



EXECUTIVE

5.30 p.m. – 5.50 p.m.

8 July 2009

Present: Councillors Morpew (Chair), Morrey (Vice-Chair), Blakeway, Bremner and Sands

Apologies Councillor Arthur, Brociek-Coulton and Waters

Also present: Councillor Stephenson

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 24 June 2009.

2. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Doug Wilkinson as the new Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods.

3. RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL

RESOLVED having considered the report of the Head of Transportation and Landscape to:

- (1) note that changing administration of concessionary travel whilst providing advantages was secondary to the more significant issue of funding;
- (2) note that the cost of providing statutory concessionary travel for the council was significantly greater than the funding provided by Government;
- (3) call on Government to urgently review the distribution of concessionary fares funding to ensure that the council was fairly reimbursed its costs in 20010/11;
- (4) request that Government provide funding to make good shortfalls in Government funding in 2008/09 and anticipated in 2009/10;

- (5) see merit in transferring responsibility for the administration of concessionary travel to upper tier authorities to help ensure that access to public transport was maximised;
- (6) see merit in transferring responsibility for administration of concessionary travel to Government if a sustainable long term funding mechanism cannot be achieved;
- (7) suggest consideration of a system whereby local authorities would administer concessionary travel but with Government funding the costs in a way similar to housing benefit;
- (8) unable to form a definitive view on the best administrative arrangements in the absence of clarity about future funding arrangements;
- (9) ask Government to ensure that any transfer of funding from District Councils to other level of administration was based on the funding provided by Government – rather than expenditure – to avoid making permanent, present funding inequities;
- (10) ask Government to ensure that all local authorities retain powers to establish discretionary travel concessions.

4. PLANNING SERVICE STANDARDS

The Head of Planning and Regeneration presented the report and answered members' questions. Members were advised following the Audit Commission's inspection an interim service standard would be implemented from 1 September 2009 aimed at delivering improved customer service.

Members asked that the service standards included a link to the procedure for consultation on planning applications that was recently agreed by the Planning Applications Committee.

RESOLVED to agree the interim service standards for the planning service as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, and publish this on the Council's web site and make available to planning customers.

5. A NEW PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA

The Head of Planning and Regeneration presented the report and answered members' questions.

Councillor Stephenson asked that all councillors be kept informed of the process of the new planning framework. She raised concerns about the amount of growth from businesses and housing which would see a significant increase in how people travel to the UEA and asked that this be taken into consideration.

RESOLVED to -

- (1) agree not to proceed with a Joint Area Action Plan for the Norwich Research Park with South Norfolk Council, and that this be taken into account by the Council in due course when it agrees revisions to the local development scheme for Norwich;
- (2) endorse the approach proposed by the University of East Anglia for a development strategy that would inform the local development framework for Norwich;
- (3) agree to the process to create strategic development principles for UEA and nominate the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability City Development to be the City Council's member representative on the project steering group;
- (4) further report be presented to Executive about the overall work programme, approach to public engagement, before proceeding with subsequent stages of the development framework;
- (5) delegate authority to the Director – Regeneration and Development to negotiate and agree detailed procedural work programming arrangements for this development strategy, within the scope of the principles outlined in this report.

CHAIR