

A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

WAS HELD ON 26 JANUARY 2009

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

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

47. APOLOGIES

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

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

49. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2008

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 12 November 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

50. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

51. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

52. RISK ASSESSMENT

A presentation was made by the Financial Services Manager, a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix A.

The Financial Services Manager was thanked by the Chairman for his presentation.

53. SOCIAL INCLUSION STATEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Economic Prosperity which sought Member approval of the Gosport Borough Council Social Inclusion Statement.

Members were advised that the Statement was based on local perspectives and data which were also shared with Hampshire County Council although no direct consultation had taken place with the County Council.

It was noted that there had been improvements in social inclusion in Gosport but there were still serious issues to be addressed. Many issues were due to influences not directly under the control of the Borough Council but it was important that they were identified and set out in a formal document.

Members were advised that the Borough Council had worked on social inclusion with Hampshire County Council and the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire. This had provided the opportunity to highlight the areas where too little investment was being made in Gosport; it was acknowledged that Hampshire County Council would not achieve its Performance Indicators if this situation continued. The draft Comprehensive Area Assessment report had shown that the least Hampshire County Council resources were being invested in Gosport. These concerns were supported by the evidence in the Social Inclusion Statement which documented some of the key issues for investment and intervention.

It was felt that the Statement could be used as a starting point for improvements and that partnership with other bodies was a key area of work. Members agreed that the document should be updated and a report made to the Policy and Organisation Board on an annual basis.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Gosport Borough Council Social Inclusion Statement, attached at Appendix A to report of the Head of Economic Prosperity, be approved; and
- b) an updated Social Inclusion Statement report be made to the Policy and Organisation Board on an annual basis.

54. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – PUBLICATION SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Services Manager which sought retrospective approval of a revised Freedom of Information Publication Scheme to come into effect on 1 January 2009.

RESOLVED: That the revised Freedom of Information Publication Scheme be adopted with effect from 1 January 2009, based on the Model Scheme approved by the Information Commissioner.

55. TOURISM SOUTH EAST – RENEWAL OF SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought the approval of the Board for the renewal of the Service Level Agreements between the Council and Tourism South East.

RESOLVED: That the renewal of the Service Level Agreements between the Council and Tourism South East for the period April 2009 to March 2012 be approved.

56. RENAMING OF ESPLANADE

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought the Board's approval to the renaming of the Esplanade to "Esplanade de Royan" in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Royan Twinning.

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of consultation with the residents living nearby. Members agreed that full consultation was not necessary but that residents of Harbour Tower, Seaward Tower and Watergate should be notified of the proposed renaming.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the renaming of the Esplanade to "Esplanade de Royan" in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Royan Twinning and the provision of appropriate signage and nameplates be approved; and
- b) residents of Harbour Tower, Seaward Tower and Watergate be notified of the above renaming.

The meeting ended at 7.08 p.m.

CHAIRMAN