



EXECUTIVE

5.30 p.m. – 6.40 p.m.

30 September 2009

Present: Councillors Morpew (Chair), Arthur, Blakeway, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Sands and Waters
Apologies: Councillors Morrey (Vice-Chair)
Also present: Councillor Stephenson

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 16 September 2009.

2. ARGYLE STREET

The Senior Officer (Enabling) presented the report and answered questions.

Sharon Davies, said her mother an Argyle Street resident, would rather have the properties repaired than demolished and asked members if they would consider stabilising the properties to allow residents to stay in the properties.

Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services, spoke in support of the recommendations and said top quality homes would be built giving tenants homes they deserved.

The Executive discussed issues raised by the residents. The Chair thanked all those residents who sent letters expressing their concerns. He gave assurance if the decision was to demolish, the Council would work very closely with residents to find places which were as good as, if not better than the ones they were in now and they would not be rushed to move out.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 4 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

(Members of the public left the room at this point.)

4. ARGYLE STREET (PARAGRAPH 3)

The Senior Officer (Enabling) presented the report and answered questions.

The Head of Finance said the proposal did not form part of the Capital Programme, and considered Option 3 represented best value for money.

Members recommended officers secure the properties as soon as possible, demolition should take place within a certain time scale and dispose of the site leasehold.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) resettle the current residents of 38-42, 44-54 and 56-64a Argyle Street to properties according to their individual needs and agreed preferences;
- (2) purchase the leasehold interest in properties 56 and 64 Argyle Street;
- (3) secure vacant properties by removing any metal, capping off utilities and securing of windows and doors;
- (4) dispose of the council's interest in the land to enable the provision of new, high quality affordable housing;
- (5) note the financial consequences of the redevelopment of the site at Argyle Street for new affordable housing, providing choice and accessibility;
- (6) approve the methodology of costs incurred in resettlement and security being reimbursed to the Council from the sale of the land.

(Members of the public were re-admitted to the meeting and informed of the decision minuted above. The Chair reiterated his assurance to the residents that they would be treated with dignity and be not out of pocket. He said the Council were proud of its track record of resettlement in these sorts of circumstances. The Chair of the Norwich Tenants CityWide Board thanked councillors and officers for the sympathetic and delicate way they had dealt with tenants.)

5. REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Planning Policy and Projects Manager presented the report and informed members there had been a number of significant changes to the procedures for producing planning policy documents.

Councillor Blakeway, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Development said ward members should take some responsibility for drawing residents' attention to planning applications.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve the draft Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation;
- (2) delegate authority to finalise details to the Director of Regeneration and Development in consultation with the Chair and Portfolio Holder.

6. ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT 2008/09

The Director of Transformation presented the report and explained that the focus had been on getting its own house in order, to enable the Council to encourage local people and organisations.

Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services and Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance, both commended the Environmental Strategy Manager for his hard work and dedication by reducing the Council's carbon footprint. Thanks were also extended to the Head of Citizens Services and his team from Councillor Brociek-Coulton, Executive Member for Residents and Customer Care.

Councillor Stephenson said although officers had done a brilliant job this was only a soft achievement, officers were doing more than expected but this was not enough, this area was under resourced.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the significant progress made against targets in the agreed Environmental Strategy and
- (2) agree the publication of the Annual Environmental statement 2008/09;
- (3) delegate authority for the finalisation of the report to the Director of Transformation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable City Development.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE 2008/09

The Head of Finance presented the report and said the current position there had been difficulties in placing investments, interest rates had been low for sometime and the level of public sector was the lowest for two months.

Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance said this was a very clear concise account of events. He said the Council had been effective in placing funds and looking for secure financial environment to obtain a higher rate of interest. He congratulated the Treasury Management team for the achievements in what had been a very difficult market.

RESOLVED to note the Treasury Management Investment Performance 2008/09 report.

8. AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT

The Planning Policy and Projects Manager presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) adopt the revised affordable housing supplementary planning document attached as appendix 1, and carry out the required steps to complete formal adoption procedures;

- (2) the supplementary planning document (including the revised affordable housing target) would apply to all planning applications validated on or after 19 October 2009.

9. DECLARATION OF A FURTHER AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA FOR NORWICH

The Head of Legal, Regulatory and Democratic Services presented the report and advised members of the areas which should continue to be monitored or retained as part of the Air Quality Management Area for Norwich.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for the Riverside area of Norwich;
- (2) retain the existing Grapes Hill AQMA ;
- (3) maintain a watching air quality brief for King Street, Magdalen Street and Boundary Road.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 11 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***11. SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT SAVINGS**

The Chief Executive Officer presented the report and together with the Head of Procurement and Service Improvement answered questions.

RESOLVED to endorse and confirm:-

- (1) the implementation of a range of savings and maintenance of existing service levels as detailed in the report and as set out in Annex B Part 2 to the report to 16 September 2009 Executive (Review of Major Support Services Contracts);
- (2) the commencement of further work to identify additional efficiency savings for implementation by April 2010.

CHAIR