

AN MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
WAS HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2007

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

23. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received for inability to attend the meeting.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 27 JUNE 2007

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 27 June 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

26. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

27. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART I

28. PARTNERSHIP FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE – ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT COMMITTEE AND JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix A) which sought approval for the establishment of a joint committee with East Hampshire District Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council, Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, Havant District Council, New Forest District Council, Portsmouth City Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council to promote a sub-regional strategy for sustainable economic growth in urban south Hampshire, covering in particular economic development, transport and other infrastructure. Creation of the Joint Committee would formalise the governance of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).

The report also proposed the establishment of a joint scrutiny committee to undertake scrutiny of the activities of the PUSH joint committee.

RECOMMENDED: That Council be advised that the Board gives approval for:

- a) the establishment of a formal joint committee (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)) to replace the existing voluntary informal arrangements, based on the terms of reference and broad structure described in the Chief Executive's report, with approval of the detailed Memorandum of Understanding and other documents to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council; and
- b) the establishment of a joint overview and scrutiny committee to scrutinise the activities of the PUSH joint committee.

PART II

29. CROSS-REFERENCE FROM HOUSING BOARD HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2007: REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR THE LEISURE

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

30. APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2006/07

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which set out the main changes necessary to the draft Statement of Accounts following external audit and sought approval of the Statement prior to publication.

Concerns were expressed regarding the low balance on the Housing Revenue Account and a request was made that steps be taken to ensure that such a situation did not arise again.

RESOLVED: That the revised Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2007 be approved.

31. NATIONAL BUS SCHEME 2008 ONWARDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager which sought the Board's support for the new statutory minimum provisions of free travel anywhere in England after 9.30am. Currently the scheme operated by Gosport Borough Council offered free bus travel in Hampshire to Gosport residents over 60 years of age and certain categories of disabled residents.

Concerns were raised by officers regarding the new scheme. Future costs were unknown but were likely to be much higher than at present, which represented a considerable risk to the Council.

Bus companies had been successful in all appeals lodged to date and in 2006 consultants had suggested a 10% contingency for this purpose. Additional claims this year had exceeded the suggested contingency by four times.

Members decided that the matter should be deferred until more financial information was available and therefore requested that a further report be submitted to the Board once this information was available.

RESOLVED: That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Board once further financial information is available.

32. GOSPORT FERRY REPLACEMENT PONTOON – BUDGET FOR CONSULTANCY REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which advised the Board of the latest position in respect of the budget estimate for consultancy support for the design and procurement of the replacement ferry pontoon.

RESOLVED: That the revised 2007/08 budget provision of £150,000 in respect of the consultancy support for the design and procurement of the replacement ferry pontoon be approved.

33. EXCHANGE OF LAND AT TRINITY GREEN AREA: THE COUNCIL AND KELSEY HOUSING ASSOCIATION

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that it had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created by the matter having been outstanding for some time and it becoming critical for the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) regarding use of the land, making it inappropriate to wait until the next Board meeting.

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the meeting of the Housing Board on 12 September 2007 which sought approval for the exchange of land between the Council and Kelsey Housing Association as shown hatched [GBC 1-2] (Kelsey Housing Association to the Council) and as shown double hatched [K1-3] (The Council to Kelsey Housing Association) on Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the exchange of land between the Council and Kelsey Housing Association, as detailed in the Housing Services Manager's report, be approved;
- b) the Borough Solicitor enter into such legal documentation as necessary to effect the above decision; and
- c) the transfer of land, as detailed in the Housing Services Manager's report, be progressed.

34. 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.

35. 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 Development Services Manager.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations contained in the Development Services Manager's exempt report be not approved.

The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN