyshire and Chesterfield).

Further to a question raised by Councillor Bennett, the Head of Regeneration clarified that the representative on the DDEP board would have to be either the Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development (currently at Bolsover this was the Deputy Leader).

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr.
RESOLVED that the Board Member on DDEP is the Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet Member for Regeneration - this is to be at the Leader's discretion.

(Leader / Head of Regeneration)

The Head of Regeneration left the meeting.

Reason for decision: To ensure the Council is represented on an important regeneration body.

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868. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Director of Strategy presented the second annual report which gave an update to Members on progress with Risk Management.

Two new strategic risks had been identified as a result of the continuing global financial crisis; one in relation to Treasury Management and the second relating to possible failure of contractors engaged in work for the Council.

A revised Risk Management Register was appended to the report.

Members asked questions and discussion took place.

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

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(Director of Strategy)

Reason for decision: To provide Executive with Risk Management arrangements.

869. ARREARS – IRRECOVERABLE ITEMS OVER £1,000

The Head of Revenue Services presented the report to seek Members approval to write off outstanding debts, including costs amounting to £35,231.41 in respect of persons; unable to trace / bankrupt or companies in liquidation.

The Head of Revenue Services drew Members attention to the lead/liable name under account reference 90121772X, this should read Mr Kim Williams and not Mr Michael Philip Smith.

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

RESOLVED that the irrecoverable items including costs amounting to £35,231.41 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.

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

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A. Syrett

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

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Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

871. ARREARS IRRECOVERABLE ITEMS OVER £1,000 EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Head of Revenue Services presented the report to seek Members approval to write off irrecoverable items, including costs, amounting to £2,427.20 where the ratepayer has died or where the company has ceased to trade.

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr,
RESOLVED that the irrecoverable items, including costs, amounting to £2,427.20 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.

The meeting concluded at 1205 hours.