

AN MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

WAS HELD ON 27 JUNE 2007

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

It was reported that Councillor Ms Ballard had been nominated to attend this meeting in place of Councillor Smith.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of the Mayor and Councillor Smith.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hook declared a personal interest in the following agenda items. He remained in the meeting room throughout the meeting and took part in the discussion and voting on those items:

- Item no. 9: Asset Management Plan
- Item no. 11: Designated Public Places Order
- Item no. 14: Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme
- Item no. 15: Play Strategy

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 14 AND 29 MARCH AND 17 MAY 2007

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meetings held on 14 and 29 March and 17 May 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

6. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART I

8. ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Assurance (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix A) concerning the above matter.

Members were advised that the policy had been approved by the Standards and Governance Committee on 23 April 2007; the Board being requested to recommend to Council the adoption of the Policy without amendment.

RECOMMENDED: That Council adopt the new Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy in line with best practice and the Audit Commission's Key Lines of Enquiry – Use of Resources, for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.

9. NEW DELEGATIONS UNDER THE HOUSING ACT 2004

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Housing Board on 13 June 2007 (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix B) on new delegations under the Housing Act 2004.

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the delegation of powers contained within the Housing Act 2004 to the relevant stated officers.

10. AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PART ONE, CHAPTER ONE OF THE HEALTH ACT 2006

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Community and Environment Board on 18 June 2007 (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix C) on the above matter.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- a) the delegations to the Environmental Services Manager be amended to include the power to authorise officers as required by Section 10(5) of the Health Act 2006;
- b) the appointment of the Environmental Services Manager, or the Head of Environmental Health in his absence, as the appropriate person to decide upon the cancellation of a Fixed Penalty Notice be approved; and
- c) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make all necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to give effect to Recommendations a) and b) above.

11. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix D), which presented the recommendations of the Inspector and the subsequent revision to the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to the Board for adoption.

RECOMMENDED: That the Statement of Community Involvement, as amended by the Inspector, be adopted as a Local Development Document.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix E), which requested the Board to consider the Asset Management Plan with a view to its approval and adoption. The Asset Management Plan had been reported to both the Standards and Governance and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the necessary amendments had been made following comments from Members.

RECOMMENDED: That the Asset Management Plan be approved for adoption by the Council.

PART II

13. BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL UPDATE AND ANNUAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Building Control which updated the Board on the progress and financial outturn of the Building Control Partnership in the year ending March 2006. Full details and information on the year 2006/2007 would be provided in a report later in this financial year. The report also requested confirmation of the continuation of the Partnership under the terms of the current open ended legal agreement as previously agreed by the Board.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted and the Board's support for the continuation of the Partnership under the terms of the existing Legal Agreement be confirmed.

14. DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Community Safety which requested Members to consider the making of a Designated Public Places Order to cover the Borough of Gosport.

Members were advised that there would be changes to the regulations governing the order and these would be covered in a report to Council when final approval was sought.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the principle of making a Designated Public Places Order to cover the Borough of Gosport be approved;
- b) the Head of Community Safety, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor, undertake the statutory consultation for the order; and
- c) the results of the statutory consultation be reported to a future Council meeting in order to decide whether or not to make the Designated Public Places Order.

15. BUDGET STRATEGY 2008/09

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which considered the strategy for the preparation of the 2008/09 General Fund budget in the light of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the budget process for 2008/09 be approved.

16. APPROVAL OF THE 2006/07 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which set out the background to the requirement for Members to approve the 2006/2007 Statement of Accounts, which was shortly to be made available for public inspection and audit, together with some brief notes on the Statement and outturn position.

Concerns were raised regarding increased expenditure within the Housing Revenue Account. The Borough Treasurer undertook to provide a report to the Chairman of the Housing Board on this matter.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2007 be received and approved;
- b) the revenue variances detailed in Appendix C of the report be noted;
- c) the capital programme slippage detailed in Appendix D of the report be noted; and
- d) the write offs approved under delegated authority at Appendix E of the report be noted.

17. LOCAL AUTHORITY BUSINESS GROWTH INCENTIVE SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which considered how Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme grant monies should be applied.

RESOLVED: That the priorities contained in paragraph 2.2 of the Borough Treasurer's report for the application of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme grant be approved.

18. PLAY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval of the draft Play Strategy.

Officers involved in the preparation of the Strategy were thanked for their hard work.

RESOLVED: That the draft Play Strategy be approved.

19. FERRY PONTOON: PROGRESS ON REPLACEMENT FACILITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which advised Members of the status of the project to replace the existing pontoon.

RESOLVED: That the current status of the project be noted.

20. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager which set out the background to the Council's banking arrangements and sought approval for officers to negotiate and engage consultants in order to obtain the most cost effective contract for the Council.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for officers to negotiate and engage consultants in order to obtain the most cost effective contract for the Council.

21. IMPROVEMENTS TO FACILITIES AT BRIDGEMARY BOWLING CLUB, ROWNER CRICKET CLUB AND PRIVETT PARK TENNIS COURTS

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The special circumstances were created by the need to invite tenders and let contracts for work to be completed before the onset of winter.

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Community and Environment Board held on 18 June 2007 seeking approval of the virement of £70,000 of Developers' Contributions for improvements to the above facilities.

RESOLVED: That the virement of £70,000 of Developers' Contributions for improvements to facilities at Bridgemary Bowling Club, Rowner Cricket Club and Privett Park Tennis Courts be approved.

22. LGA/PCT/LA HEALTH MEETING

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The special circumstances were created by the need to ensure that the Board was updated as soon as possible following the LGA/PCT/LA Health meeting.

Consideration was given to a briefing note dated 13 June 2007 from Councillor Edgar to Group Leaders and Members of Save Haslar Task Force.

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Councillor Edgar was invited to present his briefing note to the Board. He advised Members of the South East England Health Strategy and that a response to the Government Office for the South East containing comments was required from the Council. It was decided that the response on behalf of the Council should be delegated to the Environmental Services Manager in consultation with Councillor Edgar. Councillor Edgar undertook to arrange for a copy of the document to be placed in the Members' Room in order to give Members the opportunity to make comments if they so wished.

Members of the Board made a number of comments including:

- Large numbers of people were now being discharged from hospital into the community, putting pressure on County Council resources
- It had been announced that £250 million would be made available from health budgets for health and after care
- West Sussex and Brighton Primary Care Trusts had announced that they would be consulting with regard to their main hospital being located at either Chichester or Worthing

RESOLVED: That the Environmental Services Manager, in consultation with Councillor Edgar, be requested to respond to the Government Office for the South East with the Council's comments on the draft South East England Health Strategy.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN