

A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

WAS HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2007

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (ex-officio); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Cully) (P); Councillors Burgess, Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Hicks (P), Hook (P), Langdon (P), Smith (P), Taylor (P) and Wright (P) .

36. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received on behalf of the Mayor and Councillor Burgess.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

38. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2007

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 19 September 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

39. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

40. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART I

41. ADOPTION OF A REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix A) which sought approval to adopt a revised Gosport Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy.

Members were updated on comments received from the British Beer and Pub Association and the Southern Region Institute of Innkeepers, both of whom were supportive of the document.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- a) the revised Statement of Licensing Policy, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be adopted; and

- b) the scheme of delegation set out in the original Statement of Licensing Policy, and repeated in the revised policy at Appendix A of the report, continue to be incorporated into the Council's Constitution and authority be delegated to the Borough Solicitor to make any necessary and any consequential amendments to the Constitution.

PART II

42. CROSS-REFERENCE FROM HOUSING BOARD HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2007: REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE LEISURE

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the meeting of the Housing Board held on 7 November 2007 in connection with progress that had been made in relation to the redevelopment of The Leisure at Cunningham Drive, Bridgemary.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the land at the Leisure, excluding that occupied by the bungalows, be transferred to Hermitage Housing Association for no financial consideration, and authority be delegated to the Housing Services Manager in consultation with the Borough Solicitor to finalise the terms of the transfer;
- b) the Housing Services Manager, in liaison with Ward Councillors and Group Housing Spokespersons, continue working on the detailed proposals, including financial, management and development discussions, for the redevelopment of The Leisure Sheltered Housing Scheme; and
- c) future management arrangements for the new scheme be as follows:
- the establishment of a local management panel to monitor and review performance of both the management and care at the new scheme. The management panel would consist of representatives of all partners to the scheme including local residents' representatives, a local ward councillor and representatives from the voluntary sector.
 - the establishment of a nominations panel to assess applications for the scheme and to ensure that both the housing and care needs are assessed jointly. This would consist of representatives from GBC, HCC and Hermitage Housing Association. Vacancies to the scheme would be advertised through the Gosport CBL scheme with agreed housing and care criteria attached.
 - access in perpetuity for residents of 26-45 Cunningham Drive to the new facilities at the redeveloped Leisure scheme, with costs pegged to GBC prices for guest rooms etc for a period of five years from the opening of the new scheme.

43. ROWNER NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Economic Prosperity which sought support for a proposal to pilot a Neighbourhood Management Scheme in the Rowner area (including Grange Ward) for a period of two years, commencing 1st April 2008, and agreement that monies allocated for neighbourhood management in Rowner be invested in delivery of the proposal.

Members were advised that positive responses had been received with regard to the financing of the core costs of the project.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the proposal to pilot a Neighbourhood Management Scheme in the Rowner area (including Grange Ward) for a period of two years, commencing 1st April 2008 be supported; and
- b) Funds allocated for neighbourhood management in Rowner be used to support delivery of this Neighbourhood Management Proposal.

44. FERRY LANDING STAGE – DESIGN OF REPLACEMENT FACILITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval to proceed with the detailed design and tender stages leading to construction and installation of the new landing stage and authorisation for officers to obtain specific permissions.

Members were advised that consideration was being given to providing public information boards by the ferry containing details of the history of the site and the proposed new design. Members felt that this proposal should be reconsidered once the estimated costs of the project were known.

The proposed design included a considerable amount of toughened glazing which would help to reduce potential vandalism. The proposed roofing would be of aluminium to facilitate easier maintenance.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the outline design for the replacement landing stage and shore based accommodation be approved;
- b) officers be authorised to proceed with the detailed design work and tender leading to construction and installation of the new structures; and
- c) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to apply for a Harbour Empowerment Order and to complete the legal documentation required for the exchange with the Crown.

45. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2006/07, PROGRESS REPORT 2007/08, & PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer. Members were advised that the annual treasury report was a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures and covered the treasury activity for 2006/07 together with a review of 2007/08 to date. The report also covered the actual Prudential Indicators for 2006/07 in accordance with the requirements of the Prudential Code.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Treasury Management report for 2006/07 be noted; and
- b) the 2006/07 Prudential Indicators be approved.

46. NATIONAL BUS SCHEME 2008 ONWARDS

Members were reminded that a report on the above matter had been taken to the meeting of the Policy & Organisation Board on 19 September 2007. Members had subsequently requested a further report to be submitted to the Board when more financial information could be provided regarding the enhanced scheme option allowing travel before 9.30 a.m. The new statutory scheme specified that, as a minimum, free travel should be provided from 9.30 a.m. The report also provided a general update to Members on the current position concerning this key service area.

The Financial Services Manager reported that the Council's consultants had advised that the estimated cost of an all day travel scheme would amount to £26,378 during the financial year 2008/09. Members therefore decided that the Council should adopt a scheme which would represent an enhancement of the new statutory provisions and would allow free travel before 9.30 a.m. for eligible persons.

RESOLVED: That the Council adopt an extended National Bus Scheme to allow free travel before 9.30 a.m. for eligible persons.

47. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager which considered and made recommendations on the future of the Council's banking services. The current contract was due to expire on 31st March 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Council enter into a 5 year contract with the National Westminster Bank plc for the supply of banking services and the requirements of Contract Standing Order 8 be waived.

48. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 to 2012/13

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager which considered the Council's draft capital programme for the period 2007/08 to 2012/13 and sought approval of it in principle for further consideration by the Housing and Community & Environment Boards during the January cycle.

Members agreed that the Capital Programme should be considered by individual Boards and therefore the report was for noting only.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme be noted for detailed consideration by the Housing and Community and Environment Boards during the January cycle.

49. FEES AND CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager which outlined the Council's draft Fees and Charges 2008/09 for approval in principle for further consideration by Housing and Community & Environment Boards during the January cycle.

Members were advised of a correction to the list of proposed 2008/09 charges in that the figure for LAPC/IPPC Register enquiries (authorised industrial processes) should be £33 as opposed to £16.

Members agreed that Fees and Charges should be considered by individual Boards and therefore the report was for noting only.

RESOLVED: That the Fees and Charges, as detailed in Appendix A of the Financial Services Manager's report, be noted for detailed consideration by the Housing and Community & Environment Boards during the January cycle.

50. 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 1 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.

51. BUS STATION

The report was exempt from publication as the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information by reason that it contained personal and financial information that was not considered appropriate to be released to the public.

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in the Chief Executive's report be approved, including the additional cost of works notified at the meeting.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN