
THE EXECUTIVE

MEETING, 14TH APRIL, 2008

Councillor Morris
Leader of the Council – Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor Mrs. Thomas
Children's Services
Councillor Adia
Development
Councillor Ibrahim
Culture and Community Services
Councillor Peel
Environmental Services
Councillor Kay
Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor J. Byrne
Young People and Sport
Councillor Sherrington
Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor White
Human Resources, Performance and Diversity
Councillor Zaman
Regeneration

Non-Voting:

Councillor A.N. Spencer

Councillor J. Walsh

Councillor R. Allen

Councillor Shaw

Councillor Morgan
(as deputy for Councillor Mrs. Brierley)
Councillor A. Wilkinson

Councillor Hayes
Councillor Mrs Rothwell

Officers:

Mr. S. Harriss
Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield
Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. A. Eastwood
Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Mr. K. Davies
Director of Development and Regeneration
Ms. M. Asquith
Director of Children's Services
Ms. C. James
Head of Strategic Projects
Mr. A. Donaldson

Head of Policy and Improvement
Mr. J. Shannon
Area Working Manager
Mr. D. Mee
Head of Estates
Mr. J. Foster
Audit Commission Relationship Manager
Mrs. V. Ridge
Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors
Mrs. Brierley and D. Wilkinson

Councillor Morris in the Chair

65 MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 3rd March, 2008 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

Attached Reports:

[Minutes](#)

66 ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2008

The Audit Commission Relationship Manager submitted a report that provided an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Council drawing on audit, inspection and performance assessment work.

Whilst the report concluded that overall the Council was performing strongly, there were a number of areas for action detailed in section 4 of the report.

Resolved – That the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2008 be approved.

Attached Reports:

[Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2008](#)

67 THE NEW PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE COUNCIL AND THE BOLTON VISION PARTNERSHIP

The Chief Executive submitted a report that provided the Executive with an overview of the work currently ongoing to articulate and develop a new Performance Management Framework for the Council and its partners.

The report provided a draft Community Strategy 3 Year Plan (including the draft set of indicators which would form Bolton's Local Area Agreement 2008/11) and outlined a new performance management framework for the Council and the Bolton Vision Partnership, as well as a range of additional activity to further strengthen performance management.

Resolved – (i) That the draft Community Strategy 3 Year Plan (incorporating the draft list of Local Area Agreement indicators for 2008/11) be approved.

(ii) That the outline of the new performance framework for the Council and Bolton Vision Partnership as set out in section 3 of the report be endorsed.

(iii) That the work around further strengthening additional elements of performance management framework be endorsed.

(iv) That further reports on the various elements be submitted to the Executive over the next few months.

Attached Reports:

68 OUTLINE VALUE FOR MONEY STRATEGY 2008/11

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought the Executive's approval of the Council's outline value for money strategy for 2008/11.

The following objectives were proposed for the Strategy for the next three years:

- to achieve even greater value for money in the delivery of council services;
- to deliver ,as a minimum , the 3% efficiency targets required as part of CSR07;
- to make a significant contribution to the Council's strategy around environmental sustainability;
- to develop a greater understanding of costs related to performance, and a more explicit culture of value for money amongst managers; and
- to further embed understanding of whole life costing in spending decisions, including social and environmental costs.

With respect to delivery of the Strategy the Strategy would have a number of strands which were being developed as follows;

- a strengthened programme of value for money reviews for the next three years;

- achieving greater efficiencies from modern procurement techniques;
- rationalisation of accommodation and the property portfolio;
- optimisation of existing shared service centres and delivery of new ones; and
- minimising expenditure on 'day to day' costs, such as paper, energy, mobile phones etc.

A proposed programme of reviews was set out in the report.

Resolved – That the outline VFM strategy be approved and that a more detailed report be submitted in the next cycle which will include an update on the current VFM programme and a more detailed VFM strategy for 2008/11.

Attached Reports:

[Outline Value for Money Strategy 2008/11](#)

69 CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS 3 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2008/11

The Chief Executive submitted the Central Departments 3 Year Strategic Plan which set out the proposed strategic priorities for the three Departments.

The departments provided strategic leadership to the Council and a range of key corporate policy areas as well as providing strategic and operational support to a number of programmes and delivering a range of front line services.

This plan would be performance managed every

6 months by the Executive and more regularly at Departmental Management Teams.

Resolved - That the Central Departments three year Strategic Plan 2008/11 be approved.

Attached Reports:

[Central Departments 3 Year Strategic Plan 2008/11](#)

[Central Departments 3 Year Strategic Plan 2008/11](#)

70 REVIEW OF AREA WORKING IN BOLTON ; UPDATE AND OUTLINE OF NEW APPROACH

The Chief Executive submitted a report that informed members of the outcome of the Area Working review; the proposed new approach and sought approval for the introduction of new arrangements from May, 2008.

The Area Working PDG had considered several options for the format of Area Forums in the future and the Executive Member for Culture, Community Services and Area Working had approved the option to move from the current 9 Area Forums to 18 Area Forums.

The Executive Member had also agreed to a consultation exercise, based on the preferred option, which took place during March, 2008 and included presentations at the Area Forum meetings, an article in the Bolton Scene and a comments page on the Council's website.

The proposed new format entailed the creation of 16 single ward Forums, with two ward Forum areas at Westhoughton North and Chew Moor and Westhoughton South, and at Horwich and Blackrod and Horwich Northeast.

The need for an action planning process linked to Area Working had also been endorsed by the Executive Member following discussion at the Area Working PDG.

Each Area Forum would have an individual action plan which would cover the whole Forum area. Action plans could also have geographical sub divisions where this was more appropriate. It was felt that the action planning process would help identify local priorities and influence service delivery, as well as informing the use of resources.

Further detail on action plans was being developed but, in essence, the action planning process would;

- give elected Members and local people easy access to clearly presented information on the local area, on current performance, and on what was planned in terms of service delivery;
- provide elected Members and local people with the opportunity to prioritise actions and trigger urgent responses to “hot” issues;
- help shape service delivery at a local level and provide a platform for continuous improvement; and
- inform decisions on the use of resources.

It was proposed that the new Forums would meet four times per year (the current Area Forums met 5 times per year). There would also be the opportunity to hold themed/public meetings.

The format of meetings would be flexible, address local issues, and include activities such

as workshop sessions which would help increase the level of engagement with local people and ensure that clear and positive messages on service delivery could be made. Meetings would also provide an opportunity to ask questions and meet service providers on a “drop-in session” basis.

Some meetings would take place for the purpose of making decisions on the action plan, devolved budgets and any other relevant matter, which would be open to the public but would not be primarily focused on public engagement.

It was explained that when a specific issue had been identified, and a request for a themed meeting had been made, the relevant service delivery department would be asked to sponsor a themed meeting to help address the specific issue. Themed meetings would focus on a range of geographical areas from the sub ward level to a cluster of wards. The number of themed/public meetings would vary according to the number and range of issues.

The new format for Forum areas and development of arrangements for Area Working were planned to be introduced from May/June 2008 to coincide with the commencement of the new municipal year. A series of briefing sessions would take place during May to inform Members on the implementation of the new arrangements prior to commencement of any meetings.

Resolved - (i) That the Executive endorses the proposed new approach for Area Working as outlined in this report and that the new arrangements be introduced from May 2008 , subject to the approval of Council.

(ii) That any necessary amendments to the Constitution be submitted to the Annual meeting of the Council.

(iii) That the new arrangements be reviewed after twelve months.

Attached Reports:

[Review of Area Working in Bolton ; Update and Outline of New Approach](#)

71 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WITH BLACKBURN AND DARWEN

The Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources submitted a joint report which updated members on the progress which had been made with regard to Building Schools for the Future and the development of a joint Local Education Partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Council.

The Executive was informed that BSF was a £45 billion national programme to transform education in the country over the next 10 - 15 years. The programme was being delivered in 11 waves. Bolton was currently in wave 7 – 9 meaning that the earliest the Authority could start to prepare to deliver was 2011. However, Bolton had been encouraged to prepare evidence that it could deliver the BSF process in an earlier wave and work had been ongoing to achieve that aim since Autumn 2007.

The report explained that, if the Council was successful, up to between £250 - £300 million could be available to undertake major regeneration or re-building of all the Authority's secondary schools. This was in addition to the capital that would be expended as part of the delivery of two academies at the Withins and Hayward at a combined estimated value of up to

£45 million, when the primary element of the Withins was included.

The report stated that a letter which had been issued to all wave 7 - 9 authorities inviting them to bid for acceleration in the process set out a number of other criteria that the Council would have to demonstrate they could achieve. In particular, the Council would have to submit a Readiness to Deliver Document by 11th April, 2008 showing that the Council met the required criteria.

The Executive was informed that the Council was confident it could demonstrate that it met all the criteria and had commissioned Navigant to prepare the necessary documentation. The cost of this would be in the order of £10,000 and successful authorities would be notified in June, 2008.

The report stated that the Council had entered into a Joint LEP with Blackburn with Darwen which would be seen as a major step in proving its readiness to deliver. Decisions had been reached with Blackburn with Darwen that the cost of developing the joint LEP would be shared on a 50/50 basis. The next step would be the signing of the agreement between the two authorities in April, 2008 and the creation of a Joint Project Team.

The report stated that the Government had also approved the Expressions of Interest to enable the proposed academies at the Withins and Hayward to be created. E. C. Harris had been appointed to act as the sponsor's Overall Project Managers (OPM) and the Council and its advisers were now beginning to work with the OPM to ensure the academy went live in September, 2008 as planned. The OPM with respect to the Hayward Academy would be

appointed in the near future.

The report had been considered by the Executive Member Children's Services at her meeting on 1st April, 2008 whereby the following was agreed:-

That the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources be authorised to ensure that the Council's Readiness to Deliver document is submitted to the Partnership for Schools by 11th April, 2008; and

That the process for the appointment of advisers to support the creation of the Joint Education Partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Council be approved and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to complete the legal formalities.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

Attached Reports:

[Building Schools for the Future and Development of Joint Education Partnership with Blackburn and Darwen](#)

72. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved - That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 (financial and business affairs) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; 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.

73 CHURCH WHARF DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a joint report that summarised the terms of the development agreement agreed between Ask Developments ,Bluemantle and the Council with respect to the proposed development at Church Wharf.

The Director of Corporate Resources also clarified some of the arrangements within the agreement.

Resolved – That the terms of the Development Agreement be noted.

74 CAR PARK TENDERING PROCESS

The Directors of Corporate Resources, Development and Regeneration and Environmental Services submitted a report that updated members on the progress made in seeking tenders for the Council's car parking arrangements and, following the completion of a comprehensive tender process, recommended the preferred partner for the car park developments and operations.

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The Executive was reminded that the Council had completed a procurement process to partner with a car parking developer/operator to provide
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- the design, build, finance and operation of at least three multi-storey car parks;
- the operation and maintenance of surface

level car parks;

- provision and operation of a closed circuit television (CCTV) system;
- assisting with the development, delivery and operation of a variable message signage system (VMS);
- cash collection and maintenance of machines for on- street parking; and
- to work strategically with the Council on future car parking priorities within Bolton Town Centre.

It was explained that ,based on the results of the evaluation of the tender information, NCP were the strongest candidate and were able to deliver the scope of the works/services set out in the invitation to tender.

Furthermore, owing to the impending new developments on Central Street and Deane Road, multi storey car parks were required to be built on Bath Street and Deane Road by December ,2009. The Town Centre Transport Strategy required a further multi storey on Brightmet Street to be built by December, 2010. Other developments in the future may necessitate the building of more multi-storey car parks and it was envisaged that the need for these would be assessed with the Car Parking Partner, the Council and the developer.

Resolved – (i) That the appointment of NCP as the preferred partner for the car park developments and operations, in line with the principles set out in section 6 of the report, be approved.

(ii) That the Directors of Legal and Democratic Services, Corporate Strategy and Finance, Development and Regeneration and Environmental Services be authorised to complete the negotiations of the contract by 1st September, 2008.

(iii) That the contract period be for a period of 35 years, as detailed in the report and that the Octagon Car Park be included from 1st October, 2012.

(iv) That the external consultants Faber Maunsell be authorised to provide technical advice on CCTV, the Control Room equipment and VMS issues during the negotiation of the contract for a fee not exceeding £10,000.

(v) That it be noted that the TUPE provisions will apply to these services and that the Director of Environmental Services be authorised to continue consulting with employees and the preferred partner on the transfer of employees.

75 LAND AT CRICKETERS WAY AND THE HOSKERS, WESTHOUGHTON

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which detailed the provisionally agreed terms for the release of a restrictive covenant on land at Cricketers Way and terms for the lease of land at the Hoskers to replace the existing

facilities enjoyed by Westhoughton Cricket Club.

It was explained that the land on Cricketers Way was owned by the Trustees of Westhoughton Cricket Club and was used for their sporting activities.

The Council held the benefit of a restrictive covenant on the site which prevented use of the land other than for an open recreation ground to be used by the Club for the purposes of cricket, tennis, hockey and other sports of a recreational nature.

The Club had agreed a sale of the premises, subject to release of the restrictive covenant and planning permission for the development of a supermarket.

The developer was to provide a new cricket ground and pavillion for the Club in addition to monetary consideration. The facility would also include an extended changing facility and junior pitch for the use of Westhoughton Lions ARLFC.

The Council also owned the land at The Hoskers/Cappadocia Way which had been identified as being suitable for the replacement facility on a leasehold basis.

The provisional terms that had been agreed for the transactions were detailed in the report ,together with the terms of a 106 Agreement .

Resolved - (i) That the removal of the restrictive covenant and disposal of the freehold interest in part of the Cricket Club land at Cricketers Wayas outlined in the report be approved for the consideration stated and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation.

(ii) That the disposal of the land at the Hoskers/Cappadocia Way, on the basis and at the premium described in the report, be approved.

(iii) That the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to complete a licence permitting early occupation of the land at The Hoskers for preliminary works in advance of formal completion of the lease.