



EXECUTIVE

5.30 p.m. - 6.45 p.m.

25 June 2008

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

Also Present: Councillors Stephenson, Ramsay and Wright

Apologies Councillor Morphew (Chair)

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2008.

2. SUB NATIONAL REVIEW CONSULTATION

The Interim Director – Regeneration and Development presented the report. He pointed out Unitary Status would provide a stronger voice for Greater Norwich and this would be a major step forward in both shaping and delivering local economic priorities.

Councillor Waters said that the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), local authorities and stakeholders were all working effectively, although he had concerns that the regional democratic mandate would be lost. Functionally and institutionally there was still more work to be done.

The Chair said that the review was a slight improvement and hoped this would work well for Norwich.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve the overall reform package proposed by Government in the Sub National Review for economic planning and funding in the sub-region in the future;
- (2) ask the Government to ensure local democratic safeguards are provided in the approval of regional strategies in the future by joint agreement and sign-off between the Regional Development Agency (EEDA) and local authority representatives before submission to the Secretary of State;
- (3) support a closer working relationship with EEDA and other government agencies as required and, in particular, in the development of a Local Area Agreement Framework for the new unitary area

3. NORWICH MOW AND GROW GARDENING SCHEME

The Head of Housing Management presented the report.

Members welcomed this report and during discussion Councillor Arthur highlighted how this service had made a difference to many tenants, the impact on their mental health, community safety and the look of the neighbourhoods. In reply to a question the Head of Housing said long term the Council would be looking to extend this service to the private sector.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the progress and success of the mow and grow gardening scheme;
- (2) agree the further expansion and funding of the existing scheme

4. NORFOLK SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY 2008-2013

The Housing Strategy Team Leader presented the report and together with the Head of Strategic Housing Services answered member's questions.

Councillor Arthur supported the strategy and said there needed to be more indication of the needs for Norwich and under Greater Norwich this would need to be reviewed.

RESOLVED to approve the Norfolk Supporting People Strategy 2008-2013.

5. CHARITY STALL HAY HILL

The Head of Asset and City Management presented the report and together with the Chief Executive answered members' questions. He confirmed a policy for the use of Brigg Street would be published on the Council's website.

Councillor Blakeway expressed concern that letters sent out to existing user groups had caused confusion along with the need to relocate from time to time for one off events.

During discussion members asked that stall holders who had responded to the consultation be acknowledged. Members said that the stall should be handed over to the stall holder in a clean state.

RESOLVED that the Hay Hill Charity Stall be let solely for charitable purposes as defined in the Charity Act 2006.

6. NORWICH NEEDS RESEARCH STUDY

The Head of Transformation presented the report and together with the Chief Executive answered members' questions. He circulated an email received from the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership.

During discussion members agreed the study highlighted what was already known with the areas of deprivation and the hidden pockets within the more affluent wards. This would give an opportunity to look at the bigger picture, by looking at how communities can help themselves with support from the Council. There was a need for a common committed programme to be signed by all.

The Chief Executive explained this study would not bring an instant change as there was complex pattern of needs and lot of information to digest.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the headline findings of the Norwich Needs Research Study;
- (2) feed the research into the work on the Executives new priority of promoting financial inclusion;
- (3) share findings with partners in order that they can improve outcomes for local people via the Local Area Agreement and the City of Norwich Partnership;
- (4) extend the research to cover the proposed working model boundary for a Greater Norwich Unitary Authority.
- (5) request that officers carry out further work to analyse the findings of this research and provide a full report to Executive in the Autumn setting out options for how the findings and recommendations of this research can be progressed.

7. NORWICH RESEARCH PARK AND EEDA FUNDING

The Chief Executive presented the report.

Members fully endorsed this and stressed the importance of the Research Park to the University of East Anglia and to the future economic success of the City and how essential this was to the Greater Norwich Development Partnership to achieve employment targets.

RESOLVED to write a letter to the East of England Development Agency, with a copy to the Greater Norwich Development Partnership, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.

8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item 9 below on the grounds contained in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

***9. HOUSING LANDLORD SERVICES (PARAGRAPH 1)**

The Chief Executive presented the report and answered members' questions.

RESOLVED to approve the deletion of the post of Head of Landlord Services (HSHHM1) and the associated payments relating to the redundancy / voluntary early retirement of the post holder (as set out in paragraph 9)

CHAIR