



## EXECUTIVE

5.00 p.m. – 6.45 p.m.

28 July 2010

Present: Councillors Morpew (Chair), Brociek-Coulton and Waters

Also present: Councillors Fairbairn and Jeraj

Apologies Councillor Arthur

### 1. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meetings held on 23 June 2010, 30 June 2010 and 8 July 2010.

### 2. APPROVAL OF A BLUEPRINT FOR A LEAN CITY COUNCIL

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report. The Blueprint would give guidance on how the authority could move forward with key issues over the next two years. An additional report on the responses to the Council's consultation on the Lean Blueprint would disclose information that was excluded from publication under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and therefore would be considered later on in the meeting. Comments received in response to the consultation had been positive.

Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance, said there was a need to be prepared for a very difficult financial settlement and that plans needed to be in place to identify savings and efficiencies for the first year of cuts. He hoped the Government would listen to concerns on the impact the cuts would have on services and reflect on this.

**RESOLVED** that there would be further discussion on this item following the exclusion of the public later on in the meeting.

### 3. NORFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY DRAFT SAFETY PLAN 2011-2014

(Mike McCarthy, Chief Fire Officer and Stuart Horth, Area Manager Central, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, attended the meeting for this item.)

The Head of Local Neighbourhood Services presented the report and informed members that the Norfolk Fire and Rescue service was currently consulting on the draft safety plan for 2011-2014. The Fire Service had changed the way they

operated with more emphasis on prevention, promoting fire safety and with more focus on the vulnerable. There were also opportunities to work more collaboratively with the fire and rescue service through neighbourhood working.

During discussion, Mike McCarthy referred to the reduction from five to four fire engines covering the City and reassured members that the reduction of appliances in the City would not affect performance and which would remain above the emergency response standards target level. Stuart Horth made reference to partnership working and said this was a high priority and stressed the importance of working with the City Council. The authority had taken massive steps forward working with the vulnerable and mapping where they were and those who were at risk this was helped by linking up with partners and sharing information.

In response to a question from Councillor Jeraj, Stuart Horth said by reducing the number of fire fighters at Carrow their preventative work would not be affected as this was far out balanced with partnership working.

Councillor Waters said that the Council would monitor very carefully the proposed safety plans put in place. He welcomed the increased focus on the vulnerable and the support for vulnerable communities. The Council would highlight issues to the Government as to the risks to the people of Norwich.

**RESOLVED** to approve the proposals to be submitted to the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority.

#### **4. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report and said the Executive were being asked to endorse the changes to partnership working.

**RESOLVED** to endorse the merger of the Norwich community safety partnership with the six Norfolk district community safety partnerships to form a countywide community safety partnership, subject to:

- (1) the Council and local partners being able to access up to date crime and disorder data at district level;
- (2) the safer Norwich partnership brand being retained for operational purposes;
- (3) Norfolk Constabulary considers how the anomaly of Bowthorpe being part of the South Norfolk policing arrangements can be resolved and integrated into the Norwich policing structure through this process;
- (4) reassurance being provided from partners that the allocation of resources through the county community safety partnership uses a sound evidenced based approach and recognises the high levels of crime and disorder that occur in the city;
- (5) opportunities for co-location and shared use of resources continue to be explored with the police and other partners and reported to the Executive should this be required;

- (6) the final decision being taken by the Chief Executive Officer as the named responsible person under the legislation.

## **5. FUTURE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSING IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report and said that the proposal was not to increase the membership but to widen the scope of the representation on the Board. The proposal had been considered by the Housing Improvement Board (HIB) at its last meeting and concerns had been expressed about there being no substitutes allowed for the Chair of the Norwich Tenants' CityWide Board and the tenant representative.

The Chair said a huge amount of work had been done around the Peer Review and officers were working towards achieving two stars in 2 years.

In response to a question from Councillor Jeraj, the Director of Regeneration and Development said that the integrity of the HIB was very important and the balance of the board was right at this time, widening out to other partners may be a consideration in the future.

**RESOLVED** to approve:-

- (1) the two councillor representatives on the Housing Improvement Board are a member of the Executive and a member from one of the other political groups, with substitutes being nominated to cover meetings when the principal members are unavailable.
- (2) the two tenant representatives on the Housing Improvement Board will be the Chair of the Norwich Tenants' CityWide Board and a tenant recruited from the Plus4 consultation panels, with substitutes being nominated to cover meetings when the principal members are unavailable.

## **6. MERGER OF NORWICH 21 AND NORWICH CARBON REDUCTION TRUST: REVISED FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

(Councillor Waters declared a personal interest in this item as Chair of Norwich 21.)

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) note the merger of Norwich 21 and Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust
- (2) agree that the grant funding allocated to Norwich 21 for 2010/11 should be transferred with immediate effect to Norwich Carbon Reduction Trust.

## **7. BUS SHELTER PROVISION IN NORWICH FROM JULY 2011**

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report and advised members this would provide an additional revenue income.

In response to a question from Councillor Fairbairn, the Programme Manager said whatever offer comes out of the bus shelter tender process, there would be a need to go through the planning process for advertising consent and there were very few bus shelters with illuminated adverts in Conservation Areas apart from the City Centre conservation area.

**RESOLVED** to endorse the strategy of inviting tenders for the provision, maintenance and cleaning of bus shelters in Norwich from July 2011.

## **8. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS**

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report and said the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) was a new body which would comprise both the private and public sectors. There were a number of potential options being considered with other authorities covering Norfolk.

Councillor Waters said there was a need to put in a considered proposal to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

**RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration & Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to consider and take appropriate action to:-

- (1) support the development of a potential Local Enterprise Partnership that will meet the needs of the City of Norwich;
- (2) secure the best council and business representation for Norwich in any proposed Local Enterprise Partnership structure;
- (3) capture the opinions of the local business community and ensure that their needs and aspirations are used to inform the actions of a Local Enterprise Partnership;
- (4) formally approve a Local Enterprise Partnership submission to Government on behalf of Norwich City Council

## **9. HOUSING PROPERTY SERVICES CO-LOCATION WITH CONNAUGHT PARTNERSHIPS LIMITED**

The Director of Regeneration and Development referred to issues raised in the press regarding Connaught and said the depot facility would be required even if there was a change of service provider and would not affect the premises being used by Housing Property Services.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) approve, in principle subject to recommendation 2, the signing of a 5 year lease on part of the floor space of Connaught Partnerships Limited's offices at Old Hall Road to allow Housing Property Services to co-locate;

- (2) delegate authority to the Director – Regeneration & Development to agree the details of the lease in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Adult Services.

## **10. S.106 EXPENDITURE 2010/2011**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report and together with the Planning Obligations Officer answered members' questions. The Planning Obligations Officer confirmed £1.7m was committed to projects and £3.3m to play maintenance. The Chair said the spending of the S.106 money would improve the life of the people of the City and keep people in work.

### **RESOLVED to:-**

- (1) to approve the following discretionary expenditure of S.106 capital balances as set out in Appendix B:-
  - (a) Waterloo Park - revised proposals and additional funding for works to paddling pool and existing play equipment £179,000. (Replaces £126,000 funding pool approved by Executive on 9 July 2008 and proposes an additional £53,000 of funding);
  - (b) Hamlet Centre - revised proposals for funding of specialist play facilities for children with disabilities necessitated by relocation of the Hamlet Centre from Thorpe Hamlet to the St Raphael Centre, £40,000. (Replaces funding pool approved by Executive 18 February 2009);
  - (c) St Clements Eco Park - additional funding from S.106 contributions recommended following reappraisal of cost of delivering final design. (Additional £40,050 of funding proposed to supplement £97,255 Big Lottery Fund Grant and existing £21,695 S.106 funding pool approved by Executive 11 July 2007);
  - (d) Marriott Way - improvements to Marriott Way Cycle Route, £19,500;
  - (e) Dereham Road Bus Rapid Transit Scheme (BRT) - pooling of transportation contributions arising from developments that will benefit from the implementation of the BRT towards the overall cost of the scheme, £39,357;
  - (f) Westlegate and Chapelfield North – contribution towards public realm improvements and traffic circulation changes, £6,355;
  - (g) Cathedral Meadow Flood Alleviation Landscaping – flood alleviation and landscaping project, £16,241
- (2) to note the current balances of S.106 accounts currently held as described in the tables incorporated within the following report.

## **11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items 12 and 19 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

## **\*12. APPROVAL OF A BLUEPRINT FOR A LEAN CITY COUNCIL (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report and circulated a response to the consultation proposal. She referred to the Blueprint which would give an overall shape to move forward the programme for cuts to the budget. The Chair said this was at very early stages of the process and the Executive thanked all those doing the work.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) note the summary of consultation responses received on the draft blueprint for a lean City Council
- (2) endorse the revised version of the blueprint for a lean Norwich City Council for use as a guiding framework for the development of a range of efficiency and improvement proposals
- (3) delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any final changes arising from the consultation process

## **\*13. MANAGING ASSETS NORTH OF CITY (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report. Councillor Brociek-Coulton, Executive Member for Residents and Customer Care, thanked officers for doing a good job in consulting with local residents on this difficult issue.

**RESOLVED** having considered the report of the Head of Neighbourhood and Strategic Housing to:-

- (1) approve the option to resettle council tenants and to dispose of the assets on the open market through auction or through an agent;
- (2) approve an application to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the disposal of the assets detailed in this report;
- (3) approve the capital receipt from disposals be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing;
- (4) delegate to the Director of Regeneration and Development authority to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieve the above

**\*14. MANAGING ASSETS SOUTH OF THE CITY (PARAGRAPH 3)**

**RESOLVED** having considered the report of the Head of Neighbourhood and Strategic Housing to:-

- (1) approve the option to resettle council tenants and to dispose of the assets on the open market through auction or through an agent;
- (2) approve an application to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the disposal of the assets detailed in this report;
- (3) approve the capital receipt from disposals be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing;
- (4) delegate to the Director of Regeneration and Development authority to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieve the above

**\*15. MANAGING ASSETS - MANCROFT WARD (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report and pointed out that an amendment under the Financial consequences listed on the first page of the report as follows: first bullet point, delete £230,000 and replace with £155,000.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) approve the option to resettle council tenants and to dispose of the assets on the open market through auction or through an agent;
- (2) approve an application to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the disposal of the assets detailed in this report;
- (3) approve the capital receipt from disposals be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing;
- (4) delegate to the Director of Regeneration and Development authority to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieve the above

**\*16. DISPOSAL OF SMALL HOUSING SITES WITHIN HCA PARTNERSHIP (PARAGRAPH 3)**

**RESOLVED** having considered the report of the Head of Neighbourhood and Strategic Housing to:-

- (1) approve the disposal of two sites previously agreed to be developed under the Local Authority New Build programme be included within the disposal to a registered provider of affordable housing as part of the partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency;
- (2) approve the substitution of one of the sites included within the partnership with the HCA;

- (3) agree to dispose of the sites at a price of £5000 per dwelling in order to bring a £500,000 capital receipt to the council, ring-fenced to use as part of the partnership with the HCA along with the £2M already received, to kick-start development at Bowthorpe.

**\*17. COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF PRIVATE DWELLING (PARAGRAPH 1)**

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report. Members welcomed this proposal and thanked officers for their work.

**RESOLVED to:-**

- (1) approve the Compulsory Purchase of the public dwelling as identified on the map as attached at Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) approve, subject to a successful Compulsory Purchase Order to the disposal of the private dwelling through an agent, or by auction;
- (3) delegate to the Director of Regeneration & Development authority to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieve all of the above.

**\*18. UPDATE ON NORFOLK LEGAL (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services presented the report and advised members the name of Norfolk Legal was being changed to np law.

Councillor Waters thanked the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and his team for their work on this project.

**RESOLVED** to note the progress of the project.

**\*19. CNC CONSULTANCY SERVICES (PARAGRAPH 3)**

**RESOLVED** having considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive to approve the conversion of the Council's loan to CNC Consultancy Service to share capital.

CHAIR