

# **EXECUTIVE**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 March 2006**

**Councillors:** Keith Chopping (P), Geoff Findlay (P), Marcus Franks (AP), Graham Jones (P), Joe Mooney (P), Graham Pask (AP), Anthony Stansfeld (P), Emma Webster (P), Laszlo Zverko (P)

### **PART I**

#### **177. APOLOGIES.**

Apologies for the inability to attend the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Franks and Pask.

#### **178. MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2006 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **179. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no interests declared.

#### **180. QUESTIONS.**

##### **(a) Public Questions**

- (i) A question standing in the name of Mrs Barnett on the subject of litter collection from the A339 to receive a written reply.

##### **(b) Member Questions**

- (i) A question standing in the name of Councillor Vickers was answered by the Executive Member for Planning and Highways.
- (ii) A question standing in the name of Councillor Hunneman was answered by the Leader of Council.
- (iii) A question standing in the name of Councillor Alexander was answered by the Executive Member for Finance.
- (iv) A question standing in the name of Councillor Woodhams was answered by the Executive Member for Community Safety.
- (v) A question standing in the name of Councillor Woodhams was answered by the Executive Member for Community Safety.
- (vi) A question standing in the name of Councillor Barnett was answered by the Executive Member for Planning and Highways.
- (vii) A question standing in the name of Councillor Barnett was answered by the Executive Member for Planning and Highways.

#### **181. PETITIONS.**

There were no petitions presented to the Executive.

**182. Performance Monitoring 2005/06 – Quarter 3**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 6) concerning current performance levels across the Council for the third quarter 2005/06.

The Portfolio Member for Strategy and Performance reported that the report outlined current performance across the Council for Q3 of 2005/06. He was pleased to note that performance had not been overly affected by the termination of the Amy contract and that the Council had been awarded Beacon Status for Community and Parish Planning.

**RESOLVED that** the remedial action proposed in Appendix 6 to the report be approved.

**183. Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 3**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 7) concerning current year's budget position and the forecast to March 2006.

The Portfolio-holder responsible for Finance reported that forecasted figures showed a potential overspend of £227,168 and he wished to thank the Executive Members for their hard work in achieving this.

In response to questions the portfolio-holder agreed to provide the opposition spokesman further information as to why the Strategy & Resource Service Grouping was not expecting to meet its procurement savings.

**RESOLVED that** the issues raised in the report be noted, along with the proposed management actions where appropriate.

**184. Establishment Report – Quarter 3**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 8) concerning to the Council's Establishment over the third quarter of 2005/06.

The Portfolio-Member responsible for Strategy and Performance informed the Executive that the Council's Establishment figures continue to decrease over the last quarter. Whilst the Establishment had been brought under control the number of vacant posts being recruited to had increased.

Members were informed that the deleted posts were a mixture of front and back-of-house positions and that the majority had been removed as they were no longer required.

**RESOLVED that** the report be noted.

**185. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2005/06 – Quarter 3**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 9) concerning progress on the Capital Programme for the Third Quarter 2005/06.

The Portfolio-member responsible for Finance reported that there was only 15% of the current year's budget left to be spent or allocated.

**RESOLVED that** the report and any remedial action that is being taken be noted.

**186. School Admission Arrangements 2007/08**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 10) concerning Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and Coordinated Admission Schemes for 2007/08.

The Leader of Council introduced the report and informed the Executive that following consultation it was decided to propose only minor amendments to current policy. Members felt that this was a sensible approach as making widespread changes prior to the White Paper would be unwise.

**RESOLVED** that the determined arrangements and schemes for 2007/08 be agreed.

### **187. Preferred Options for Newbury Town Centre Plan**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 11) concerning the draft Newbury Town Centre Plan Preferred Options.

The Portfolio-Member responsible for Planning and Highways presented the preferred options for Newbury town-centre plan and informed Members that the Executive were asked to approve the preferred options for public consultation.

**RESOLVED that** the Newbury Town Centre Plan Preferred Options be approved for public consultation and participation (accompanied by the relevant supporting documents) in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

### **188. Highways Improvement Programme 2006/07**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 12) concerning the first year of the 5 year Highways Improvement Programme.

The Portfolio-member responsible for Planning and Highways introduced the Report and informed the Executive that they were being asked to approve the first year of the five-year Highways Programme. The proposed list of works had been agreed on a basis of need and the anticipated spend for this year's work was over £2.5m.

It was agreed that if a need to re-prioritise some of the schemes arose then this would be done with the agreement of the Executive Member for Planning & Highways in consultation with the opposition spokesman.

**RESOLVED that** the Highway Improvement Programme 2006/07 be approved

### **189. Adult and Community Learning 3 Year Development Plan 2006/07-2008/09**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 13) concerning outline changes to funding for 2006/07 provision and to consider the options to minimise the impact on the public.

The Portfolio-Member responsible for Community Care introduced the report and informed Members that due to a cut in the Learning and Skills' funding the Executive were asked to approve the Adult and Community Learning three year development plan.

**RESOLVED that** the Adult and Community Learning 3 Year Development Plan 2006/07 – 2008/09 be approved.

### **190. Strategy for the Development of Children's Centres**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 14) concerning the strategy for the development of Children's Centres in West Berkshire.

The Leader of Council introduced the report and informed Members that the Executive were asked to approve an update to the consultation process and the sights for children's centres 3 and 4.

**RESOLVED that:**

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1. an update of the consultation process for the development of Children's Centres 3 and 4 be approved;
2. the sites for Children's Centres 3 and 4 be approved.

**191. Termination of Berkshire Unitary Authorities Joint Arrangements for the Management of Ufton Court**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 15) concerning the arrangements being put in place for the termination of the Ufton Court agreement with effect from 31 August 2006.

The Portfolio-member informed the Executive that the report outlined the arrangements being put in place for the termination of the joint management of Ufton Court.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**192. ODPM Amendments to Capital Finance Regulations**

The Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 16) concerning the implications for the Council of a change to the advice given by the ODPM to ex-HRA Authorities on Capital Finance Regulations.

The Portfolio-member responsible for Finance informed the Executive that due to a government-change in regulation the Council had to find an additional £89,647.50 payable to the Secretary of State. The Council had contacted local MPs to register its concern regarding the change in these regulations.

**RESOLVED that** the payment made to the Secretary of State on 28 February 2006 be noted and the consequences of the regulations in the potential sale of the mortgage portfolio be considered.

**193. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

**RESOLVED that** members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraphs(s) 3 and 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Rule 4.2 of the Constitution also refers.

**PART II**

**194. Waste Issues**

*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of particular person)*

The Committee considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 18) concerning waste issues.

**RESOLVED that** the recommendations set out in the exempt report be approved.

**195. Request for Early Retirement**

*(Paragraph 1 – Personnel Issues)*

The Committee considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 19) concerning a personnel issue.

**RESOLVED that** the recommendations set out in the exempt report be approved.

*(The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.05pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature:** .....