



## EXECUTIVE

**5.30 p.m. – 6.20 p.m.**

**9 December 2009**

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

Also present: Councillor Stephenson

### **1. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 18 November and 25 November 2009.

### **2. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/10**

The Finance Control Manager presented the report and informed members that the resulting General Fund forecast under spend amounted to £0.33m and the housing Revenue Account to £1.20m.

Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance, said the under spend would have an impact on the budget for sometime to come.

The Chair said the Council had received official notification of the comprehensive area assessment of which the council received an overall score of 2 out of 4 which showed a significant improvement.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

### **3. FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY – SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Head of Community Services presented the report and said that the Financial Inclusion Strategy stated that the Council would influence not only working with partners but ensure all Norwich residents enjoyed a decent quality of life and had enough money in their pockets, and that many objectives had been met to help achieve this.

In reply to a question the Financial Inclusion Manager said the four credit unions had formed a city wide federation, applications were in for a full time development worker to help increase participation and recruitment of volunteers would take place very soon.

Councillor Bremner, Executive Member for Community Safety and Community Cohesion, welcomed the report and said that people appreciated the work done.

Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance, thanked officer for their work and said partners should work together in good and bad times to build the local economy and respond to the recession.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) note the progress in implementing the actions identified in the Council's financial inclusion strategy
- (2) ask officers to develop a programme of medium term activities following the work to be undertaken by Scrutiny Committee and then report back to a future meeting of the Executive
- (3) note that any expenditure required for this would need to be included in the budget for 2010/11.

**4. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2009**

The Head of Planning Services presented the report and referred to a revised development plan documents programme which was circulated to members at the meeting. Members were advised that the Government Office had already responded to the draft report and had suggested minor alterations which included having two separate consultation periods before obtaining approval from Council. By bringing forward the dates it would run much closer to the site allocations programme which would speed up and simplify the process.

Councillor Morrey, Executive Member for Sustainable City Development, said with a realistic document and timetable this would enable the Council to receive the deserved funding from the Government.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) delegate authority to officers to make amendments to the Local Development Scheme which is consistent with the revised timetable;
- (2) approve the revised Local Development Scheme for submission to the Government Office Go East.

**5. ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2008/09**

The Head of Planning Services presented the report and advised members of a typographical error in the report in paragraph 12 and that 2.34 hectares should be deleted and replaced with 1.34 hectares. He referred to the 5 year housing supply and the effect due to the economic downturn, the Council had a good record of building affordable housing, which during the recession was less than a risk than private development.

Councillor Morrey, Executive Member for Sustainable City Development, said 43% of affordable housing had been completed and of this 95% was on previously developed land.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Monitoring Report 2008/9 for submission to the Government Office Go East.

## **6. PLANNING FRAMWORK FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA**

The Head of Planning Services presented the report and explained that the Council would assist the University of East Anglia (UEA) with the new planning framework, the UEA would be submitting a planning application for Earlham Hall as an innovation centre.

Councillor Bremner, Executive Member for Community Safety and Community Cohesion, welcomed the report, the involvement of local people and the proposed work to Earlham Hall.

Councillor Morrey, Executive Member for Sustainable City Development, also welcomed the report and the positive step of working with the UEA, by assisting with drawing up of plans for the whole area and the involvement of local people.

**RESOLVED** to approve the -

- (1) work programme and approach to public engagement for the development framework strategy be agreed; and
- (2) intention to produce officer guidance on development proposals at Earlham Hall be noted.

## **7. POLICY AMENDMENT FOR THE SUB-REGIONAL HOME OPTIONS ALLOCATIONS SCHEME**

The Housing Options Manager presented the report and explained that the proposed amendment had been approved by the Home Options Partnership Board.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) adopt the proposed amendments to the Choice Based Lettings Home Options Allocation Scheme;
- (2) to agree to the inclusion of an additional reason for the reduction of preference (priority) in the policy:-
  - (a) an applicant will be given reduced preference if the particular scheme and council is satisfied they;
  - (b) deliberately did or failed to do something which, in consequence, led to a worsening of their housing circumstances.

## **8. FIRE RISK MANAGEMENT FOR HRA DOMESTIC FLATS**

The Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods presented the report and said in light of a recent fire in the tower block in Camberwell, South London, a letter of reassurance had been sent out to residents that procedures were in place and explaining the joint working with the fire service.

Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services, said the Council were aware of their legal requirements and had put measures in place and were working with leaseholders.

**RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

## **9. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 10 below on the grounds contained in the paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

## **\*10. ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS FOLLOWING DILAPIDATION CLAIMS (PARAGRAPH 1)**

The Assistant Director of City Development presented the report and answered questions.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) to endorse the proposals to spend £168,150 in accordance with paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the report;
- (2) that any payments received by the council from outgoing tenants in respect of claims for dilapidations under the terms of their leases should be used for the following purposes:
  - (i) repair and maintenance works to either the property for which the payment has been received; and/or
  - (ii) works to other council owned investment properties.
- (3) to grant delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration and Development, to use any payments received by way of dilapidation payments by tenants towards repairs of the properties concerned up to the amount received;
- (4) that an annual report be brought back to the Executive detailing any decision taken under this delegation.

**CHAIR**