

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of Bolsover District Council held in Committee Room One, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday 6th February 2012 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Councillor E. Watts – Chair

Members:-

Councillors D. Kelly, D. McGregor, A.M. Syrett and A.F. Tomlinson.

Officers:-

W. Lumley (Chief Executive Officer), P. Hackett (Director of Health and Well Being), B. Mason (Director of Corporate Resources), S. Tomlinson (Director of Neighbourhoods), S.E.A. Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), J. Foley (Head of Customer Service and Performance) (to minute no. 858), K. Drury (Customer Service and Access Officer) (to minute no. 857) and R. Leadbeater (Democratic Services Officer).

852. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors K. Bowman and B.R. Murray-Carr.

853. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

854. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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855. MINUTES – 9TH JANUARY 2012

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 9th January 2012 be approved as a true record.

856. COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

The Customer Service and Access Officer presented the report to inform Members of the number of compliments, comments, complaints and Freedom of Information requests received for the period 1st October to 31st December 2011.

There had been an increase in informal complaints from the previous period in relation to missed bin collections. The number of stage two and three complaints had reduced slightly. All stages of complaints had been responded to within the customer service standard.

Members asked questions to which the Customer Service and Access Officer responded. Members were pleased to note that the adverse comments in respect of the introduction of the alternate weekly bin collection were minimal.

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

857. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS APRIL - DECEMBER 2011 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Head of Customer Service and Performance presented the report to update Members on the performance against the Council's 2011-2015 Corporate Plan for the period April to December 2011.

Members were advised that the three Scrutiny Committees had considered the reports and were pleased to note that most targets were currently on track.

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In response to questions, the Director of Neighbourhoods advised that text messaging for repairs appointments had been successfully introduced from the beginning of February 2012.

Moved by Councillor D. Kelly, seconded by Councillor E. Watts
RESOLVED that the report be received.

REASON FOR DECISION: **To provide Executive with an update on the performance of the Corporate Plan 2011-15.**

The Head of Customer Service and Performance left the meeting.

858. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Director of Corporate Resources presented the report to seek Members' approval of the Medium Term Financial Plan, incorporating the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme.

Members were advised that a balanced budget had been formulated with ambitious savings targets to achieve. A number of key projects were currently in progress with the objective of securing further savings and capital receipts. Monitoring of the financial plan would be ongoing with regular reports on progress being presented to Executive. It was added that the budget had been prepared to protect current service provision and Members would be required to consider this in further detail to determine how the Council's future priorities should be set.

In response to Members' questions in respect of specific budgets, the Director of Corporate Resources agreed to provide further detail.

The Director of Neighbourhoods noted that provision for the replacement of Swingo roadside cleaning vehicles was not included in the capital programme. Following lengthy discussion, Members concluded that continuation of the service should be considered a budget priority. The Director of Corporate Resources advised Members of the various options available for replacement of the vehicles and agreed to incorporate this within the report to the 15th February Council meeting and provide a more detailed report to Members at the March meeting.

Members thanked the Director of Corporate Resources for an excellent report.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that (1) the view of the Chief Financial Officer that the estimates included in the Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15 are

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robust and that the level of financial reserves whilst at minimum levels are adequate be accepted.

(2) Officers be required to report back to Executive and to the Audit Committee on at least a quarterly basis regarding the overall position in respect of the Council's budgets, these reports to include updates on progress in achieving the range of identified efficiencies necessary to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the 2012/13 financial year.

- **GENERAL FUND**

(3) No Council Tax increase is levied for the financial year 2012/13 based on the proposed Government grant compensation arrangements and this recommendation is submitted for approval by the Council at its meeting on 1st March 2012.

(4) Executive recommends to Council (at its meeting on 15th February 2012) the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the General Fund as set out in **Appendix 1 Table 1** of the General Fund report and agrees the Revised Budget 2011/12 with a budget requirement of £10,891,159 together with the original budget for 2012/13 with a budget requirement of £11,136,390 as detailed in **Appendix 1 Table1**.

(5) Officers continue to work towards delivering a balanced budget in respect of 2011/12, and continue to progress the implementation of measures designed to secure a balanced budget in respect of 2012/13.

(6) In order to protect the level of General Fund balances it is recommended that an amount of capital expenditure of up to £1m currently planned to be funded from transition grant is charged against the Council's capital programme, with this expenditure to be supported if necessary by prudential borrowing pending the achievement of sufficient capital receipts to fund this work. That this recommendation be taken forward as part of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy which will be considered by Council on 1st March 2012.

(7) Executive agrees to restore the level of General Fund balances as at April 2012 to one of £1.2m by utilising the Transition Grant to be received by the Council in respect of 2012/13.

(8) Officers be required to report back to Executive and Audit Committee on at least a quarterly basis regarding the overall

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position in respect of the budget, these reports to include updates on progress in implementing the efficiencies necessary to achieve a balanced budget by the end of 2011/12.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

RECOMMENDED that (9) Executive introduces the Government recommended rent increases with effect from 4th April 2012. The recommended increase will bring about an average increase in rents of some 9%. However, the actual percentages will vary depending on the type of property.

(10) The increases in respect of other charges as outlined in Appendix 2 Table 3 of the Housing Revenue Account report be implemented with effect from 2nd April 2012.

(11) The Housing Revenue Account as set out in **Appendix 2 Table 1** of the report be approved as the Revised Budget in respect of 2010/11 and as the Original Budget in respect of 2011/12.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

RECOMMENDED that (12) The Capital Programme for 2010/11 to 2013/14 as set out in **Appendix 3 Table 1** of the report be approved.

(13) Officers incorporate within the Treasury Management Strategy that will be considered by Council on 1st March 2012 any proposed use of borrowing or leasing arrangement to secure the acquisition of assets.

REASON FOR DECISION: **That Members consider and approve the Medium Term Financial Plan, Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account and recommend them to Council.**

(Director of Corporate Resources)

The meeting concluded at 1105 hours.