

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of Bolsover District Council held in Committee Room One, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday 30th April 2012 at 1000 hours.

PRESENT:-

Councillor A.F. Tomlinson – In the Chair

Members:-

Councillors K. Bowman, D. McGregor, B.R. Murray-Carr and A. M. Syrett.

Officers:-

S. Tomlinson (Director of Neighbourhoods), P. Hackett (Director of Health and Well Being), B. Mason (Director of Corporate Resources), S.E.A. Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council), P. Campbell (Head of Housing) (to minute no. 1110), N. Etches (Projects Officer, Policy and Research) and R. Leadbeater (Democratic Services Officer).

Observer:-

A. Derby (Work Experience) (to minute no 1107).

1102. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors D. Kelly and E. Watts and W. Lumley (Chief Executive Officer).

1103. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

1104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

| Minute No. | Councillor | Level of Interest |
|------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1106. | K. Bowman | Personal |

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1105. MINUTES – 2ND APRIL 2012

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 2nd April 2012 be agreed as a true record.

1106. HOUSING DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY REPORT

The Head of Housing presented the report to update Members on Housing Department services.

Work had been undertaken with other Derbyshire authorities in respect of the tender for the Supporting People contract for mobile warden services. This was expected to be issued shortly and initial feedback had so far been positive.

Members discussed future arrangements for the Supporting People contract for Alarm Monitoring at considerable length. Questions were raised in respect of the business case, including the financial implications of the purchase of new monitoring equipment and potential changes in staffing levels. The Head of Housing advised Members that should the contract be awarded to the Bolsover consortium, all related costs would be assumed by Supporting People and staffing levels would be reviewed in line with the terms of the Supporting People contract.

The Head of Housing drew Members' attention to the report detailing year end figures for former and current tenant rent arrears, recovery and legal actions carried out, repairs and customer satisfaction. Members acknowledged the reduction in rent arrears and interventions by Housing and requested clarity on the amount of the reduction that was as a result of write offs. It was also requested that the Head of Housing provide the arrears report broken down by areas. It was confirmed that repairs had been carried out within targets.

There had been deterioration in the level of service from the current providers of tracing and recovery services. It was proposed that Procurement be requested to look at other options for presentation to Executive at a future date.

Members raised concerns with regard to public awareness of the Choice Based Lettings system and the accessibility of the service for those people without internet access. The Head of Housing advised Members that lettings information was provided in a variety of ways including via Contact Centres and Parish Councils and that an automatic bidding service was available on request. Members would be provided with a list of Parish Councils in receipt of the Choice Based Lettings information.

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Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that Members note the performance of the Housing Service

REASON FOR DECISION: **To update Members on the progress of key services.**

(Head of Housing)

1107. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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

1108. FORMER TENANT ARREARS – WRITE OFFS EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 2

The Head of Housing presented the report to seek Members' approval to write off irrecoverable debts. Members' attention was drawn to the schedule included in the agenda.

Brief discussion took place on the use of Council properties by third party organisations.

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that (1) Members agree to write off former tenant arrears as detailed in the schedule to the report.

(2) in accordance with policy, these debts may be written back on if further evidence becomes available, without the need for a further report.

REASON FOR DECISION: **To write off debts that are deemed irrecoverable.**

(Head of Housing/ Director of Corporate Resources)

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1109. SOLAR PV RENT A ROOF SCHEME – WIDER CONSIDERATIONS AND TENDER EVALUATION EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Director of Neighbourhoods presented the report to advise Members of the outcome of a tendering exercise. Tenders had been invited under an OJEU framework arrangement for a project to provide solar photovoltaic panels to Council housing properties on a rent-a-roof basis. Only one tender was received before the specified deadline.

The bid was evaluated on a cost and quality basis and was determined to be of limited benefit to the Authority. It was therefore recommended not to accept the tender and to seek Members' views on the next steps to be taken.

The Director of Neighbourhoods advised Members that it was understood that a nearby local authority had opted to self finance. However this option would significantly reduce the amount of residual funds available in the "borrowing headroom" of the Housing Revenue Account. It was added that Council had previously taken a decision not to proceed with a scheme involving self financing the Council's commercial premises and group dwellings.

Members discussed the issue at considerable length. It was suggested that information was required in respect of the number of properties that had an appropriate south facing orientation and were in a suitable structural condition. The Director of Neighbourhoods advised that there were currently no staff dedicated to this type of project, the Climate Change Group had been suspended and it would impact upon available staff and financial resources as roof surveys would be required. Senior Alliance Management Team was requested to provide a report for consideration by Executive suggesting options to take the project forward. .

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that (1) the tender from Evo Energy not be accepted;

(2) Senior Alliance Management Team be requested to provide a report for consideration by Executive suggesting options to take the project forward.

(Director of Neighbourhoods)

REASON FOR DECISION: To allow further consideration of potential options.

The Head of Housing left the meeting.

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**1110. TENDER EVALUATION OUTCOME – MARKETING AND
BRANDING CONSULTANCY SERVICES, SHIREBROOK
ENTERPRISE CENTRE
EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3**

The Projects Officer, Policy and Research, presented the report to advise Members of the outcome of a tender evaluation exercise for marketing and branding services for the Shirebrook Enterprise Centre.

Nine responses were received before the deadline and were evaluated on a cost and quality basis. Of these, three companies were invited to interview.

Following evaluation of the bids, it was recommended that the contract be awarded to Abstrakt Creative on the basis of best value.

Moved by Councillor A.F. Tomlinson, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that the contract be awarded to Abstrakt Creative on the basis of a specific contract running from appointment (expected 14th May 2012) to 31st December 2012 with no option to extend.

REASON FOR DECISION: **In order to secure the tender which gives
the best value for money**

(Projects Officer, Policy and Research)

The meeting concluded at 1135 hours.