



## EXECUTIVE

**5.30 p.m. – 6.25 p.m.**

**18 March 2009**

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

Apologies Councillors Blakeway and Sands

Also present: Councillor Ramsay

### 1. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2009.

### 2. COUNCIL HOUSING RENT INCREASES 2009/10 – REVISED

The Finance Control Manager presented the report and answered members' questions. Members were advised that the Government Department for Communities and Local Government would publish a draft amending determination week commencing 23 March 2009, therefore the situation might change following the publication.

Following discussion officers were asked to look at the General Fund properties to determine if these fall under the same category as council house rents.

**RESOLVED**, that -

- (1) the decision of the Council on 24 February 2009 to set an average rent increase of 6.41% (to include garages and parking spaces) be rescinded;
- (2) a revised Housing Rent Increase of an annual average of 3.13% be set and brought into effect from Monday 4 May 2009;
- (3) to note that this will mean a real increase of 3.40% in weekly rents, to recover the full year increase in income over the shorter period;
- (4) increased rents for garages and parking spaces be set at the annual rate of 3.13% in line with that recommended for dwelling rents.

### **3. EQUALITY STANDARD LEVEL 2**

The Director of Transformation presented the report and answered members' questions. Members were advised that the Council had made good progress towards achieving level 2 of the Equality Standard. However, the standard would be changed from 1 April 2009 and the Council was aiming for the new 'achieving' status, which needed to be reached by 31 March 2011. He thanked the Policy Officer for bringing the Council into a category which was comparable with other authorities.

**RESOLVED**, to –

- (1) note progress made to achieve level 2 of the Equality Standard;
- (2) endorse the self assessments that have achieved compliance with the Level 2 standard;
- (3) note the changes in the standard from 2009;
- (4) agree a revised corporate target to attain the new "achieving" status by March 2011.

### **4. THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT 2007**

The Head of Community Services presented the report and explained that the Act allowed local people to ask central government through their council to take action on specific issues to promote the sustainability of their communities. The Act does not provide funding, and given the range of priorities across the Council, it was proposed that the approach would build on the work of the Community Engagement team. Proposal would be brought back to Executive during June/July 2009.

Councillor Arthur suggested the 'Power of Care' authority for carers could be tested through the process.

During discussion the Head of Community Services said any proposal would need to be tested and the process would need to be transparent and clear, any proposals would be tested through the City of Norwich Partnership or other panels as appropriate to the issues raised.

**RESOLVED** to endorse the proposed approach as set out in the report.

### **5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item 6 and 7 below on the grounds contained in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**\*6 PUBLICATION OF OJEU NOTICE FOR THE PUBLIC FACING  
CONTRACTS CURRENTLY PROVIDED BY CITYCARE  
(Paragraph 3)**

The Head of Procurement and Service Improvement presented the report and answered members' questions on the re-let of the public facing contracts.

**RESOLVED** that -

- (1) the contracts are broken down into the lots as described within the report;
- (2) a single OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) notice is published encompassing all of the lots and;
- (3) alternative methods of advertising the opportunities offered by these procurements to local small and medium sized enterprises are actively pursued.

**\*7 REQUEST FOR VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCY/EARLY RETIREMENT  
(Paragraph 3)**

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

**RESOLVED**, to agree the request for voluntary redundancy/early retirement.