

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council held in Committee Room 1, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday, 1st February 2010 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 and A. Syrett.

Officers:-

W. Lumley (Chief Executive Officer), S. Tomlinson (Director of Neighbourhoods), J. Brooks (Director of Resources), S.E.A Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council), D. Hill (Head of Finance and Revenues), D. Eccles (Head of Regeneration), R. Henderson (Project Officer (Infrastructure)), L. Hickin (Head of Leisure)(to Minute No 667)), C. Hirst (Arts Development Officer) (to Minute No 667)), and A. Bluff (Democratic Services Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting were Keyna Paul (Chair of the Board, Junction Arts), Ami Aubrey (Communications and Admin Officer, Junction Arts) to Minute No 667, Trevor Witts (Executive Director, Groundwork Creswell) and Darren Pollard (Construction Manager) to Minute No 668.

660. APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor A.F. Tomlinson.

661. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

662. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Minute No	Member	Level of Interest
672	D. McGregor	2 Personal and Prejudicial

EXECUTIVE

663. MINUTES – 4th JANUARY 2010

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor D. Kelly
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 4th January 2010 be approved as a true record.

664. SPECIAL MINUTES – 13TH JANUARY 2010

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor E. Watts
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 4th January 2010 be approved as a true record.

665. COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS FOR THE PERIOD 1ST OCTOBER 2009 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2009

The Customer Service and Access Officer presented the report which gave breakdown detail of the number of compliments, comments, complaints, freedom of information and personal data requests for the period 1st October 2009 to 31st December 2009.

Members asked various questions.

Discussion took place regarding the cost of responding to Freedom of Information requests. Members were reminded that the Authority has a statutory obligation to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

As Portfolio Holder for Customer Focused Services, Councillor McGregor requested that for future reports, Members devise a list of questions they would like to ask prior to the meeting to enable the Customer Service and Access Officer to provide answers in more detail.

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor J.E. Bennett
RESOLVED that the report be received.

Reason for decision: To keep Members informed of volumes and trends regarding compliments, comments, complaints and freedom of information requests.

The Customer Service and Access Officer left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Bennett left the meeting during the following item.

EXECUTIVE

666. JUNCTIONS ARTS COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMME – 2ND STAGE PAYMENT 2009/10

Councillor Syrett introduced Keyna Paul, Chair of the Board at Junction Arts and Ami Aubrey, Communications and Admin Coordinator at Junctions Arts to the meeting.

As Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion, Councillor Syrett gave a brief statement to the meeting which acknowledged the problems the Authority had experienced with Junction Arts, including missed targets, lack of communication and high staff turnover. The release of the second stage funding was still being sought. In spite of these problems, Junction Arts had done some very good work. Councillor Syrett felt that there was an issue as to the suitability of their targets from the Council's point of view and that this needed looking at with Junction Arts. Keyna Paul and Ami Aubrey had only recently taken up employment with Junction Arts and Councillor Syrett felt there was now an opportunity for the Council to move forward with them.

The Head of Leisure added that he had met with Junction Arts last December to identify the problems referred to by Councillor Syrett and the meeting had been very positive.

Keyna Paul gave a slide presentation to the meeting on the review and transition of Junction Arts.

Members asked various questions and lengthy discussion took place.

Councillor Syrett suggested that recommendation two in the report be deferred to enable Junction Arts officers' time to present an improved plan to Executive, taking into consideration Members' comments.

Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett, and seconded.

RESOLVED that (1) the 2nd payment for 2009/10 totalling £9,900 to Junction Arts be released,

(2) approval of the proposed annual plan for 2010/11 be deferred to enable Junction Arts time to present an improved plan to Executive taking into consideration Members comments.

(Head of Leisure)

Reason for decision: To release the 2nd stage payment to Junction Arts.

Keyna Paul, Ami Aubrey, the Head of Leisure and the Arts Development Officer left the meeting at this point.

EXECUTIVE

Councillor Bennett returned to the meeting during the following item.

667. GROUNDWORK CRESWELL, ASHFIELD AND MANSFIELD CORE FUNDING, REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING 2009/10 AND PRESENTATION BY T. WITTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GROUNDWORK CRESWELL

The Head of Regeneration introduced a report to the meeting which stated that targets set for the previous years had been met by Groundwork Creswell who continued to work in key areas across the full span of the Council's Regeneration strategy.

Core funding of £18,000 had been allocated to Groundwork as part of the 2009/10 budget.

Groundwork Creswell were a key partner on the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative and directly employed several staff. They also played a significant role in developing funding bids in partnership with the Council and others across the Local Strategic Partnership.

Trevor Witts, Executive Director, gave a slide presentation to the meeting which outlined achievements for the previous year and proposed activity for 2010/2011.

Members asked questions.

Councillor Murray-Carr stated that he wished to express his thanks to Groundwork Creswell for work that he had been involved in with them.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor K. Bowman
RESOLVED that (1) the report and presentation be received,

(2) payment for 2009/10 totalling £18,000 be released to Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield & Mansfield.

(Head of Regeneration)

Reason for decision: To release the payment to Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield & Mansfield in accordance with the service level agreement.

Trevor Witts and Darren Pollard left the meeting at this point.

EXECUTIVE

668. WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUND – SUSPENSION OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Watts presented a report to seek Members' approval to suspend contract standing orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 to enable the delivery of an education programme within schools which would encompass a preventative model for teenage pregnancy.

The proposed management arrangements would involve Derbyshire County PCT, Public Health being the lead commissioner with responsibility for overseeing and commissioning delivery through sub-contracting arrangements as appropriate.

Moved by Councillor J.E. Bennett, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that Contract Standing Orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 be suspended to enable the delivery of an education programme within schools which would encompass a preventative model for teenage pregnancy.

(Chief Executive's and 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.

669. ARREARS - IRRECOVERABLE ITEMS OF £1,000

Councillor Syrett presented the report to seek Members approval to write off outstanding debts, including costs, amounting to £40,098.16 in respect of persons unable to trace/bankrupt or companies in liquidation.

Members asked questions.

Moved by Councillor A.M. Syrett, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that the irrecoverable items including costs amounting to £40,098.16 be written off with the proviso that should any of the debts become collectable the amounts be re-debited.

(Head of Finance and Revenues)

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

EXECUTIVE

670. BUDGET REPORTS

Councillor Watts introduced the four budget reports.

Conferences 2010/11

The Director of Resources presented a list of conferences for the 2010/11 financial year to the meeting. If approved, Members were requested that nominations for attendees be provided to Human Resources as soon as possible.

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that (1) attendance at the conferences listed for the 2010/2011 financial year be approved,

(2) nominations be made to attend the conferences listed and forwarded to Human Resources/Payroll as soon as possible to facilitate booking processes.

(Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: **By restricting attendance at conferences to those which would give benefit to the Authority's business, the best value for money for the Authority was ensured.**

General Fund Budget Sensitivity Analysis and Risk Assessment

The Director of Resources reminded Members that they had approved the main elements of the General Fund budget at Executive on 4th January 2010. Aspects that supported the assessment of that budget had now taken place and the report detailed Sensitivity Analysis and Risk Assessment.

Sensitivity Analysis

The main areas of spend were related to Treasury Management and Energy.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment had been produced for Revenue / Capital and this was appended to the report.

An additional risk had been added relating to Tarran Bungalows. Procedures were in place to protect the Council's financial position.

EXECUTIVE

Councillor Watts stated that in future this would be a regular item on the Joint Cabinet / Senior Management Team agenda.

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

RESOLVED that (1) the sensitivity analysis for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account be approved and reported to Scrutiny,

(2) the risk assessment for revenue budgets (the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account) and the capital budget be approved and reported to Scrutiny.

(Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: The budgets approved at January's meeting of the Executive need to be proven to be robust to ensure the Council's objectives can be resourced.

Housing Revenue Account Fees and Charges 2010/11

The Director of Resources referred to rent increases for 2010/11 which were detailed in the report. The average weekly rent per dwelling would be £63.03 based on 48 weeks.

Heating costs would be brought into line over a ten year period.

It was proposed to increase fees for special services, lifelines and garages. Charges for buggy parking were new and reflect the developments at sheltered schemes that the Council has made.

A table giving details of the summary of charges was included in the report.

Approval of these charges would add £90,000 income to the budget for the Housing Revenue Account.

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

RESOLVED that (1) the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget for 2010/11 be approved,

(2) the proposed charges in respect of garages, garage plots, heating, special services, lifeline and warden services be agreed and recommended to Council,

EXECUTIVE

(3) charging for buggy parking be introduced for 2010/11,

(4) consultation with tenants with district heating takes place to inform the setting of future fees and charges.

(Head of Housing / Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: The Council is required to consider increasing the level of the working balance.

General Fund Budget Update

As requested by Members at the Executive meeting on 4th January 2010, the Director of Resources presented further information in relation to the General Fund budget.

The report addressed the Collection Fund deficit, Planning income levels and associated costs and Bulky Waste income levels. The new Head of Service for Planning and Environmental Health would start soon and his comments would be taken into consideration.

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that (1) the Collection Fund deficit be added to the budget and the savings target for 2010/11 be increased to reflect this.

(2) future reports be presented to Executive in the first quarter of 2010/11 considering Planning fees and associated costs,

(3) future reports be presented to Executive in the first quarter of 2010/11 considering Bulky Waste income and resourcing requirements.

(Director of Resources)

Reason for decision: The budgets approved at January's meeting of the Executive were subject to further information being supplied and suitable plans agreed.

EXECUTIVE

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

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

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 McGregor declared a level 2 Personal and Prejudicial interest in the following item and left the meeting.

672. ARREARS - IRRECOVERABLE ITEMS OF £1,000 EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 3

Councillor Syrett presented the report to seek Members approval to write off outstanding debts, including costs, amounting to £51,384.93 in respect of accounts where the ratepayer has ceased to trade.

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

RESOLVED that the irrecoverable items including costs amounting to £51,384.93 be written off with the proviso that should any of the debts become collectable the amounts be re-debited.

(Head of Finance and Revenues)

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

Councillor McGregor returned to the meeting.

EXECUTIVE

673. SHIREBROOK DEVELOPMENT BRIEFS EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 3

A development brief had been produced by Broadway Malyan and other partners working together with the Authority to take forward the regeneration of Shirebrook Town Centre.

The Head of Regeneration and the Project Officer (Infrastructure) jointly presented the report to make Members aware of the preferred option identified in the development brief which would form the basis of future discussions with potential development partners.

674. LUNCHTIME ADJOURNMENT

The time being 1230 hours, consideration was given as to whether the day's business could be concluded by 1400 hours.

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor J.E. Bennett
RESOLVED that the meeting continue.

673. CONTINUED SHIREBROOK DEVELOPMENT BRIEFS EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 3

The Project Officer (Infrastructure) gave a slide presentation of the development brief document.

Members asked questions and lengthy discussion took place.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that (1) the development briefs document be endorsed and support be given to engagement with appropriate partners in order to seek to facilitate the regeneration of Shirebrook town centre and adjoining area,

(2) contract standing orders 4.8.3, 4.8.4, 4.8.5 and 4.8.6 be suspended for the reasons outlined in the body of the report in appointing Cushman and Wakefield as the Council's consultants in the development process,

(3) the Council seeks suitable external legal advice through the appropriate tendering method,

EXECUTIVE

(4) a budget be established from general reserves of £75,000 to fund the next stage of the development process.

(Head of Regeneration / Head of Procurement / Solicitor to the Council)

Reason for decision: **To enable strategic sustainable regeneration of Shirebrook town centre and adjoining area.**

The meeting concluded at 1250 hours.