

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th April, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:-

Councillor S. G. Flower - Chairman

Councillor A. A. J. Clarke - Vice-Chairman

Present: Councillors M. C. Birr, D. B. F. Burt, Mrs L. J. Clark, Mrs Q. N. D. Comfort, Mrs J. Dover, M. R. Dyer, Mrs G. S. Elliot, Mrs A. Holland, Mrs P. A. Hymers, J. E. Little, Mrs B. T. Manuel, D. G. L. Packer, Mrs P. A. Reynolds, G. W. Russell and D. J. Wallace.

Also in Attendance: Councillors I. J. Monks, D. Morgan, T. J. Palmer, M. G. Simper and S. S. Tong.

572. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S. C. Hearn.

573. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made on this occasion.

574. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th March, 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

575. Presentations by the Public

There were no questions, petitions or deputations received on this occasion.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

576. Reference from the Performance and Resources, Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub Committee - Draft Interim Corporate Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to agree that the draft Interim Corporate Plan 2009-2010 be submitted to full Council for adoption and be published as part of a Corporate Performance Plan 2009/10.

RECOMMENDED that:-

(a) the Interim Corporate Plan 2009-2010 be adopted; and

(b) the Plan be published as part of a Corporate Performance Plan 2009/10

Voting: Unanimous

577. Reference from the Performance and Resources, Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee - Joint Participation Strategy for Dorset

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to agree that the Joint Participation Strategy be submitted to full Council for adoption and the principles thereof and action plan be incorporated within the Council's consultation and engagement framework.

RECOMMENDED that:-

(a) the draft Strategy be adopted; and

(b) the principles of the Strategy and action plan be incorporated within the Council's consultation and engagement framework.

Voting: Unanimous

578. Review of the Lead Member Reports

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to review the benefit of continuing with the Lead Member Reports in the current format.

RECOMMENDED that the current procedure for Lead Member Reports be discontinued and the Lead Members highlight key matters as and when they arise through the Members Brief.

Voting: Nem. Con. (1 abstention)

579. Consideration of late items

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider reviewing the current procedure by which Committees receive late items marked 'to follow' on agendas.

RECOMMENDED that;

(a) Items marked 'to follow' on an agenda are circulated in hard copy no later than 3 working days prior to a Committee Meeting; and

(b) the Constitution be amended to reflect this as set out in paragraph 8.1 of the report.

Voting: Unanimous

580. Reference Reports from the Audit Committee

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'E' to

these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider various requests from the Audit Committee.

RECOMMENDED that;

- a) **the Financial Regulations and Financial Procedures as set out in Appendix 1 of the report are supported;**
- b) **the Head of Benefits and Revenues Services to write off debts of up to £500; and that;**
- c) **the changes to the Constitution as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be supported.**

Voting: Unanimous

DELEGATED BUSINESS

581. Report into the Management and Funding of Council-Owned Buildings in East Dorset

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'F' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Councillor S. S. Tong, Chairman of the Community and Culture Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee who had led the inquiry into the Management and Funding of Council-Owned Buildings in East Dorset provided Members with an overview of the report.

In addition to this Members were advised that at their meeting on the 6th April, 2009 the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee had unanimously agreed that this report be forwarded to the Policy and Resources Committee subject to a minor amendment in relation to recommendation (h), which was included with the minutes of that meeting.

The Policy and Resources Committee commended Councillor Tong and the other Members of the Sub-Committee for all of their hard work, and for presenting a very thorough report.

RESOLVED that Members accept the report into the Funding of Community Facilities.

Voting: Unanimous

582. Report into the Review of Pest Control Charges in East Dorset.

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'G' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Councillor M. G. Simper, Chairman of the Environment, Health and Housing Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee who had led the inquiry into the Review of Pest Control Charges in East Dorset provided Members with an overview of the report.

In addition to this Members were advised that at their meeting on the 6th

April, 2009 the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee had unanimously agreed that this report be forwarded to the Policy and Resources Committee for their consideration.

The Policy and Resources Committee thanked Councillor Simper and the other Members of the Sub-Committee for all of their hard work carried out in preparation of the report.

Considerable discussion took place in relation to the implications of charging for pest control services as required to deal with rats and mice. In particular Members felt that it would not be appropriate to charge for dealing with the issue of rats.

RESOLVED that Members accept the report into Pest Control Charges in East Dorset subject to any proposals relating to charges being considered as part of the budget process for 2010/2011.

Voting: Unanimous

583. Report into the Review of Planning Enforcement in East Dorset

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'H' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Councillor T. J. Palmer, Chairman of the Performance and Resources Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee who had led the inquiry into the Review of Planning Enforcement in East Dorset provided Members with an overview of the report.

In addition to this Members were advised that at their meeting on the 6th April, 2009 the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee had unanimously agreed that this report be forwarded to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration subject to an amendment in relation to recommendation (b) (ii), which was included within the minutes of that meeting, and which Councillor Palmer read out to Members.

The Policy and Resources Committee thanked Councillor Palmer and the other Members of the Sub-Committee for all of their hard work, in drafting the report and recommendations.

Discussion took place in relation to potential issues which could be experienced through the production of a list of enforcement across the district being provided to all Members and Town and Parish Councils, however Members felt that it is important to keep ward Members as informed as possible, and that this should be taken into consideration.

RESOLVED that Members accept the report into Planning Enforcement.

Voting: Unanimous

584. Consultants Report on Future Management of the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'I' to

these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Jill Franks, from the Institute of Sport and Recreation Management (ISRM) provided Members with a power point presentation on their Report on the Future Management Options for Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre.

Members were requested to consider and comment on the management options contained within the report.

RESOLVED that;

(a) the report be accepted; and

(b) the ISRM be retained subject to budgetary constraints to work with the Council to implement the recommendations contained within their report.

Voting: (a) Unanimous and (b) Nem. Con. (4 Abstentions)

585. Review of the Furzehill Cash Office

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'J' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider the review of the level of service provided by the Furzehill cash office.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee defer any decision on the future of the cash office until Autumn 2009.

Voting: 13:2

586. Children and Young Person's Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'K' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to approve the draft Children and Young Person's Strategy in order that it may be distributed for public consultation.

RESOLVED that the draft Children and Young Person's Strategy as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report be distributed for public consultation and a final draft be brought back to this committee for adoption at a later date.

Voting: Unanimous

587. Action Plans for Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset.

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'L' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to approve the Action Plans that describe the implementation of the Policies contained within the Municipal Waste Strategy for Dorset.

RESOLVED that the Action Plans attached at Appendix 1 be

approved.

Voting: Unanimous

588. To authorise the production of a County-wide Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'M' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider the need for a joint Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Development Plan Document.

RESOLVED that;

(a) the arrangements for preparing and adopting the DPD be noted.

(b) Members agree to the DPD being progressed through joint working with other Local Authorities in Dorset and being steered by a Members Group comprising a member drawn from each Local Authority, and that this Council's representative be Lead Member on Environment.

Voting: Nem. Con. (1 Abstention)

589. Reference from the Audit Committee - Business Continuity Policy

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'N' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider a request from the Audit Committee to recommend a Business Continuity Policy.

RESOLVED that the Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to this report be approved.

Voting: Unanimous

590. Reference from the Audit Committee - External Auditor's Management Letter 2007/08

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'O' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider the External Auditor's management letter.

RESOLVED that the External Auditor's management letter be noted.

Voting: Unanimous

With the agreement of the Chairman the following report at Minute No. 591 was referred by the Grants Sub-Committee from their meeting held on the 7th April, 2009. This report was brought before the Committee in addition to the business on the agenda as a matter of urgency, and in order to enable the project to progress within

timescales.

591. Reference from the Grants Sub-Committee

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member prior to the Committee meeting as an urgent item and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'P' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to consider a reference from the Grants Sub-Committee in relation to the Leigh Park Community Building Project.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee support the application for financial assistance to the Leigh Park Community Building Project as detailed in 5.2 (b) of the report.

Voting: Unanimous

The meeting ended at 1.28 p.m.

CHAIRMAN