



EXECUTIVE

5.30 p.m. – 6.35 p.m.

26 November 2008

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

Also present: Councillor Stephenson

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2008.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Councillor Blakeway, Executive Member for Neighbourhood Development, introduced the report and said that recruitment was underway to fully establish the Community Engagement Team. The strategy was ready for consultation and it was expected that it would be finalised by the end of February 2009 and considered by the Executive in early March. The Scrutiny Committee would also be considering the strategy.

Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing, Adults and Older People, said that she fully supported this initiative as it was 'residents up' and would put Norwich on a 'firmer footing'.

RESOLVED to approve the strategy for final consultation and to endorse its use by the new Community Engagement Team and the Council as a whole, together with the Council's partners.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH THE UEA

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report and answered members' questions. The Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the recommendations contained in the report.

Councillor Morrey, Executive Member for Sustainable City Development, said that the city had lost out on job opportunities in the past to Cambridge, and that this proposal was a good opportunity to create jobs in Norwich and preserve Earlam Hall.

Councillor Stephenson, Chair of Scrutiny Committee, said that the Scrutiny Committee considered it essential that public access to the Hall was available, that the public use of the car park was retained and expressed concern that there was no guarantee that jobs created would be retained in the city.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) Earlham Hall be declared surplus to the requirements of the City Council and the Director of Regeneration and Development be authorised to prepare a proposal for its disposal that includes the option to transfer ownership to the UEA for the establishment of an Enterprise Centre; and
- (2) £250,000 of capital funding from the LEGI programme be used to provide grant aid to the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to establish a plant and micro-organism research centre on the Norwich Research Park. The award of this grant will be subject to the Director of Regeneration and Development, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, being satisfied that appropriate provision is made in the business plan for the commercialisation of the outcome of the academic research from the new venture.

4. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance, introduced the report and said that the current economic downturn and the Council's response to the Government's emergency budget announcements earlier in the week would have an impact on the Council's performance.

The Director of Transformation said that of the 53 performance indicators 6 were currently assessed as red, 25 as amber and 22 as green. He also commented on the emerging impact of the economic downturn which was starting to have an impact on the Council as well as the City. The report had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee. Future reports would include information on proposed remedial action on projects shown as red.

The Chair referred to the 53 priorities and said that it was difficult for the Council to achieve this many particularly when affected by outside influences. The progress against each of the five priority themes gave a better picture of what was going on.

Councillor Stephenson agreed that there were too many priorities and said that the Scrutiny Committee had requested that projects given the status of 'green' in the 'traffic light' reports should differentiate between those that were 'finished' and those that were 'on target'.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report and the proposed actions contained within it.

5. UPDATE ON THE USE OF THE 'NORWICH NEEDS' GAP ANALYSIS

The Director of Transformation presented the report and together with the Chief Executive answered questions.

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance said that this was good research that should be fed through to government through the local Members of Parliament. The Council had a key role to play especially as partner organisations collapsed due to the economic downturn.

The Executive Member for Housing, Adults and Older People expressed concern that older people did not appear in the Gap analysis, especially as people were living longer. It was also pointed out that transgender, lesbians and gay men were also not included. Members were advised that this would be addressed at the next stage of neighbourhood focus.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods suggested that the Council took a leadership role to prevent agencies duplicating projects as a response to the new data. Agencies should be encouraged to look at delivering different outcomes and rather than arriving in an area 'unannounced and leaving unannounced' should have responsible exit strategies. The Chief Executive said that the City of Norwich Partnership's Delivery Board would be looking at the development of local profiles and a framework for building collaboration with other agencies.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve progress to date on progressing the results of the Norwich Needs research;
- (2) approve a response by 28 November to the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) on a new economic strategy for greater Norwich seeking prioritisation of the issues raised in the Norwich Needs study;
- (3) agree that all ten key challenges (see paragraph 3 of the report) have some relevance, in particular the first six (see below); challenges 3, 4 and 5 require significant intervention in relation to the economic strategy. Aspects of other challenges, e.g. 2 and 6 will also need to be addressed as part of the strategy:
 1. Improving outcomes for children in low income and out of work households.
 2. Strengthening transition pathways from school into education or employment.
 3. Linking those with low skills to the labour market.
 4. Tackling wider worklessness.
 5. Addressing 'in work' low income.
 6. Tackling the additional barriers faced by people with mental health issues.

6. NORWICH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2007/2008

(The Chair agreed to take this report as an urgent item.)

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report and pointed out that the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) Working Party would be

considering the LDF Annual Monitoring report, which was a factual report, at its meeting on 8 December 2008.

RESOLVED to grant delegated powers to the Executive Member for Sustainable City Development and the Director of Regeneration and Development to approve the Annual Monitoring Report for submission to the Secretary of State and their action to be confirmed by the Executive in due course.

7. CANCELLATION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 10 DECEMBER 2008

RESOLVED to cancel the meeting of the Executive scheduled for 10 December 2008.

8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item 8 below on the grounds contained in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH THE UEA (PARAGRAPH 3)

(Councillor Bremner declared a personal interest in this item as his partner worked at the University of East Anglia. Councillor Blakeway declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as she was occasionally employed by a project based at Earlham Hall and left the meeting at this point.)

The Director of Regeneration and Development presented the report and answered questions. Members were advised that due to a typographical error the sum at the end of the first sentence, in the final paragraph, should have an additional '0'.

RESOLVED to note the report.

CHAIR