



## EXECUTIVE

**5.30 p.m. – 6.20 p.m.**

**4 February 2009**

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

Also present: Councillors Ramsay and Makoff and Councillor Wright (from Item 6)

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Blakeway declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 3 below relating to Greyhound Opening.

### **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2009.

### **3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER AND MR P WATSON, FOLLOWING THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE GREYHOUND OPENING/GOLDSMITH STREET SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME**

(Councillor Blakeway having declared a personal and prejudicial interest left the room for the duration of this item.)

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report and answered questions. The Audit Committee had made no further recommendations at its meeting on 29 January 2009. Members were advised that all staff were regularly reminded of key governance and policy issues. Progress against the action plan would be incorporated into regular performance monitoring reports.

Councillor Ramsay welcomed the proposals. The Chair said that both he and Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance, would ensure that the recommended actions in the plan took place and that new actions would be added as appropriate.

**RESOLVED** to approve the action plan attached to the report.

(Councillor Blakeway was readmitted to the meeting.)

### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY – INVEST TO SAVE PROPOSAL**

The Director of Transformation presented the report, together with the Environmental Strategy Manager. Councillor Morrey, Executive Member for Sustainable City Development acknowledged the work of the Environmental Strategy Manager on the Carbon Management Plan which would commit the Council to a 6% reduction in carbon emissions year on year until 2012 and provide savings. The Environmental Strategy Manager, explained that if the Council did nothing there would be 'energy creep' but there was potential to save £3.6m if the target of 30% was reached by 2012. The proposed initiatives in the first two years which included computer software which would automatically save work and switch off computers when not in use; the already implemented rationalisation of printers; voltage optimisation by dropping to the European standard voltage of 230v which would save 10% on energy bills and using daylight sensors to light the Norwich Market.

During discussion members welcomed the initiative. It would build on the Council's successful 'One Small Step' campaign to reduce its carbon emissions by encouraging staff to think about savings that could be made at work and home, which was also being rolled out to other businesses and organisations.

Councillor Ramsay welcomed the report and acknowledged the contributions of the Climate Change Panel and the Environmental Strategy Manager. The initiative demonstrated the link between savings to the environment and savings in fuel bills and expenditure. It was appropriate to put funding into this 'invest to save' proposal.

**RESOLVED to:-**

- (1) agree the identification of £200,000 from the Council's 'invest to save' pot, for spending on an initial range of environmental projects;
- (2) build this commitment into the Council's budget setting process for 2009/10;
- (3) note that additional funding may be needed for future environmental projects, and that additional requests will be made at the appropriate time;
- (4) delegate responsibility to the Local Authority Carbon Management (LACM) Board, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable City Development, to manage the process of project approval and monitoring.

## **5. EARLHAM ACADEMY – CONSULTATION**

The Director of Transformation explained that since the report had been written the County Council had agreed to extend the deadline for receipt of the City Council's response to the consultation on the closure of Earlham High School and its reopening as an Academy from 13 February 2009 to 20 February 2009. This would give the Executive an opportunity to agree a response at its meeting on 18 February 2009 and consider the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations from its meeting on 12 February 2009.

During discussion the Executive members expressed gratitude to the County Council for extending the deadline for the City Council's response. Members noted that this

consultation was an improvement on recent consultations on the Heartsease Academy and Blackdale School. Councillor Bremner said that local Ward Councillors had been pleased with the response from the County Council to a request to ensure that consultation letters were sent to a wider area of residents.

Members also welcomed that there would be an opportunity to ask questions and for a full discussion on the proposals at the Scrutiny Committee on 12 February 2009.

**RESOLVED** to note that Norfolk County Council has agreed to extend its deadline for the City Council's response to the consultation on the proposal to create an Academy at Earlham High School to 20 February 2009, which will enable the Executive to discuss and agree a formal response to the consultation at its meeting on 18 February 2009, taking into account the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee following its meeting on 12 February 2009.

## **6. PLANNING OBLIGATIONS – A FRAMEWORK FOR PRIORITISATION**

The Assistant Director City Development introduced the report and, together with the Regeneration Funding Manager and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, answered members' questions.

The Executive Member for Sustainable City Development supported the recommendations and said that currently there was no criteria for officers to base negotiations in the exceptional situations where a scheme could become unviable if the normal developer's contributions were sought. It would also be helpful for developers as the process would be more open and transparent.

The Chair proposed that in order to ensure Councillor involvement and accountability, and so as not to fetter the discretion of the Planning Applications Committee, the Executive Member for Sustainable City Development should be consulted as part of the discussions to reach agreement about priorities.

In response to a question from Councillor Ramsay, the Regeneration Funding Manager said that Ward Councillors would be consulted as part of the normal planning consultation process. The Chair pointed out that it was expected that the development of neighbourhood plans, based on community involvement, would influence decisions on priorities in such cases where a scheme could become unviable if the normal planning obligations applied.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) endorse the approach outlined in this report and the prioritisation criteria set out in Appendix 1, subject to under 'S106 – Process of Negotiations', paragraph 6, the addition of the following bullet point: 'As part of this process there will be consultation with the Executive Member for Sustainable City Development'; for consultation with the County Council and other local authorities, developers and agents;
- (2) receives a report back on the outcome of the consultation in due course.

## **7. REVIEW OF THE TWO NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT PILOTS**

Councillor Blakeway, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Development, presented the report and answered questions, together with the Head of Community Services.

Councillor Makoff said that she had spoken to the Chair of the HELM Residents' Association and there were concerns that NELM Development Trust's pilot Neighbourhood Management Scheme had terminated in November 2008, without any consultation with residents or other agencies. She suggested that the City Council took over the scheme.

Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing, Adult and Older People's Services, said that the Independent Commission for Older People had highlighted the need for better information and capacity building in communities. The development of neighbourhood management would hold the reins for developing neighbourhood services.

The Chair said that the Council was committed to the Neighbourhood Strategy and that it was important that the work on the pilot neighbourhood management schemes was not lost.

Councillor Blakeway said the Council had a Community Engagement Officer working in the HELM (Hellesdon, Earlham, Larkman and Marlpit) area but it was important to salvage something from the pilot project and therefore suggested further discussions with NELM Development Trust.

**RESOLVED to:-**

- (1) agree to continue the Mile Cross and Catton programme for another year to further test the approach with a dedicated community resource, subject to the budget process;
- (2) note with regret reports that the NELM Development Trust's Neighbourhood Management Scheme has ceased and to ask the Head of Community Services to liaise with NELM Development Trust to discuss the feasibility of its Neighbourhood Management Scheme continuing to 31 March 2010;
- (3) ask the Head of Community Services for a further report at a later date on proposals for the future of neighbourhood management and neighbourhood working particularly in light of the Government's announcement on unitary structures in Norwich and Norfolk in March 2009.

CHAIR