

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th February, 2010 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, J. E. Little, Mrs B. T. Manuel, D. G. L. Packer, G. W. Russell and S. S. Tong.

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

487. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P. A. Hymers, Mrs P. A. Reynolds and D. J. Wallace.

488. Declarations of Interest

Councillor J. E. Little declared a personal interest in Minute No. 495 (Joint Housing Services Project) and remained present.

Councillors M. C. Birr, D. B. F. Burt, Mrs L. J. Clark and Mrs B. E. Manuel declared personal and prejudicial interests in Minute No. 509 (Reference report from the Grants Sub-Committee held on the 12th January) specifically relating to paragraph 6.1(f) of the report and left the room during the discussion and voting in relation to paragraph 6.1(f). Councillor D. G. L. Packer declared a personal interest in relation to this item and remained present.

489. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th January, 2010 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

490. Presentations by the Public

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

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

491. Capital Strategy 2010-2015

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.

Members were requested to determine the Council's capital strategy for 2010-2015.

Members were advised that this report had been submitted to the Scrutiny

and Policy Development meeting held on the 11th February, and that following the discussion an additional recommendation had been added at (c).

RECOMMENDED that;

- a) **the capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved**
- b) **no major new schemes, with the exception of disabled facility grants and recreation grants, are started until the sale of Bakers Farm is complete or until significant capital receipts are generated from the sale of other Council-owned assets.**
- c) **Consideration be given that the scheme for the Verwood Playing Fields should not proceed unless it can be substantially funded from Section 106 agreements.**

Voting: Nem. Con. (2 Abstentions)

492. Revenue Budget 2010/11

A report was submitted to 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.

Members were requested to recommend the Band D Council Tax for 2010/11.

RECOMMENDED that;

- a) **the Council's revenue budget for 2010/11 be set at £11,110,417.**
- b) **the Band D Council Tax for 2010/11 be set at £190.93 an increase of £4.66 per year.**
- c) **£699,000 of revenue reserves are set aside to establish a corporate change fund.**

Voting: Nem. Con. (3 Abstentions)

493. Terms of Reference Document for the Change Programme

A report was submitted to 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.

Members were requested to consider and agree the Terms of Reference document for the Change Programme.

In relation to Members being kept informed it was felt that reports should be presented to Members more frequently than every six months, and further to this requested that updates should be provided within the Members Newsletter.

RECOMMENDED that the Terms of Reference Document for the Change Programme be agreed.

Voting: Unanimous

DELEGATED BUSINESS

494. Taking forward Pathfinder Future Direction: Governance Arrangements

A report was submitted to 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.

Members were advised that since the report had been produced that there had been developments within pathfinder group, and that further consideration of the governance arrangements was required before this report could be agreed. It was therefore felt appropriate to defer the report for discussion at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred and submitted to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee scheduled to be held on 17th March, 2010.

Voting: Unanimous

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

495. Joint Housing Services Project

A report was submitted to 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.

Members were requested to consider the business case for the Housing service being in-sourced from East Dorset Housing Association and joined with Christchurch Borough Council's Housing Service.

In relation to this Members were advised that this report had been presented to the Special Meeting of the Housing Sub-Committee which had met immediately prior to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting. Members were informed that at the Housing Sub-Committee the recommendations had been unanimously agreed subject to a slight amendment in recommendation (d) as set out within the recommendations below.

RECOMMENDED that;

- a) accept the Business case appended to the report to establish a shared housing service with Christchurch Borough Council;**
- b) support the recommendations contained in the Target Operating Model for the shared housing service appended to the report;**
- c) seek to implement the shared housing service from 1 October 2010 and to enter into formal discussions with the employees affected from Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset Housing Association/Synergy Housing Group and East Dorset District Council; and**
- d) the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lead Member for Health and Housing and the Chairman of Scrutiny to be given delegated authority to implement any necessary and**

**consequential changes to the shared housing service provision
which may arise in Phase 2 of the project**

Voting: Unanimous

(Councillor J. E. Little declared a personal interest in this item and remained present.)

496. East Dorset District Council and Christchurch Borough Council - Public Health and Environmental Services Partnership Business Case

A report was submitted to 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.

Members were requested to approve interim arrangements of the future management of Environmental Services in Christchurch and East Dorset.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the interim arrangements of the future management of Environmental Services in Christchurch and East Dorset.

Voting: Unanimous

497. Establishment of Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board

A report was submitted to Committee, 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 support the establishment of a Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board.

RECOMMENDED that Members;

- a) **Support the establishment of the Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board;**
- b) **Designate the Lead Member for Community as the Council's Member champion for Safeguarding Adults; and**
- c) **Designate the Head of Legal Services as the Council's representative to serve on the Dorset Safeguarding Adults Board.**

Voting: 12:1

498. Environmental Impact Assessment Delegation to the Head of Development Management

A report was submitted to 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.

Members were requested to agree that the Head of Development Management be provided with powers to make screening and scoping opinions under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

RECOMMENDED that the Head of Development Management be authorised to delegate screening and scoping opinions and related matters under the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact

Assessment) (England & Wales) Regulations 1999 or any subsequent enactment thereof.

Voting: Unanimous

499. Extension to the Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework

A report was submitted to 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.

Members were requested to consider the findings of a public consultation on the extension of the Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework and approve the revised document for a formal two year extension.

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) **The findings of the recently undertaken public consultation on the extension to the Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework are noted; and**
- b) **Approval is given to adopt the revised Dorset Heathlands Interim Planning Framework 2010-2011 to cover the period from 1 April 2010 to the end of December 2011.**

Voting: Unanimous

500. Reference from the Queen Elizabeth Leisure centre Consultative Group.

A report was submitted to Committee, 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 a recommendation from the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre Consultative Group.

RECOMMENDED that the budget for the running costs of the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre for 2010/11 as set out in this report be approved.

Voting: Unanimous

501. References from the Joint Consultative Group

A report was submitted to Committee, 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 consider various requests from the Joint Consultative Group.

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) **the information security policies as set out in Appendices 1 to 8 to this report be supported;**
- b) **there be no provision in the Council's budget for leased cars from 2013/14 onwards;**
- c) **the leased car scheme be ended in accordance with the principles**

outlined in Appendix 9; and that

- d) the policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders at Appendix 10 be supported.

Voting: Unanimous

DELEGATED BUSINESS

502. Wimborne Square Enhancement Scheme

A report was submitted to 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 consider approval for a scheme that reduces the capital costs of the project.

RESOLVED that the procedures described in section 6 of this report be approved.

Voting: Unanimous

503. Validation of Planning Applications

A report was submitted to Committee, 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 a revision to the Local Planning Application checklist.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Having reviewed the Local Planning Application checklist, it is amended to require that, standard forms of planning obligation required under Section 106 of the Act to mitigate against harm in respect of the impact on Internationally Designated Dorset Heathlands or to provide a contribution for highway infrastructure, accompany the submission of the planning application. Planning applications will not be validated, unless the complexity of the agreement to include other matters, dictates otherwise; and
- b) Any future reviews of the Planning Application checklist are a matter delegated to the Head of Development Management.

Voting: Unanimous

504. Report into the Review of a Concessionary Policy at East Dorset District Council

A report was submitted to 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 agree the report into a Concessionary Policy at East Dorset District Council.

RESOLVED that Council should not adopt a Corporate Concessions

Policy but should consider the guidelines set out within Appendix 1 of the report for the application of any concessions to service users that are currently in force or might come under consideration in the future.

Voting: Nem. Con. (2 Abstentions)

505. Draft Report of the Scrutiny Inquiry into the Structure of the East Dorset Local Strategic Partnership

A report was submitted to 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 final report of the scrutiny inquiry into the East Dorset Local Strategic Partnership.

In relation to this Members felt that they would find a briefing to explain the new structure and how it would work useful.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the report of the Community and Culture Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee into the Structure of the Local Strategic Partnership be supported; and**
- b) the report findings and any additional comments be forwarded to the Joint Scrutiny Review Panel at Dorset County Council for information.**

Voting: Unanimous

506. Review of Pest Control Charges (Rodents) in East Dorset

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

Members were requested to agree the report setting out Pest Control Charges (Rodents) in East Dorset.

Members raised concerns regarding the issue of charging and the potential risks of charging in that people may be reluctant to report pest control issues if they were then required to pay.

RESOLVED that the decision on the matter of charging for rodent infestation be noted but deferred for;

- a) inclusion into the corporate change plan;**
- b) consideration as part of the joint working with Christchurch Borough Council Environmental Health Service; and**
- c) Subject to the outcome of the above this issue be referred back to the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, or the appropriate Committee at that time for further consideration and recommendation.**

Voting: Unanimous

507. Analysis of the mail sent by East Dorset District Council

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

Members were requested to support the formation of a Corporate Policy aimed at reducing postage costs and maximising the use of email where possible.

RESOLVED that Members support the formation of a Corporate Policy aimed at reducing postage costs.

Voting: Unanimous

508. Update on Child Protection

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

Members were requested to note the work currently being undertaken and comment accordingly.

In relation to this Members requested that additional evening sessions be run on the Level One Child Protection training.

RESOLVED that subject to any recommended changes, the Child Protection Policy as detailed in Appendix B to this report, be agreed.

Voting: Unanimous

509. Reference Report from the Grants Sub-Committee held on 12th January, 2010

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

Members were requested to consider and determine the amended Community Grant Aid Criteria.

RESOLVED that the revised Community Grant Aid Criteria be approved which include the amendments discussed at the Grants Sub-Committee held on 12th January, 2010.

Voting: In relation to Paragraph 6.1(f) of the report voting was 8:2; in relation to all other changes to the community grant aid policies the voting was Nem. Con. (1 Abstention).

(Councillors M. C. Birr, D. B. F. Burt, Mrs L. J. Clark and Mrs B. T. Manuel declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item (In relation to paragraph 6.1(f) of the report.) and left the room during the discussion thereon. Councillor D. G. L. Packer declared a personal interest in this item and remained present.)

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

A report was submitted to Committee, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'T' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to agree the purchase of new planning software to improve public and consultee access for the Council's existing IDOX system and to waive standing orders.

RESOLVED that;

- a) **the purchase of new planning software from the IDOX Group as summarised in the quotations identified as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 be supported; and that**
- b) **the contracts and procurement clause be varied in accordance with rule 1.6(a) to enable the procurement of new computer software without submitting to a tender process due to the particular difficulty in comparing different products and the need to integrate with the existing software system.**

Voting: Unanimous

511. 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.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

512. Reference from the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre Consultative Group

Exempt Information - and Category 02 (Identification of an individual) and Category 04 (Labour relations)

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

Members were requested to consider a recommendation from the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre Consultative Group.

The meeting ended at 1.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN