

EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER – REGENERATION AND RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Regeneration and Resources Portfolio:-

MONDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 2014

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

Councillor Adia	Executive Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Resources Portfolio
Councillor Lewis	Cabinet Member Housing and Social Inclusion
Councillor J. Byrne	Cabinet Member for Culture and Youth
Councillor Greenhalgh	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Cox	Major Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Dr. J. Livesey	Assistant Director Performance, Planning and Resources
Ms. L. Ridsdale	Assistant Director of People, Policy and Communications
Ms. S. Johnson	Borough Treasurer
Ms. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mr. G. Gallagher	Accommodation Services Manager
Mr. S. Godley	Development Manager (Planning Strategy)

Mrs. V. Ridge

Deputy Democratic Services
Manager

32. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

33. LEASE MANAGEMENT SERVICE UPDATE

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which informed the Executive Cabinet Member of the history of the Lease Management Service (LMS), how it had evolved its offer and objectives for the future direction of the service.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that in 2004 the LMS was set up to establish a local authority presence in the Haulgh area which was exhibiting problems with regard to management practices and anti-social behaviour in private rented sector accommodation. This presence was established via a lease arrangement with a private property owner for the management of 18 units in the Bromwich Street area. Since this time the service had evolved and in 2012 the service in conjunction with Bolton at Home successfully bid for Homes and Community Agency (HCA) monies to become the delivery vehicle to bring back into use long term empty properties. This had resulted in 63 Lease and Repair Properties being brought/converted into use using that money.

The Executive Cabinet Member was also advised that, following the Housing Services review in April, 2013, service action planning work had been undertaken with key stakeholders to formulate a sustainable future for the service.

The report explained the current position of the LMS and also the work that had been undertaken in respect of the evolution of the service which related to the following strategies, viz:-

- Private Rented Sector Strategy;
- Homelessness Strategy;
- Empty Property Strategy; and
- Housing and Disability Strategy.

In conclusion, it was stated that all the above elements would be considered during the development of the budget options for the period 2015 to 2017 when the future operation of the service would be reviewed further.

Following a recommendation from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Social Inclusion, the Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the history of the LMS and its evolving offer and APPROVED the revised Lease Management Service and proposed development as detailed in the report.

34. BOLTON'S ALLOCATIONS PLAN ADOPTION

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which reported on the findings of the Planning Inspector's Report on the examination into Bolton's Allocations Plan and to recommend the Plan for adoption by the Council.

The report advised that the Government had appointed a Planning Inspector to examine the Allocations Plan and his findings had now been received. In essence, the Inspector found the Plan to be sound subject to a number of main modifications, which were summarised as follows:-

- Provide an explanation of how the Allocations Plan would be monitored and the relationship with the monitoring of the Core Strategy;
- Clarify the definition of employment uses and the approach towards other uses on employment sites;
- Clarify the need to take account of the historic environment and the relationship with the Core Strategy in this respect;
- Add an additional mixed use site allocation at Crompton Way/Bolton Point;

- Clarify the references for employment site allocations and the Primary Shopping Area in Bolton Town Centre;
- Delete policies P7AP (retail warehouse parks) and P8AP (railway development);
- Amend policy CG5AP (school playing fields) to ensure that it was consistent with national policy;
- Clarify the detailed approach to development on Protected Open Land;
- Clarify that the effect on viability would be taken into account when seeking low or zero carbon technologies;
- Delete or amend the boundaries of housing site allocations where development was now complete or substantially completed; and
- Correct Appendix 5 in respect of UDP policies to be replaced.

It was explained that the Council could now adopt the Allocations Plan subject to the modifications as detailed in the report and that this would be done at the meeting of full Council on 3rd December, 2014.

The Executive Cabinet Member RECOMMENDED that Council at its meeting on 3rd December, 2014 adopt the Allocations Plan subject to the modifications as detailed in the report.

35. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2ND QUARTER MONITORING REPORT FOR 2014/2015

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report that explained that the treasury management outturn report was a requirement of the Council's reporting procedures. It covered the treasury management activity during the second quarter of 2014/15 and the associated outturn Prudential Indicators for 2014/15.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

36. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF BOLTON COUNCIL SKILLS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION 2014-2016

The Chief Executive submitted a report which informed the Executive Cabinet Member of the implementation of the Bolton Council's employment initiatives.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that one of the five strands of the Borough's skills strategy was Employer Engagement and, as part of the implementation of this strand, Bolton Council was committed to raising the aspirations and developing the skills of local residents by expanding its social employment activities.

In view of the above, in November, 2013 it was proposed that:-

- Another cohort of apprentices be appointed;
- A work placement scheme be provided;
- A small number of graduate training opportunities be offered; and
- The Council should champion skills development across the Vision Partnership.

The report provided an update on each of the individual key activities and also sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval for the following:-

- An additional apprentice, from a NEET background, be recruited to the Corporate Apprentice Scheme in support of the Mayor's 50 in 50 campaign;
- Support capacity for Work Placement participants be bolstered through the engagement of the LASE co-ordinator; Remploy and other staff members within the scheme; and
- Participation of Looked After Young people on the Council's employment initiatives be formalised by:-
 1. The Corporate Work Placement scheme funding be utilised to support LASE placements;

2. A guaranteed minimum of two apprenticeship opportunities being reserved for Looked After Children; and
3. Bolton Council would act as a host employer to LASE participants, including in situations where the young people work in external organisations.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the recommendations in relation to the proposed developments of the Bolton Council's employment initiatives as detailed in the report.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 1 and 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.

37. INVESTMENT IN FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Director of Children's and Adult Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval to the programme of capital investment to improve facilities for young people.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that, at its meeting on 26th February, 2014, the Council agreed the allocation of £1 million of one-off capital resources for the improvement of facilities for young people. Consequently, the report set out a proposed programme of capital schemes to improve facilities for young people using the £1 million allocated by the Council. It was explained that the schemes had been prioritised on the basis of information from condition surveys of existing facilities for young people.

The report also stated that, in addition to investment in existing facilities, a small number of new facilities were proposed, including the development of a traffic free cycle track, the creation of new grass and artificial cricket wickets and the purchase of a mobile skate park that could be used throughout the Borough.

In total, the overall programme of investment identified for facilities for young people was a potential of £1.69 million. This was dependent upon successfully securing the appropriate match funding from Sport England and from Sports Governing Bodies for a number of proposed schemes.

The proposed programme of capital schemes was detailed in Appendix A to the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the proposed programme of capital investment in facilities for young people as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

38. PROCUREMENT OF ICE RINK 2014 – USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS PROCEDURE

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which advised that he had used his emergency powers, in consultation with the Executive Cabinet Member, to waive Council's Standing Order 4 (and all other Council's Standing Orders relating to tendering) and authorised the Director of Development and Regeneration to negotiate a contract for the supply of an Ice Rink with Icescape.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the use of the emergency powers procedure.

39. WRITE-OFF OF COUNCIL TAX

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Members approval to the write-off of Council Tax debt over £5,000.

The Executive Cabinet Member AGREED to write-off the Council Tax debt over £5,000 as detailed in the report.

40. RESTRUCTURE OF CORPORATE ICT TEAM

The Borough Treasurer submitted a report which set out the results of consultation on proposals to redesign the ICT service management team and achieve the ICT savings option of £294,000 as part of the overall Chief Executive's Departmental Savings and Efficiencies programme for 2013/2015 and also sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval to implement the final proposals.

The report outlined the key issues raised through the formal consultation process and advised that no alternative proposals had been proposed.

A copy of the formal response received from the Trades Unions was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and the proposed structure was detailed in Appendix 4 to the report.

The relevant Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken and was detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Executive Cabinet Member, APPROVED the final proposals for the restructure of the Corporate ICT Team and AGREED to delegate the implementation of the new structure including details of the VER arrangements to the Borough Treasurer.

41. CONTRACT RELATING TO THE SUPPORT OF THE COUNCIL'S CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (CRM) SYSTEM, ONLINE CITIZEN PORTAL AND NETCALL SYSTEM

The Assistant Director Customer Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval for a contract for the annual support for the Council's Lagan CRM, Lagan Citizen Portal and Netcall System.

The Executive Cabinet Member AGREED to waive the Standing Orders relating to Contracts and AUTHORISED the Assistant Director of Customer Services to negotiate and complete the contract with Kana Software Ireland Limited for the required ongoing technical support of the Council's Lagan CRM, Lagan Citizen Portal and NetCall Voice Recognition system for the period commencing on 21st December, 2014 and expiring on 31st March, 2018.