

Subject to Approval
A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

WAS HELD ON 25 JUNE 2008

The Mayor (Councillor Kimber) (ex-officio) (P); Councillors Burgess (P), Chegwyn (P), Gill (P), Hicks (P), Hook (P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P), Mrs Searle (P), Smith (Chairman) (P) and Wright (P).

3. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for inability to attend the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Philpott advised that, with regard to agenda item 7 (Adoption of PUSH Business Plan) his employer had, as a stakeholder, been consulted on the draft Plan. He advised Members that he would not declare an interest unless the consultation with his employer was specifically discussed.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 12 MARCH AND 15 MAY 2008

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meetings held on 12 March and 15 May 2008 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. DISPERSAL ORDER PROTOCOL AND FEEDBACK ON BRIDGEMARY DISPERSAL ORDER

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Community Safety (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix A) which sought to establish an agreed protocol for how Gosport Borough Council would deal with Dispersal Order applications from the Police and also provided Members with feedback on the effects of the Bridgemary Dispersal Order.

Members agreed that, in addition to the Leader of the Council, Ward Councillors should also be consulted on whether to give consent to Dispersal Order applications.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- a) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Ward Councillors, to give consent to Dispersal Order applications in line with the protocol contained in at Appendix A of the report and for the Constitution of the Council to be amended to reflect such a delegation; and
- b) the feedback on the Bridgemary Dispersal Order be noted.

9. HASLAR TASK FORCE

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 need to make recommendations to the next meeting of the Council regarding the future role and membership of the Haslar Task Force.

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix B) which advised Members of the outcome of a Group Leaders' meeting on 24 June 2008 regarding the future role and membership of the Haslar Task Force.

Members emphasised that, although the remit of the Haslar Task Force was to save the hospital, it could be much broader depending on the future of the hospital and the site.

Members were advised that, although mileage allowances were still paid to Councillors when representing the Council on outside bodies, no special responsibility allowances would be paid until a review scheduled for the Autumn had taken place. Members requested that this be reflected in the recommendations to Council.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- a) Gosport Borough Council membership on the Haslar Task Force remain non-political and on a 1:1:1 basis;
- b) Councillor Edgar remain as Gosport Borough Council's spokesperson on the Task Force;
- c) a meeting of the Haslar Task Force be called as soon as possible and Group Leaders be invited to attend;
- d) administrative support continue to be provided by Gosport Borough Council officers;
- e) until a review in the Autumn, no special responsibility allowances be paid for representation on outside bodies; and
- f) the remit of the Haslar Task Force continue to be to save Haslar Hospital.

PART II

10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A presentation on Economic Development was given by Lynda Dine, Head of Economic Prosperity. The presentation covered the operation of the Economic Prosperity Section and its role in promoting economic prosperity in Gosport.

Mrs Dine was thanked for her presentation.

11. ADOPTION OF PUSH BUSINESS PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought to obtain Board approval for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Business Plan 2008-2011 and to agree delegated authority to sign the South Hampshire Multi Area Agreement (MAA).

Members attention was drawn to recommendation b) in the report which had been revised to read:

“the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated to sign the South Hampshire MAA on the basis it reflects the Business Plan and it therefore supports the implementation of the business plan”.

Members requested that PUSH be asked to consider that the following be included in the Business Plan for PUSH:

- The Daedalus Site be included in the two million square metres of employment space
- page 21: the priority actions look at the delivery of employment on redundant and potentially redundant Ministry of Defence sites
- Liaison with the Ministry of Defence take place regarding these sites
- The provision of a Stubbington by-pass
- Page 11: Renewal of Major Estates – include Rowner
- Page 43: Summary of Activity on estate Renewal – include Rowner

Members were advised that a Stubbington by-pass would only be delivered with the support of the County Council and therefore no guarantees could be given on this proposed scheme.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) approval be given to the PUSH Business Plan 2008-11 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Chief Executive’s report; and
- b) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be delegated authority to sign the South Hampshire MAA on the basis it reflects the Business Plan and it therefore supports the implementation of the business plan.

12. BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL UPDATE AND ANNUAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Building Control Partnership Manager which updated the Board on the progress and financial outturn of the Building Control Partnership in the financial year ending March 2008. The report also requested confirmation of the continuation of the Partnership under the terms of the current open ended legal agreement.

Members were advised that there may be long term opportunities to work with partners on a larger scale leading to economies of scale and further efficiencies. Any such arrangement would, however, have to be to the benefit of the existing partnership.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the Annual Update and Review Report be noted and that support for the continuation of the Building Control Partnership under the terms of the existing Legal Agreement be confirmed.

13. WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE: GRANGE ROAD

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the meeting of the Community and Environment Board on 16 June 2008 which sought approval to extend the area of land currently leased to Hampshire County Council for the purpose of improving safety and traffic management.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Head of Property Services be authorised to agree Terms as set out in the report of the Development Services Manager; and
- b) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to enter into such documentation as is necessary to effect the above decision in consultation with the Head of Property Services.

14. TRANSFER OF PLAY AREA AT THE DAEDALUS ESTATE, LEE ON THE SOLENT FROM TAYLOR WIMPEY TO GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the meeting of the Community and Environment Board on 16 June 2008. The cross-reference recommended approval of the transfer of the identified land on the terms set out in the report and that the Borough Solicitor be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation to acquire the land as public open space.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the transfer of the identified land on the terms set out in the report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager be approved; and
- b) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation to acquire the land as public open space.

15. BUDGET STRATEGY 2009/11

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which requested Members to consider the strategy for the preparation of the General Fund budgets for the next two financial years in the light of the previously approved Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Concerns were raised with regard to the recommendation contained in the report that the Board should consider amending the 4% Council Tax limit. It was proposed and seconded that the Strategy for 2009/11 should retain the limit of a maximum 4% increase in Council Tax. The proposal was put to the vote and declared a tie, whereupon the Chairman cast his vote against the proposal which was duly declared lost.

RESOLVED: That the budget strategy principles for 2009-2011 set out in bold type in sections 2 and 3 of the Borough Treasurer's report be approved and no specific maximum limit on Council Tax increases be decided until later in the budget process.

16. APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which set out the background to the requirement for Members to approve the 2007/2008 Statement of Accounts. The Statement of Accounts was shortly to be made available for public inspection and audit, together with some brief notes on the Statement and outturn position.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2008 be approved;
- b) the revenue variances detailed in Appendix of the report be noted;
- c) the capital programme slippage detailed in Appendix D of the report be noted;
- d) the write offs approved under delegated authority at Appendix E of the report be noted; and
- e) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2007/08 and 2008/09 be approved as :
 - For all capital expenditure incurred before 1st April 2008, MRP will be based on the Regulatory Method – an extension of existing policy.
 - For all capital expenditure incurred after 1st April 2008, MRP will be based on the Asset Life Method except that where capital expenditure is incurred over more than one year then MRP will start in the year following the year in which the asset becomes operational

17. CONSULTATION FOR MOVING THE DATES OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS TO THE SAME DATE AS THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN 2009

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought the Board's response to the Department for Communities and Local Government proposals to move the date of the Local Election to the same date as the European Elections in 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive advise the Department for Communities and Local Government, that this Council believes that it would not be beneficial to combine the 2009 Local and European Parliamentary Elections, for the reasons as outlined in paragraphs 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 of the report.

18. COUNCILLORS' REGISTRATION FOR DATA PROTECTION PURPOSES

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Services Manager which considered the need for Gosport Borough Councillors to notify the Information Commissioners Office of their requirement to process personal data as specified in the Data Protection Act 1998.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) all Councillors be advised of the need to consider Notification, as individuals, to the Information Commissioner in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998;
- b) the Council reimburse Members the annual Notification Fee of £35; and
- c) the annual cost to the Council of £1,190 be met from the Members' Expenses Budget.

19. SUB-BOARDS – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which advised Members of the need to appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman to the Coastline Editorial Panel.

RESOLVED: That Councillors Chegwyn and Foster-Reed be appointed Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Coastline Editorial Panel.

20. RESIDENTIAL PARKING STANDARDS

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.

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The special circumstances were created as, given that Hampshire County Council had withdrawn their support for residential car parking standards in the light of government advice, the residential car parking standards contained within Gosport Borough Council's Local Plan were no longer relevant. The Borough Council would now need, as a matter of urgency, interim car parking policy advice to enable it to determine planning applications. Longer term policies would be developed through the Local Development Framework.

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager which informed the Board that Hampshire County Council had decided that the determination of residential parking standards was a matter for the district councils to consider and that this Council should now assess the need for car parking provision in proposed residential developments.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) it be noted that Hampshire County Council will no longer prescribe residential car parking standards; and
- b) residential car parking provision be determined in accordance with the Supplementary Advice Note set out in Appendix A of the Development Services Manager's report.

21. PARKING OF CYCLES

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 need to refer this issue to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in time for its next meeting on 24 July 2008.

The Chairman advised that he had received a number of complaints from residents regarding the theft of cycles in the Leesland area. Members were advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had already undertaken to scrutinise the provision of cycle lanes in the Borough and it may be appropriate to refer this issue to the Committee.

Members agreed that the parking of cycles be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for it to decide whether or not to scrutinise this issue.

RESOLVED: That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider the scrutiny of cycle parking.

22. EXCLUSION OF 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.

23. AWARD OF FIVE YEAR CCTV MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADE CONTRACT

This 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 a report of the Head of Community Safety which sought to update members on the process for and progress in, agreeing a new maintenance and upgrade contract for the CCTV system. The report also sought to enable a decision to be taken by the Council to agree a preferred tenderer in line with this process and before expiry of the current contract.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to authorise Fareham Borough Council to accept a specified tender for a five year maintenance and upgrade contract to the Fareham and Gosport CCTV system.

The meeting ended at 8.35

CHAIRMAN