

**EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th October, 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 J. Dover, M. R. Dyer, Mrs G. S. Elliot, S. C. Hearn, Mrs A. Holland, Mrs P. A. Hymers, J. E. Little, Mrs B. T. Manuel, D. G. L. Packer, G. W. Russell, S. S. Tong and D. J. Wallace.

Also in attendance: Councillors P. G. Bennett, I. J. Monks and M. G. Simper.

318. Apology for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs P. Reynolds.

319. Declarations of Interest

Councillors M. C. Birr and D. B. F. Burt declared personal interests in Minute No. 325 and remained present.

Mr N. Farmer (Head of Community Services) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 327 and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor D. B. F. Burt declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 330 and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillors Mrs J. Dover, S. G. Flower and P. G. Bennett (Non-Member) declared a personal interest in Minute No. 330 and remained present.

320. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September, 2009 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

321. Presentations by the Public

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

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

322. Medium Term Financial Strategy

A report was submitted to Committee, 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.

An overview was provided by the Head of Financial Services on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. Following discussion the

Committee was requested to agree the recommendations.

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (a) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved; and**
- (b) a savings plan is developed that will be reported to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.**

Voting: Nem. Con. (5 abstentions)

323. Revised Children and Young Persons Strategy

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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.

The Head of Community Services provided an overview to the Policy and Resources Committee and Members were requested to adopt the Children and Young Persons Strategy.

**RECOMMENDED that the Children and Young Persons Strategy be approved.**

Voting: Unanimous

324. Review by the Environment, Health and Housing SPD Sub-Committee into Flooding and Emergency Planning

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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.

The Chairman of the Environment, Health and Housing Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee provided the Committee with an overview on flooding and emergency planning in East Dorset.

Following discussion Members requested that the progress of the recommendations contained within the report be reported to the appropriate Committee, at a later date.

It was confirmed by the Head of Technical Services that since the report had been published the Tactical Flood Management Plan, as well as the draft Operational Response Plan for flooding had been issued. Both were due to be adopted in the next month.

Members were requested to agree the report into Flooding and Emergency Planning.

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (a) the conclusions are noted;**
- (b) the proper updating and completion of the Major Emergency Plan should be monitored by the Audit Committee;**
- (c) the provision of support by East Dorset to the flood element in the Emergency Response Plan should be exercised and level of supplies checked;**
- (d) East Dorset should ask the Environment Agency to re-examine**

**flood defences in the District in the light of recent climate changes;**

- (e) East Dorset should re-issue the bulletin giving advice and help to residents to protect their families and homes; and**
- (f) an update on the progress of the recommendations contained within the report be reported to the relevant Committee.**

Voting: Unanimous

325. Policies for the Council's Community Building Stock

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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.

An overview was provided by the Head of Community Services on the policies for the Council's Community Building Stock. Members were requested to approve the policies contained within the report.

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (a) Officers prepare a draft policy for approval to reflect concerns in Appendix 1, including the rationalisation of the community building stock; and**
- (b) in the meantime, in budget setting an allocation of capital and grant finance, regard be given to the concerns and priorities reflected in Appendix 1.**

Voting: Unanimous

(Councillor M. C. Birr and D. B. F Burt declared a personal interest in this item and remained present.)

326. Schedule of Meetings 2010/2011

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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.

The Committee was recommended to agree East Dorset District Council's Schedule of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2010/2011.

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (a) the Schedule of Meetings for 2010/2011, as set out in paragraph 6 of the report be adopted; and**
- (b) meetings of the Standards Committee, Sub-Committees and Consultative Groups be set as suggested in paragraphs 5.2, and 5.3 of the report.**

Voting: Nem. Con.

327. Extension to the Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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.

The Policy and Resources Committee was requested to agree the extension of the Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework for both a temporary three-month period and publication of a public consultation document for a formal two-year extension.

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (a) Members approve the draft Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework for public consultation to cover the period from April 2010 to December 2011; and**
- (b) approval is given to an extension to the existing Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework 2006-2009 until the end of March 2010 to ensure there is continuity in heathland policies.**

Voting: Unanimous

(Mr N. Farmer (Head of Community Services) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon.)

328. Pathfinder Future Direction

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.

Members were requested to consider the Council's position on the future direction of Pathfinder. Following comprehensive discussion the Chief Executive reiterated that the Pathfinder cluster was an ambitious and innovative project.

**RECOMMENDED that:-**

- (a) District officer and service structures in a two 'cluster model' are combined with a Joint Management Team and Officer structure to manage services for Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset District Council & North Dorset District Council, and a second Management Team and Officer structure covering the southerly districts of Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council & Weymouth & Portland Borough Council;**
- (b) a single ICT strategy is created and options are developed for combining ICT delivery organisations across all 7 authorities; shared procurement function and whole public service approach to asset management;**
- (c) integration of other back-office support services on a cluster basis is pursued as a first step, in a way that allows for the possibility of convergence on at least a county-wide basis in due course, with a particular focus on developing the potential for integrating HR support services and policies;**
- (d) Business Cases signify significant efficiency savings are**

achievable by integrating services across all 7 Councils, this should be pursued (as in Waste Services for example);

- (e) whilst separate Council Member structures and organisational identities will continue, present a single public service at the point that our users access our services; and
- (f) implementation should be driven forward as a unified pathfinder programme in order for significant efficiencies to be made available for the 2011/12 budget.

Voting: Nem. Con. (4 abstentions)

329. Governance Arrangements for the Proposed Revenues and Benefits Partnership

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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.

Following on from an overview by the Head of Financial Services, Members were requested to establish a framework for governing the proposed revenues and benefits shared service between East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council and Christchurch Borough Council.

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- (a) subject to counsel's opinion the Council enters into a Collaboration Agreement with Christchurch Borough Council and North Dorset District Council for the future shared delivery of services in the form as set out in the report;
- (b) subject to (a) being agreed, the Council establish a joint committee with Christchurch Borough Council and North Dorset District Council, such joint committee to be known as the Stour Valley Partnership Joint Committee and to have duties and powers set out in the Collaboration Agreement;
- (c) the Policy and Resources Committee nominate three Members to be representatives on the Joint Committee for the East Dorset District Council (Leader of Council, Deputy Leader of Council and Opposition Leader of Council), along with two substitutes; and
- (d) until such time as the Joint Committee is formally constituted that these Members represent East Dorset District Council on any Member project board established for the project.

Voting: Nem. Con. (2 abstentions)

**DELEGATED BUSINESS**

330. Minerals Extraction - Update

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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.

An update was provided by the Policy Planning Officer on mineral extraction in East Dorset.

Following agreement by the Committee the Ward Member for Stour, Councillor P. G. Bennett, addressed Members on concerns which had been raised regarding proposals to extract sand and gravel from land to the east of Sturminster Marshall. Circulated to the Committee was a map of Sturminster Marshall identifying the proposed extraction site, its proximity to the Cranborne Chase AONB and to the village, a copy of which appears as Appendix 'J' to these Minutes in the Minute Book. Additional concerns were raised regarding highways and potentially increased flooding in the area. Circulated as Appendix 'K' was a photograph of the 1979 flooding in the same area as the proposed extractions, a copy of which appears in the Minute Book. Councillor Bennett requested that the Committee make strong objections against the proposals for extraction at Sturminster Marshall.

Moving on to the proposed Clump Hill, Three Legged Cross site Members requested that a guarantee be provided that the sensitive archaeological features should not be disturbed. Concern was also raised regarding an increase in the number of vehicle movements in West Moors which could be caused by the proposal.

**RESOLVED that the:-**

- (a) Council should object to the proposals to extract sand and gravel from land to the east of Sturminster Marshall; and**
- (b) Policy and Resources Committee's comments on the proposal at Clump Hill, Three Legged Cross be forwarded to Dorset County Council.**

Voting: Unanimous.

(Councillor D. B. F. Burt declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon.)

(Councillor Mrs J. Dover, S. G. Flower and P. G. Bennett (Non-Member) declared a personal interest in this item and remained present.)

331. Development of a Community Profile

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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 agree the report into the Development of a Community Profile for East Dorset.

**RESOLVED that Members agreed the report into the Development of a Community Profile.**

Voting: Nem. Con. (1 abstention).

332. Dorset Procurement

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 agree the Detailed Business Case for Dorset Procurement which would provide a joint procurement service for Dorset Pathfinder Councils, led by Dorset County Council.

**RESOLVED that:**

- (a) **the detailed Business Case for Dorset Procurement be adopted;**
- (b) **the Council's financial contribution as set out above and in the Business Case be approved;**
- (c) **governance arrangements as set out in the Business Case and the Issues Log be adopted;**
- (d) **the Issues and Risk Logs be noted; and**
- (e) **the Council commits to the full 'buy-in' of procurement projects as identified by the Pathfinder Liaison Panel.**

Voting: Unanimous

333. Reference from the Information and Communications Technology (I.C.T.) Working Party

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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 to support the Government Connect Acceptable Usage Policy and Personal Commitment Statement.

**RESOLVED that the Government Connect Acceptable Usage Policy and Personal Commitment Statement be approved.**

Voting: Unanimous

334. Exclusion of Press and Public

**RESOLVED that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted it is likely that if members of the public were present during the following item there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as described in the category indicated and they be therefore excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.**

**DELEGATED BUSINESS**

335. Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre - Leasing of Fitness Equipment

Exempt Information - Category 3 (Personal, financial or business affairs)

A report was submitted to the Committee, 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 approve the tender to supply fitness equipment at the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre.

The meeting ended at 2.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN