

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

At a meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held at Borough Offices, Bishops' College, Churchgate, Cheshunt on Tuesday 13 October 2009 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors K A Ayling (Chairman) (Leader of the Council), M D Aitken (Leader of the Opposition), Mrs J E E Ball, R B Bick, P Caruso, D A Lewis, P V Mason, G Nicholson (Vice-Chairman), J Pearce, B A Perry, P N Seeby, M A Watson and Mrs E M White (Mayor).

Also present: Councillors Mrs S P J Ball-Greenwood and J Metcalf.

### **26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None submitted.

### **27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ayling declared a personal interest in Part 1, Item 8 – Consequences of Outstanding S106 Planning Obligations as a board member of Hertford Regional College.

Councillor Watson declared a personal interest in Part 1, Item 2 – Review of Sustainable Community Strategy as a governor of Greenfield Children's Centre.

### **28. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July, 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to noting the apologies of Councillor Aitken.

### **29. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME**

Min. 7 - Health Matters Affecting the Local Community – Councillor Seeby requested the report on the PCT needs for land at the Drill Hall be made.

Min. 8 - Other Services Capital Programme – Final Outturn 2008/09 – Councillor Nicholson sought the report on the cost benefit analysis of the A10 bridge.

The Chairman asked that both matters be added to the Summary of Progress sheet.

## **REPORTS OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

The Committee received the reports of the Chief Executive Officer (circulated – attached as appendices to the copy of the minutes signed by the Chairman) and determined the matters contained therein, which were presented by the officers indicated, as follows:-

### **30. CORPORATE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

#### **Part 1, Item 1 – Chief Executive Officer and Head of Community Planning**

RESOLVED that the Committee (a) agrees a member workshop be held to discuss amended corporate priorities; (b) receives the corporate plan narrative performance monitoring report as part of the framework of performance management for the Council; (c) requests the Chairman, in consultation with the relevant officers, to scrutinise the Annual Report for 2008-09; and (d) notes the preparation of the improvement plan and receives a progress report in six months' time.

## **31. REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT ALLOCATION**

### **Part 1, Item 2 – Head of Community Planning**

Councillor Mason stressed that funding from PRG fund should reflect the Council's aims for the area and be explicit about its outcomes and impact on the local community. Councillor Seeby drew attention to the 2007 pattern of relative deprivation across the borough and requested that the 'Think Family' project should be a Borough wide initiative and not confined to Waltham Cross. The Chairman drew attention to the level of service charges for Next Step and sought a professional assessment and check against other comparable service charges (including the Council's own).

RESOLVED that the Committee (a) supports the revision of the Broxbourne sustainable community strategy and agrees a workshop for members to review the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities together; (b) notes the process adopted by the LSP for allocation of PRG money, and agrees to receive a report at the February meeting of this Committee to allocate the initial tranche of funding; (c) agrees a bid be made, in concurrence with the Chairman, to countywide PRG money for vibrant towns for the purpose of bringing empty shop units in to use; (d) agrees that, before the lease on 66/67 Pavilions Waltham Cross be renewed for use by Next Step, discussions take place on the governance and performance management with Hertford Regional College; and (e) endorses reference of requests for funding for extended schools and children's centres be made to the LAA Reward Fund.

## **32. HEALTH MATTERS AFFECTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

### **Part 1, Item 3 - Head of Community Planning**

Councillor Perry reported he had been informed that 10% of journeys were cancelled at the last minute and requested this factor be incorporated in service reviews.

RESOLVED that (a) residents of Ware be given access to the health shuttle service, using £1,000 to be provided by Ware Town Council, as set out in the report submitted; (b) an application be made to the LAA reward fund to secure the development of this service and to increase public awareness of it, through which funding be provided for a new leaflet advertising the health shuttle; (c) the next meeting of this Committee receives a report on the measures taken and the further opportunities to publicise the Urgent Care Centre at Cheshunt; (d) the agenda and minutes of the health forum be published more widely and linked with the programmes for other fora as set out elsewhere on this agenda; (e) the Committee agrees that the scheme of charges for Ware residents be delegated to officers to approve, in concurrence with the Chairman; and (f) the Committee seeks a reply from East Herts District Council to the Council's letter requesting a strategic approach and a shared basis for the shuttle service.

## **33. SAFER COMMUNITIES MONITOR – QUARTERLY REPORT FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2009**

### **Part 1, Item 4 – Chief Executive Officer and Community Safety/Town Centres Manager**

RESOLVED that the Committee (a) endorses the suite of actions being taken to improve community safety in the Borough; (b) agrees to receive a report on the impact of alcohol control zones in the borough at its next meeting; (c) in view of the importance of the community payback scheme, receives a further report on setting up a priority list of sites and types of rectification to which this resource should be applied; and (d) notes the position on financial spends for community safety initiatives in 2009/10 as set out in

Appendix 'E' to the report submitted and invites officers to review, in consultation with the Chairman, whether any parts of the community safety programme should be subject to bids for LAA reward grant funding, in order to sustain those actions over the next two years.

#### **34. REVIEW OF COUNCIL CCTV SYSTEMS**

##### **Part 1, Item 5 – Community Safety/Town Centres Manager**

RESOLVED that the Committee (a) notes the position regarding the CCTV system for Hoddesdon town centre and refers consideration of this matter to the Town Centres Sub-Committee; (b) receives quarterly updates as part of the safer communities monitor reported to this Committee regarding the Council's redeployable CCTV systems; (c) requests the officers establish a corporate code of practice for the management of CCTV at Council facilities as outlined in the report submitted; (d) requests all facilities review the adequacy of signage promoting the CCTV system; and (e) requests a brief annual report on the impact/effectiveness of the Council's CCTV systems.

#### **35. COMMUNITY AWARENESS PROGRAMME 2008/09**

##### **Part 1, Item 6 - Head of Support Services and Chief Executive Officer**

It was suggested that in order to maximise the programme's effectiveness the Council's approaches to schools be varied and stepped up.

RESOLVED that the Committee (a) in the context of the 2008 Place Survey, receives a further report on the scope for widening and strengthening this community awareness programme; (b) reaffirms the four priorities identified in the report submitted and calls for a strengthened programme of events for 2010/11 including involvement with schools on developing citizenship skills; (c) asks for a corporate bid to be made to the local strategic partnership for LAA reward programme funding to strengthen this programme; and (d) in order to raise public awareness of their work, receives a report at the next meeting, on the measures taken to improve the co-ordination and linkages between the various community fora at work in the borough, listed in the report submitted.

#### **36. AMENDMENTS TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION IN RELATION TO HOUSING GRANT ASSISTANCE**

##### **Part 1, Item 7 - Head of Support Services**

The Chairman requested a running total of expenditure on disabled facilities grants be reported on the monthly general fund monitor.

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to amend the scheme of delegation within the Council's Constitution, as outlined in the report submitted.

#### **37. CONSEQUENCES OF OUTSTANDING S106 PLANNING OBLIGATIONS FOR THREE SIGNIFICANT SITES**

##### **Part 1, Item 8 - Chief Executive Officer**

RESOLVED that (a) in order to enable completion of the second phase redevelopment of the Turnford campus without delay to the realisation of the community assets on this site, the Council pay the first phase of the planning obligation receipt of £0.931 million and offer a bridging payment of the second phase resources, pending recovery from the developer in due course, subject to agreement of appropriate safeguards with the College in due course; (b) the Committee receive a further report on the monitoring regime appropriate for the redevelopment of significant housing sites with a social housing component, in

order to avoid potential problems with the government grant regimes in place and other issues; and (c) the Council seeks to recover interest charges at an average rate of return from investment foregone in connection with recommendation (a) above from the developer.

### **38. OTHER SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10 – HALF YEAR OUTTURN 2009/10 AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL APPROVALS**

#### **Part 1, Item 9 - Director of Resources**

RESOLVED that the Committee (a) notes the half year outturn on the capital programme for 2009/10; (b) notes the projects approved under the urgent action procedures since the last meeting of the Committee, listed at Appendix 'G' to the report submitted; (c) approves the additional capital programme for 2009/10 at Appendix 'H' to the report submitted; and (d) approves an increase in the total capital allocation for disabled facilities grants from £500,000 to £900,000 (inclusive of the Government contribution), subject to the further investigation and revised approval and monitoring processes required by the Finance & Personnel Committee.

### **39. CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE – DETERMINING A WAY FORWARD**

#### **Part 1, Item 10 - Head of Communications**

RESOLVED that the Committee requests officers to explore the Institute of Customer Service customer service accreditation, with staff and members, as part of a service quality accreditation framework.

### **40. REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY – REPORT ON PROGRESS**

#### **Part 1, Item 11 – Chief Executive Officer and senior Communications Officer**

RESOLVED that (a) a report be made to the next meeting with the results of the consultation exercise and a strategy that has been amended to take account of comments raised during the consultation period; and (b) an assessment be made of the resource implications of the draft strategy and submissions be made to the LAA reward fund accordingly.

### **41. INFORMATION ITEMS AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

RESOLVED that reports on the following items be noted:

- (i) **Neighbourhood Fora Monitor – Quarterly Report for July to September** – Part 2, Item 1 – Community Safety/Town Centres Manager – update on forums

Councillor Perry requested that officers adjust the figures to reflect the location of Silverfields in Wormley/Turnford neighbourhood budget.

- (ii) **Place Survey 2008 – Results** – Part 2, Item 2 – Head of Communications – analysis of the survey's findings
- (iii) **Review of the Community Plan Audit** – Part 2, Item 3 – Senior Communications Officer – information on latest Community Plan Audit.
- (iv) **Community Plan Key Projects – Half Yearly Report** – Part 2, Item 4 – Senior Communications Officer – progress on Community Plan projects
- (v) **Community Grant Scheme 2009/10** – Part 2, Item 5 – Head of Support Services – updates on the scheme 2009/10

- (vi) **Town Centres and Olympics Sub Committees** – Part 2, Item 6 – Head of Support Services – information on recent meetings of the Sub-Committees
  - (vii) **The Council's Property Service – Sites of Interest and Key Property Issues** – Part 2, Item 7 – Director of Environmental Services – progress with key sites
  - (viii) **Property Services Business Plan 2009/10** – Part 2, Item 8 – Director of Environmental Services - update on business plan
- The Chairman asked when the document was circulated to members of the Committee. He requested the document would need to be signed off in concurrence with the Chairman
- (ix) **Action Taken in Consultation with the Chairman Under Council's Standing Orders** – Part 2, Item 9 – Head of Support services – details of actions taken
  - (x) **Elections and Electoral Registrations Update** – Part 2, Item 10 – Head of Support services – update on recent legislative changes
  - (xi) **Corporate Data Quality Improvements** – Part 2, Item 11 – Head of Computing and CIO – progress on improving data quality
  - (xii) **Policy and Resources Committee Capital and revenue Monitor – Period 5 2009/10** – Part 2, Item 12 – Director of Resources – Committee's financial position

#### 42. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) to the Act specified beside the item.

#### 43. ACQUISITIONS AND DISPOSALS

##### **Part 3(a), Item 1 – Director of Environmental Services**

Supplementary information was tabled at the meeting

RESOLVED that (a) the Committee agrees to make £1.4 million available for the purchase of land at RD Park; (b) the Director of Environmental Services be authorised, in consultation with the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer, to purchase the two sites at RD Park for the sum of £1.4 million on the terms set out in the report submitted; (c) the Director of Environmental Services be instructed to prepare detailed proposals for the future use of the land in consultation with the Chairman, the Chairman of the SO Board, the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Broxbourne Services and submit planning applications as necessary; and (d) the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to acquire the Gospel Hall, Halfhide Lane, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, Director of Resources and the Chairman of the Committee.

#### 44. COMMERCIAL RENT

##### **Part 3(b), Item 1 – Director of Resources**

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting terminated at 9.45pm

K A AYLING  
Chairman