



## EXECUTIVE

**5.30 p.m. – 6.10 p.m.**

**13 January 2010**

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

Also present: Councillors Dylan (from item 5), Fairbairn, Lubbock and Stephenson

Apologies: Councillor Morphew (Chair) (on other Council business)

### **1. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meetings held on 9 and 16 December 2009.

### **2. REFRESH OF THE GREATER NORWICH HOUSING STRATEGY 2008-11**

The Strategic Housing Officer presented the report.

Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services, said that the Greater Norwich Housing Strategy and Partnership was working well and delivering affordable housing across the sub-region.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) approve the amendments to the Greater Norwich Housing Partnership 2008-2011 Action Plan, as summarised in Appendices A, B and C of the report;
- (2) approve the Progress Report (Appendix D of the report) and 2009-11 Update document to circulate to partners and stakeholders;
- (3) note the proposal for the Housing Strategy project planning for 2011-2014.

### **3. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2008-2009**

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report. He confirmed that new evidence for the 5-year housing supply was available and the Council could demonstrate this to the satisfaction of the Regional Office.

Councillor Morrey, Executive Member for Sustainable City Development, welcomed the report and said that discussions with developers had meant that the 5-year housing supply had been taken over the threshold.

**RESOLVED** to note the technical changes made to the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report and to agree the revised report as submitted to the Government Office.

#### **4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Items 5 and 6 below on the grounds contained in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

#### **5. THE CASHIERS' SERVICE (PARAGRAPH 4)**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report and, together with the Head of Communications and Cultural Services, answered questions.

During discussion the majority of members of the Executive expressed in principle support of the plan for the proposed closure of the Cashiers Service but disagreed with the timescale. Members considered that a phased approach over a longer timescale would enable regular customers to transfer to alternative payment methods. This would also give the Executive an opportunity to evaluate the progress being made and deal with any issues arising from the reduction of the service through monthly monitoring reports. Members considered that the timescale for the proposed closure should be the end of the year, subject to regular review throughout this period.

Councillors Stephenson and Lubbock also supported the extension of the timescale before a final decision was made. Councillor Lubbock suggested that consideration should be given to introducing a small fee for cash payments in order to retain the service and choice of payment methods for customers.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Deputy Chief Executive to provide the Executive with monthly monitoring reports on the usage of the Cashiers' Service and to review the plan for closing the Cashiers' Service to include a phased approach over a longer timescale.

#### **6. PREMISES MANAGEMENT SERVICE – TOWER BLOCKS (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The Head of Neighbourhood and Strategic Housing Services presented the report and confirmed that the proposals would not result in a change in the level of service.

Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services, spoke in support of the proposals. Councillor Waters said that tenants affected by the proposals would receive a letter of explanation.

**RESOLVED** to change the Premises Manager status for tower blocks to non-residential and to note the financial and re-housing implications for this decision.

CHAIR