

DEVELOPMENT, REGENERATION AND SKILLS

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Development, Regeneration and Skills on:-

TUESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER, 2010

following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor Ibrahim	Executive Member for Development, Regeneration and Skills
Councillor Cox	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor D. Wilkinson	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. T. Hill	Chief Planning Officer
Mrs. J. Pollard	Policy Accountant
Mrs. L. Butcher	Group Accountant
Mrs. V. Ridge	Principal Democratic Services Officer

21. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which contained monitoring information related to decisions taken at the Executive Member's previous meetings.

The Executive Member NOTED the progress on decisions previously taken, as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes.

22. STRATEGIC OPTIONS

A joint report of the Directors of Development and Regeneration and Corporate Resources was submitted which set out the department's response to corporate financial guidance for the period 2011/2012 to 2013/2014.

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The Executive Member was advised that the guidance required the Development and Regeneration Department to identify savings totalling 10% of its base budget, plus fund essential demand led growth for 2011/2012. Furthermore, the department should plan for savings at the following levels:-

2012/13	10%
2013/14	5%

The report outlined the options identified to meet the corporate redirection target and demand led growth. The options had been identified as those which could be achieved without having an impact upon services provided and were detailed as follows:-

Development and Regeneration

Division		Description of Option	FTE Change	£'000
Service Efficiency Options				
Development and Regeneration	D1	Planning Division Value for Money Review	*(24.8) 0	400
	D2	Management of Cash Limited Resources	0	89
			*(24.8) 0	489
Housing Services	H1	Joint Procurement Pilot	0	30
	H2	Management of Cash Limited Resources	0	89
			0	119
		Total Savings and Efficiencies	*(24.8) 0	608

Bolton at Home

Division		Description of Option	FTE Change	£'000
Service Efficiency Options				
Bolton at Home	B1	Reduce the subsidy to Bolton @ Home (Elderly Persons Review)	0	162

		0	162
	Total Savings and Efficiencies	0	162

The Executive Member was also advised that the department received a number of grants which helped to fund some of the activities delivered by the department and work was currently being undertaken to assess the implications of the loss of those grants and an update would be provided in due course.

In conclusion, the entire £770,000 redirection target required had been identified as efficiency options and it would be possible to implement these options without an impact upon front line service delivery.

The Executive Member AGREED that the proposals as detailed in the report be submitted for consideration by the Executive as part of the Corporate Business Planning Process.

23. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTTURN – QUARTER TWO

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which provided the Executive Member with information relating to the financial position and the performance for Development and Regeneration, including Housing Services, as at Quarter 2, 2010/2011.

The Executive Member was advised that revenue expenditure for both Development and Regeneration and Housing Services was projected to exceed the budget by £490,000, however, this included a contribution to reserves of £459,000. With regard to capital expenditure, the capital programme for the Department amounted to £16,861,000 and the actual capital spend totalled £3,928,000.

The report also indicated that the Department's projected deficit reserve position at 31st March, 2011 was £298,520. In terms of efficiency targets, the budgeted efficiency savings for the

Department were £403,000 and the current projection was to fully achieve the options.

The Director of Development and Regeneration also made specific reference to the income shortfall within the Planning Division and the approach being taken to address this.

The Executive Member NOTED the report and SUPPORTED the improvement actions to improve performance throughout 2010/2011.

24. CONSULTATION PAPER – TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS: PROPOSALS FOR STREAMLINING

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which put forward a proposed response to the consultation document on the proposed Tree Preservation Order legislation.

The Executive Member was advised that, in July, 2010, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (CLG) announced his intention to consult on streamlining the approach to tree protection. Consequently, a consultation paper was published in September, 2010 and the consultation period ended on 20th December, 2010.

The stated purposes of the proposals were as follows:-

- (a) To consolidate the existing legal provisions in regulations and tree preservation orders (TPOs) into one set of new regulations; and
- (b) To streamline the system in order:-
 - To make the process fairer to tree owners;
 - To reduce the administrative burden on local planning authorities; and
 - To increase accessibility to a more equitable system.

The report outlined in detail the main features of the draft regulations which were summarised as follows:-

- TPOs would be consolidated into one single, simplified format, under one common legal system and this would apply to new TPOs and be retrospective to existing orders;
- TPOs would apply immediately (subject to confirmation within six months);
- Only directly affected interested parties would need to be notified of an order;
- Consents for work to be carried out would enable programmes of work, not just individual operations, and ambiguities relating to 'dying trees' would be removed;
- Power to modify or revoke consents of work on older TPOs would be removed;
- Conditions requiring replanting might extend to other areas, not just woodlands; and
- Article 5 certificates that limited Local Planning Authorities liabilities in relation to older TPOs would be revoked.

In conclusion it was stated that, generally, the proposed changes were to be welcomed and they simplified and clarified the processes for Local Planning Authorities and landowners and should reduce costs accordingly.

Appendix 1 to the report also outlined a series of consultation questions with the appropriate responses.

The Executive Member AGREED the proposed response to the consultation document as detailed in the report.

25. DRAFT REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval to undertake a consultation process on the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement.

The report stated that, in February, 2007, the Council adopted its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI set out how the Council intended to involve the community in the preparation, alteration and revision of the various components of the Local Development Framework and in the decision making process for planning applications.

The Executive Member was advised that the Council had now taken the decision to revise the SCI to take account of changes made by Government as to how planning documents were prepared, to reflect experience gained from the Core Strategy consultation undertaken to date and to incorporate the recently revised approach to neighbourhood consultation on planning applications.

It was explained that the Council undertook a four week consultation exercise from July to August, 2010 which invited views and suggestions as to what the revision should cover and, where appropriate, the comments received had been incorporated into the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement. Following on from this, there would be a further four week period of consultation on the revised draft SCI and any comments received would be considered by officers and incorporated into a proposed final SCI, which would be presented to the Executive Member for adoption on 24th January, 2011.

A copy of the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement was appended to the report.

The Executive Member APPROVED the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement for consultation purposes.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The background papers and reports in relation to the following item were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

26. LITTLE BOLTON TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval to allocate funding from the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Common Fund to repair and enhance the appearance of a historic building in the Little Bolton area of Bolton town centre.

The Executive Member was advised that a full THI grant application to support the delivery of a scheme that would bring Little Bolton Town Hall and 34 All Saints Street back into active use was currently being prepared by the developer's conservation consultant and approval was sought, in principle, for the award of a THI grant aid for this scheme, based on initial proposals and indicative costs.

The Executive Member NOTED and welcomed the progress made with Little Bolton Townscape Heritage Initiative; and APPROVED –

- (i) In principle, a THI grant offer of up to £204,419 to support the delivery of a scheme that will bring Little Bolton Town Hall and 34 All Saints Street back into active use; and AGREED –**
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Director of Development and Regeneration to authorise grant funding up to £204,419 to the owners of Little Bolton Town Hall and 34 All Saints Street on receipt of approval of grant application from the Heritage Lottery Fund.**

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