



EXECUTIVE

5.30 p.m. – 7.10 p.m.

17 September 2008

Present: Councillor Waters (in the Chair, following appointment), Arthur, Blakeway, Bremner and Sands

Also present: Councillors Lubbock and Stephenson, and Councillor Ramsay (from item 3)

Apologies: Councillors Morpew (Chair), Morrey (Vice-Chair) and Brociek-Coulton

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED, in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, to appoint Councillor Waters to the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2008.

3. QUARTER 1 2008/2009 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Director of Transformation introduced the report which covered performance for the first quarter of the year and reported that there had been significant progress since the end of June 2008. The Director of Transformation, Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Development then responded to questions from members.

Members welcomed the 'forensic' approach and considered that the inclusion of commentary from the relevant Directors made the report more accessible.

Discussion ensued in which the relevant Directors introduced the five key areas and Executive members commented on issues contained within their portfolios.

In response to issues raised by Councillor Lubbock, the Director of Regeneration and Development said in relation to 'A Strong and Prosperous City', the short-term priority action to 'protect economic development sites from being used for other land purposes' would be monitored in the future. Arrangements for the funding of the Memorial Gardens project would be considered later in the meeting.

In relation to 'Safe and Healthy Neighbourhoods', Councillor Blakeway, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Development, praised the work of officers in securing external funding. Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services noted the progress being made towards the Decent Homes and replacement windows programmes which had been accelerated due to the extra resources allocated at the Council's Budget meeting. Progress was being made to reduce the amount of voids and turnaround on Council houses. Councillor Bremner, Executive Member for Community Safety, said that the reduction in the perception of crime was positive and due to the effectiveness of Safer Neighbourhood Teams and the Community Wardens.

During discussion on 'Opportunities for All', members were advised that it was expected that Level 2 of the Equalities' Standard would be achieved and that this would be shown in the figures in the December report. There had been some delays in the impact assessments. The Council's ultimate goal was achieving Level 5 of the Equalities' Standard. Councillor Sands, Executive Member for Children and Young People referred to the success of the 'Kidzones' and said that in the current economic climate the Council should provide more free events. The Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services said that there would be a launch of the Warm Homes initiative at The Forum. The report on the older people's commission would be reported at Council this autumn. The commissioners would be speaking to older people rather than relying on questionnaires to provide good qualitative responses rather than quantitative.

Discussion ensued on the progress of 'Aiming for Excellence' and the introduction of the single telephone number for all enquiries to the Council. The cost of 3p per minute from landline phones was noted but members reported feedback from the public objecting to the costs of calls to the Council. The single telephone number and bringing teams together would reduce call waiting times and the need for repeat calls.

During discussion on the arrangements for the Place Survey, members were advised that a briefing would be provided before the results were released.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report and the proposed actions contained within it.

4. CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND CAPITAL PLAN REVIEW

The Capital Programme Manager presented the report and together with the Financial Control Manager answered members' questions.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the outturn position on the Housing Capital Programme for 2007/08 as Table 1 (contained in the report);
- (2) note the outturn position on the Non Housing Capital Programme for 2007/08 as Appendix 1 (to the report);
- (3) approve the over- expenditure identified in the report, namely:-

- (a) Yacht Station environs £5k;
 - (b) Health and safety works airport industrial estate H Block demolition £30k;
 - (c) St Andrews Hall clerestory Windows £8k;
 - (d) Provision Market Archaeology £19k.
- (4) to approve the carry forward of the following underspend to the 2008/09 approved Housing Capital Programme:-
- (a) Winchester Tower boiler upgrade £300k;
 - (b) Winchester Tower roofing works £200k;
 - (c) Communal Bin stores £91k;
 - (d) Community Alarm upgrades £11k;
 - (e) Grants to RSLs £2,052k.
- (5) approve the carry forward of the under spend identified in Appendix 1 (to the report) to the 2008/09 approved Non Housing Capital Programme
- (6) note the forecast position of the Capital Programmes for 2008/09.

5. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

The Financial Control Manager presented the report and together with the Head of Finance answered members' questions. Members were advised that there was a delay in the allocation of CityCare savings from the corporate budget to Directors/services and this would not affect the bottom line. These figures would not be shown future reports.

RESOLVED to note the report.

6. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE 2007/2008

The Head of Finance presented the report and answered questions.

The Chair welcomed the report. The Chief Executive pointed out the additional growth to the Council's reserves strengthened the financial position of the authority.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the report;
- (2) record the Executive's appreciation of the contribution made by the Treasury Management Team.

7. THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON ALL UNCLASSIFIED RESIDENTIAL ROADS IN NORWICH

The Head of Transformation and Landscape presented the report and explained that the report would be considered at the Norwich Highways Agency Committee meeting on 25 September 2008.

During discussion members noted that there was support for the introduction of 20 mph speed limit on residential roads across all parties of the Council. Councillor Bremner considered that the proposed scheme together with enforcement would work well and that consideration should be made to placing circular signs with 20 mph within zones and not just at the commencement or end of a zone.

Councillors Ramsay, Stephenson and Lubbock expressed disappointment that the proposal was for a pilot scheme and considered that this cautious approach could compromise its success as a blanket speed limit for all unclassified residential roads would be easier to publicise.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note that the Highways Agency Committee has asked officers to draw up plans for introducing an unsigned 20mph speed limit on all unclassified residential roads in Norwich;
- (2) endorse the approach of implementing that limit in 3 pilot areas, as detailed in the attached draft Highways Agency Committee Report.

8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item 8 below on the grounds contained in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***8. THREE SCORE, BOWTHORPE (PARAGRAPH 1)**

The Property Services Manager presented the report. Members were advised that the recommendation should be amended to delete the reference to paragraph 8 and replace it with paragraph 11.

Discussion ensued in which members considered the history of the site and the proposed options.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) agree Option 3 (as set out in paragraph 11 of the report);
- (2) record the Executive's appreciation of the contribution made by the Property Services Manager.

CHAIR