

Economic Development Board
22 June 2011
**A MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 22 JUNE 2011**

The Mayor (Councillor CR Carter) (ex-officio); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (P), Councillors Allen (P), Chegwyn (P), Edgar, Mrs Forder, Mrs Hook (P), Kimber (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Ronayne (P) and Mrs Searle (P).

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillors Hook and Forder had been nominated to replace Councillors Edgar and Mrs Forder respectively, for this meeting.

7. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from the Mayor and Councillors Edgar and Mrs Forder.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Hook and Hook declared personal interests in exempt item 12, Peppers Compass Point, Walpole Park.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Board meeting held on 11 January 2011 and the minutes of the Economic Development Board meeting held on the 19 May 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

10. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

12. PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE (PUSH): REVISION TO CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought Board approval to revise the constitutional arrangements relating to the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire. The changes had already been considered by the PUSH Joint Committee and had been recommended for approval by the constituent authorities.

The Board were advised that the constitutional changes were minor and needed to be formally approved. New Forest District Council had left PUSH and the Isle of Wight Council had recently joined. In addition the veto facility for Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and Hampshire County Council had been removed.

RESOLVED: That the revised constitutional arrangements set out in the report relating to PUSH be approved.

13. ENTERPRISE AND SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Economic Prosperity, Tourism and Culture which briefed Members on the changes affecting the provision of Enterprise and Small Business Support in Gosport and seeking approval for a programme of support for 2011/12.

Members were advised that Business Support arrangements had been reviewed as Business Link no longer provided face to face support.

The Enterprise First service would continue and incorporate a joint initiative with the Library Service and Hampshire Action Team to extend and improve resources available in the Discovery Centre.

In addition, it was proposed to work in partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council's Southern Entrepreneurs programme to build networks and provide support and training.

It was seen as important to offer effective Business support services, particularly with the potential of employment sites at Daedalus and Haslar.

RESOLVED: That the proposed programme of Enterprise and Small Business Support for 2011/12 be approved.

14. GOSPORT PROPOSITION

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Economic Prosperity, Tourism and Culture on the preparation and purpose of the document 'Gosport: An Opportunity 2011-2026, Business Growth and Community Regeneration', seeking approval for its use in accordance with the recommendations in the report.

The Board was advised that the document was a key document; it showed visions for key sites in the area and advertised what Gosport had to offer economically.

The Chairman advised that it had been produced with independent input to ensure that it provided best value. Work had been undertaken to develop the title of the document. In addition, the strap line would be used on other documents to indicate Gosport's readiness for business development and plans for the future.

In response a Member advised the meeting that the document was welcome and showed the aspirations for the development of Gosport. The inclusion of Education as a priority sector for delivering growth in the document would be welcome.

It was recognised that engineering would be important to the future development of Gosport, but that it could not provide the complete economic answer. Schools and education should be included as they would provide the training for the identified objectives for the priority development areas of Tourism, Leisure and Health and Social Care.

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The Board were advised that funding to create specialist schools was no longer available; it would therefore be difficult for a local school to take on an engineering specialism. Substantial investment would be required to provide the correct class rooms for engineering specialism and the recruitment of specialist staff would also be difficult.

In conclusion, the Board was requested to consider making amendments to the document to reflect the importance of development in the provision of education in the Borough.

Members felt that engineering should be seen as a broad topic, providing a range of opportunities. It was noted that employers were seeking engineers specific to individual business needs and recognised that links could be made with HMS Sultan to develop courses meeting the requirements of local employers.

Members recognised that the document led in examining economic development potential in Gosport, but recognised that education played a role in developing skills.

The Board identified some minor amendments to the document and requested that the key strand of 'Skills and Training' be renamed 'Education, Skills and Training'.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the identified amendments, the proposed programme of Enterprise and Small Business Support for 2011/12 be approved.

15. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT HOLBROOK – CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and appended letters, detailing the receipt of objections to the intended disposals of land consisting of open space at Holbrook in connection with the Gosport Leisure Park Development.

RESOLVED: That the objections received be rejected and the disposals of the land at Holbrook be proceeded with.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

17. PEPPERS, COMPASS POINT, WALPOLE PARK

Councillors Mrs Hook and Hook declared personal interests in this item and remained in the meeting room.

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Housing Services Manager on the above.

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The report was exempt from publication as it contained details of the financial affairs of the Council and a third party at a time when negotiations were not finally concluded. These negotiations could be prejudiced if this information was made public which may have an adverse impact on the arrangements to the detriment of the Council Tax Payer. Therefore as the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Head of Property Services be authorised to conclude the negotiations for the grant of a new lease on terms to be agreed; and
- b) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to enter into such legal documentation as necessary to effect the above decision.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that he was hoping to arrange a number of briefings for Members of the Economic Development Board on key topics.

CONCLUDED 6.27PM

CHAIRMAN