

Subject to approval
A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

WAS HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2007

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

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillors Philpott and Ms Ballard had been nominated to replace Councillors Burgess and Chegwyn respectively for this meeting.

31. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Burgess and Chegwyn.

32. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Wright be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2006/07.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 8 November 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

PART II

35. THE GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive, which sought Members' support for the Gosport Borough Council Disability Equality Scheme produced in response to the duties placed on the Council by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005.

Members were advised that Disability Equality Awareness training had been identified as a key action and would be compulsory for all staff. Members would be invited to attend training sessions.

Members proposed that amendments should be made to Section 11 of the Scheme headed "Monitoring the Action Plan and the Scheme as a Whole" to reflect that progress reports would be submitted annually to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee rather than the Policy and Organisation Board. Members were supportive of the Action Plan being reviewed annually and of the Scheme being revised in 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Gosport Borough Council Disability Equality Scheme be approved subject to the following amendments to Section 11 of the Scheme headed "Monitoring the Action Plan and the Scheme as a Whole":

- a) Bullet point 2 to read: Progress reports will be taken quarterly to the DES Reference Group, the Corporate Equality and Diversity Group and the Council's Management Team and annually to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- b) Bullet point 3 to be split and read:
 - The Action Plan will be reviewed annually; and
 - The Scheme will be revised in 2010.

36. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE POLICIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager, which sought the Board's approval for proposed policies in respect of Children and Young People, and the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Persons.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to:

- a) the Children and Young People's Policy; and
- b) the Children and Vulnerable Persons' Protection Policy

37. RAMPARTS INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT – PRIDDY'S HARD HERITAGE AREA

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive, which informed the Board of the results of the invitation to specialist Environmental and Engineering Consultants to tender for work to undertake a detailed ground investigation and report on the contaminants in the Rampart areas and moat on the Priddy's Hard Heritage Area and recommend remedial measures.

The report also sought approval of the appointment of the consultancy providing the most economically advantageous tender to undertake the investigation and report.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Chief Executive be instructed to agree the programme of works with the lowest tender and agree the payment profile for the works as they proceed; and
- b) Bureau Veritas Land and Water Quality, 91-95 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2GG be appointed to undertake the Rampart Investigation and Assessment in the sum of £51,102 plus VAT.

38. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER – STRONG & PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive, which advised Members of the Government White Paper setting out the future challenges for Local Government and the main messages contained therein.

Members were advised that the Government Office for the South East had confirmed that only one local authority in the South East had applied for unitary status and that no further applications were expected.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Chief Executive be noted.

39. RELATE PORTSMOUTH & DISTRICT

The Policy and Organisation Board, at its meeting on 18 January 2006, had agreed a further year's funding of Relate, Portsmouth and District up to a maximum of £7,000 with a review of funding requirements being reported back to the Board.

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager detailing the funding requirements already identified by Relate and subsequently paid by the Council in respect of the current year and the request by Relate for funding in 2007/08.

A request had been received from Relate for the Council to consider the continuation of their existing funding for a further year to enable the organisation to continue providing the current level of service to Gosport residents.

Members were advised that the third quarter return from Relate indicated a shortfall of £4,342 but that only £2,035 of the Council grant of £7,000 for this year remained, £4,965 having already been paid to Relate.

Members acknowledged the fact that the number of sessions with clients had steadily increased and that the current year's grant of £7,000 did not cover the shortfall but were concerned that the funding provided to Relate by Gosport Borough Council was relatively high compared to that of some other local authorities in the area.

Members agreed that a grant of £5,000 be made available to Relate on an annual basis.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £5,000 be made available to Relate for the financial year 2007/08 and thereafter on an annual basis.

40. VICTIM SUPPORT HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager, which advised Members that the Policy and Resources Committee had agreed ongoing funding for Gosport Victim Support with effect from 1 April 1999 to support the employment of an administrative assistant in the Gosport Office. This office had been closed due to the difficulty of providing cover during periods of leave and sickness. This post was now covered within the Portsmouth District Office although the organisation had stated this had not affected the service offered to Gosport residents.

A request had been received from Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight for the Council to consider continuing funding the service for the current year and for 2007/08, to enable the continuation of the current level of service to Gosport residents.

Members were advised that, during the financial year ending 31 March 2006, Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight had received the following grants from local authorities:

	£
Hampshire Police Authority	28,000
Hampshire County Council	14,281
East Hampshire District Council	6,653
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	20,808
Eastleigh Borough Council	288
Havant Borough Council	1,000
Test Valley Borough Council	9,000
Winchester City Council	2,000
Portsmouth City Council	none
New Forest District Council	none

Grants received included a number from town and parish councils.

Members expressed concern that, although the Gosport office had been closed, grant aid was still being sought from the Borough Council. It was also felt that the financial position of some of the local authorities in Hampshire was stronger than in Gosport and therefore Gosport Borough Council should not contribute to the extent that it had in the past.

The Board proposed that grant aid of £3,000 be made available to Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight for each of the financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08.

RESOLVED: That grant aid of £3,000 be made available to Victim Support Hampshire and Isle of Wight for each of the financial year 2006/07 and 2007/08.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m. and concluded at 7.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN