



EXECUTIVE

5.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

11 November 2009

Present: Councillors Morpew (Chair), Morrey (Vice-Chair), Arthur, Blakeway, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Sands and Waters

Also present: Councillor Ramsay

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 28 October 2009.

2. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME

The Unitary Programme Manager presented the report. Members were advised that the staff consultation had commenced last week and that information on the proposals to cut spending had been posted on the council's website to give members of the public an opportunity to put forward their views.

The Chief Executive said that there had been a good start to the staff consultation and the council was keen to hear feedback from staff and the public. The proposals sought to minimise the impact of the cuts on frontline services and jobs. The council could lose 75 posts, with proposals to delete 45 posts and not fill a further 30 posts that were currently vacant. The creation of 12 new jobs was being proposed and these would be available for redeployment. The authority had received an offer of assistance from the National Health Service (NHS) to 'maximise access' to city council staff, who were made redundant, to NHS or other public sector jobs. The council was building a range of opportunities to minimise job losses, assist staff and maintain staff within the organisation if it could.

Councillor Arthur congratulated senior officers for their handling of the process and said that she had heard this had been considered to be the right approach by staff.

Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources, said that the process contributed to the council achieving its objectives, whilst keeping the council's options open. The Chair referred to the consultation and said that this would be the 'start of a conversation' with the public. The council's innovative approach meant that partners were prepared to respond and he welcomed the news of the NHS's support. However members were reminded that the council was still in the 'foothills' and although there was good news about the council's allocation for fairer funding for concessionary bus fares, the council still had to make savings of £8m and that there were other unknowns such as the revenue support grant for next

year. He added his thanks to all staff involved in the process and particularly commended the reaction of members of staff who had been directly affected.

In response to a question from Councillor Ramsay, the Chief Executive referred to the redistribution of the government grant to the council for concessionary bus fares but pointed out that it did not compensate the council for all of its costs incurred from the scheme over the last two years. The government consultation on the distribution of special grant funding to local authorities in 2010/11 for the national bus concession in England would end on 30 December 2009. As expected in a recession, there had been an increased uptake in usage of free transport and therefore further costs to the authority had been incurred.

RESOLVED to note the report.

3. MULTI-AGENCY PROTOCOL – TACKLING HATE CRIME/INCIDENTS TOGETHER

The Head of Community Services presented the report and said that briefings would be provided for members and officers, and answered questions. It was hoped that the existence of the protocol would encourage future victims to come forward.

Councillor Bremner, Executive Member for Community Safety and Community Cohesion, welcomed the report and said that knowledge that a procedure was in place was empowering as appropriate action could be taken. The Norwich Asylum Seekers and Refugee Forum had responded positively to the protocol.

The Chair referred to appendix B of the report and said that there were lots of opportunities for the council to work with its partners, who were well placed to address the issue of hate crime and incidents.

RESOLVED to note the Council's duties relating to hate crimes and incidents and to endorse the multi-agency protocol for tackling hate crimes and incidents and the actions proposed to implement it.

4. MOTION TO COUNCIL – WASTE MANAGEMENT

Councillor Morrey, Executive Member for Sustainable City Development, presented the report. He advised the Executive that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) had just released recycling figures for 2008/2009 and that the city council had gone up 140 places from its 2007/2008 ranking and now had a recycling rate of 34.19%.

RESOLVED to pursue the issues raised within the motion on waste management agreed by Council on 14 July 2009 through the Norfolk Waste Partnership.

CHAIR