

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday, 7th September 2009 at 1005 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor E. Watts – Chair

Councillors K. Bowman, D. Kelly, D. McGregor, B.R. Murray-Carr, A. Syrett and A.F. Tomlinson.

Officers:-

W. Lumley (Chief Executive Officer), S.E.A. Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), S. Tomlinson (Director of Neighbourhoods), J. Brooks (Director of Resources), P. Campbell (Head of Housing) (to Minute No. 295), K. Drury (Customer Service and Access Officer (to Minute No. 295) B. Truswell (Head of Shared Procurement) (for Minute No.297 only), and R. Leadbeater (Democratic Services Officer).

287. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors J.E. Bennett and A.J. Hodkin.

288. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

289. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Minute No.	Councillor	Level of Interest
297	Councillor A.F. Tomlinson	Personal and Prejudicial
297	Councillor E. Watts	Personal

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290. MINUTES – 10TH AUGUST 2009

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 10th August 2009 be approved as a true record.

In response to questions, the Chair confirmed that no response had yet been received from Old Bolsover Town Council regarding maintenance of the Sherwood Street play area. The Chair agreed to contact the Chair of Old Bolsover Town Council directly to discuss the issue.

291. KEY DECISION NOTICES FROM THE JOINT BOARD – 21ST JULY 2009

A question was raised as to whether there was any Member involvement from Bolsover District Council with regard to the Procurement of Recyclable Waste Collection Services.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr

RESOLVED that Councillor D. Kelly attend the Joint Working Group set up to look at Procurement of Recyclable Waste Collection Services.

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

RESOLVED that the record of Key Decision Notices from the Joint Board held on 21st July 2009 be approved.

292. RENT ARREARS

The Head of Housing tabled a document detailing the current housing rent arrears and advised Members that there was little change from the previous month. Members' attention was drawn to a graph detailing the arrears trends and they were requested to note that the number of tenants in serious rent arrears over 20 weeks continued to fall consistently, however the number of tenants in minor arrears was increasing. It was intended to focus attention on these tenants to prevent the level of arrears becoming more serious. In response to questions, the Head of Housing advised that work needed to be carried out to identify the number of housing and other benefit claims that were pending to correctly ascertain the severity of the problem.

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293. FORMER TENANTS RENT ARREARS

The Head of Housing presented the report and draft Former Tenant's Rent Arrears Policy for consideration. It was added that the Authority needed to improve its performance standards in respect of arrears as rent owed by former tenants currently stood at over £500,000. The draft procedure introduced a more proactive approach than previously employed, whilst maintaining flexibility for individual cases.

Members requested that the policy refer to 'Former' tenants throughout.

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

RESOLVED that 1) the draft Former Tenants Rent Arrears Policy be adopted subject to the policy referring to 'Former' tenants throughout;

2) the Head of Housing, together with the Head of Shared Procurement identify and appoint a contractor to recover debt on a commission only basis.

Reason for decision: To have an approved policy on Former Tenants Rent Arrears.

294. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION POLICY

The Customer Service and Access Officer presented the report and Customer Satisfaction Policy for Members' consideration.

The purpose of the policy was to formalise the Council's approach to customer satisfaction by setting out a framework on the frequency and method of measuring customer satisfaction. Implementation of the policy would enable the Council to use the information to improve delivery of its services and provide good evidence for Customer Service Excellence.

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr

RESOLVED that the Customer Satisfaction Policy be approved.

Reason for decision: To have an approved policy on Customer Satisfaction and to implement the framework contained within.

The Customer Service and Access Officer and Head of Housing left the meeting.

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295. CHANGES TO THE IDOX UNIFORM SYSTEM

This item was deferred pending further investigation of resource issues.

The Head of Procurement joined the meeting.

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

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, 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.

Councillor A.F. Tomlinson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item and left the meeting.

Councillor E. Watts declared a personal interest in the following item.

297. TENDER OPENING – BOLSOVER INTERMEDIATE LABOUR MARKET PROGRAMME EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Head of Procurement advised Members that following the pre-qualification submission, two bidders had been invited to tender for the above contract and one had been received before the deadline.

In response to Members' questions, the Head of Procurement confirmed that the tender had been advertised nationally and the two tenders received were the only submissions that had indicated their ability to manage the project in its entirety.

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

RESOLVED that 1) the Executive witness the opening of the tenders,

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

3) a report for Members' information providing details of the tenders and evaluation process be submitted.

(Head of Shared Procurement)

Reason for Decision: In order to secure the lowest tender and best value for money in accordance with Standing Orders Contracts.

The date for final evaluation of the tenders would be confirmed to Members by the Head of Shared Procurement.

The meeting concluded at 1025 hours.