

STRATEGY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Strategy and External Relationships on:-

WEDNESDAY, 25th FEBRUARY, 2009

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

Councillor Morris	Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships
Councillor J. Walsh	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Hayes	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. A. Eastwood	Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Mr. P. Marsh	Assistant Director Corporate Property Services
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mrs. C. Sutton	Head of Strategic Development
Ms. S. Rigby	Landscape Regeneration Manager
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

56. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which monitored the progress of decisions within the portfolio of the Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships.

The Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships NOTED the progress of the decisions taken

57. CLARENCE STREET

The Directors of Development and Regeneration, Legal and Democratic Services and Corporate Services submitted a joint report that explained the background to, and impact of the judicial review proceedings on decisions previously made regarding interim car parking and Clarence Street former school buildings and explained the options available for the future of the Clarence Street former school buildings and development site.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that further correspondence had been received from Save Britain's Heritage (SAVE) (who brought the judicial review), which raised matters relevant to the report and, consequently, the Director requested a deferral to allow those matters to be discussed between the Council's officers and representatives of the SAVE campaign.

The Executive Member AGREED to note the outcome of the judicial review proceedings and to defer the matter to an appropriate meeting of the Executive Member or the Executive following further discussions between the Council and SAVE regarding the issues raised.

58. QUEENS PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND – STAGE TWO SUBMISSION

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report that sought the Executive Member's approval for the submission of the Queens Park Stage Two application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People programme.

Queens Park was Bolton's most important Heritage Park, being one of the 4 parks built across the North-West during the 'cotton famine' of the 1860's. Over many years the park had declined due to reduced investment, social change, and the removal of many of its original features and reduced

maintenance of those remaining. A Stage One bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks for People' programme for a multi-million pound project to restore Queens Park was successful. A 12 month project development period, during which detailed project proposals were being worked up ready for submission at Stage Two, was nearing completion in April, 2009.

The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a grant of £190,000 to support the development of the project up to Stage Two. Match funding of £131,771 from capital expenditure approvals and Area Based Grant ensured that the total cost of the work could be met.

The Stage Two application proposal included :-

Capital Works (Construction & fees)	5,206,228
Revenue (4yrs Community Development & events)	221,060
Future Maintenance Costs (x10 years)	517,690
Contingency (10%)	524,328
Inflation (5% per annum for 3 years)	826,472

Should the Stage Two application be successful, the Heritage Lottery Fund had indicated that it could offer a grant of up to £4,287,000 for Queens Park restoration. In order to meet the total potential project value of £7,295,778 match funding resources to a value of a £3,008,778 would be required.

Heritage Lottery Funding allowed as match resources the inclusion of monies spent on Capital Works in the year prior to the submission of the Stage 1 bid. In addition the overall package included the additional maintenance costs for the park for 10 years after completion of the works. Thus the schedule below included Capital monies spent in the year prior to the submission of the Stage 1 bid and revenue spend for future years.

Previous Years Capital already invested

332,964.15

Highways Capital (Strategic cycle route)	200,000.00
Parks Capital (08/09)	20,000.00
Parks Capital (2009-2012) (3x £200,000)	600,000.00
Section 106 Monies	194,000.00
DCSF (Playbuilder)	70,000.00
Area based Grant (2008/09)	89,776.00
Area based Grant (2009-11) (2x £400,000)	800,000.00
Parks Revenue (2008/09)	22,500.00
Parks Revenue (2009-12)	184,960.00
Parks Revenue (2012-2021) for future increased maintenance	517,690.00
Total	3,031,890.15

Efforts would continue to maximise the contribution of external funding to the project but in the current economic climate it was not considered prudent to rely unduly on the potential of external sources at this stage.

The report and details of the proposed works had also been considered by the Executive Member Cleaner, Greener ,Safer at her meeting on 24th February, 2009.

The Executive Member AGREED –

(i) the project funding proposals as set out in the report, together with the proposals regarding the partnership working at Park Road Lodge and the key components of the scheme; and

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(ii) the submission of the Queens Park Stage Two application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People programme

59. TIF REFERENDUM COSTS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report that set out the costs of both ERS and Manchester City Council for conducting the TIF referendum on behalf of Bolton Council.

The Executive Member was reminded that the AGMA executive had agreed to carry out a local poll (referred to as the TIF Referendum) under section 116 of the Local Government Act 2003 in respect of consulting the public on the issue of the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) which included the congestion charge.

The AGMA Executive had agreed that the AGMA authorities concerned would bear a proportion of the costs associated with the conduct of the referendum based upon each of their electorates.

AGMA had also agreed that a procurement process be carried out via Manchester City Council for a supplier to conduct the referendum on behalf of AGMA and Electoral Reform Services (ERS) were the successful supplier.

The final ERS cost for Bolton was £170,871.44 with the final cost for Manchester City Council's administrative support being £53,735, giving a total cost of £224,606.44.

The report had also been considered by the Executive Member Corporate Resources on 24th February, 2009 who had agreed payment of the £170,871.44 to ERS and requested the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to submit further information to this meeting relating to the overall costs regarding media and television costs to determine how much of this cost related to the abortive adverts in light of the Advertising Standards Authority ruling on the content of such.

The Director reported that Manchester City Council had confirmed that non of the £278,960 relating to media, television, press and on line costs related to the abortive adverts, however, as the invoice had yet to be received the Director indicated that he would ask Manchester City Council for a full breakdown of the costs.

The Executive Member AGREED payment of the £170,871.44 to ERS ,together with the payment of the Council's share of Manchester City Council costs up to £53,735, subject to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services receiving a full breakdown of the overall costs relating to media and television and the Executive Member and the opposition members being satisfied as to the contents of such.

60. PRIVATE JAMES SMITH

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which requested the Executive Member's approval to add the name of Private James Smith to the Town's Roll of Honour .

Following several good conduct awards and serving in a number of battalions Private Smith was hospitalised in a very poor mental and physical state after an artillery attack on the Somme. Having never fully recovered and suffering a breakdown he was court martial led for a breach of military discipline, put on trial and sentenced to death ;he was executed on 5th September, 1917.

Names of soldiers such as Private James Smith were never added to War Memorials or Rolls of Honour, however, after a long campaign the Government had decided to pardon soldiers like Private Smith.

A request had been made for the Council, as owners of the document, to consider adding Private James Smith's name to the Bolton Roll of Honour. The request was supported by the Farnworth branch of the Royal British Legion and by the

Officers of the Bolton United Veterans Association.

The Executive Member was also requested to consider whether a press campaign should be organised seeking the help of the Bolton communities to find out if there were any other Bolton soldiers who were not listed in the Roll of Honour. If this proved to be the case then their names could also be added at the same time.

The Executive Member AGREED –

- (i) that the name of Private James Smith be added to the Bolton Roll of Honour ;**
- (ii) that suitable publicity be undertaken to ascertain whether there are any other Bolton combatants who are not listed on the Roll of Honour; and**
- (iii) that the granting of a pardon will be sufficient evidence for the names of soldiers in similar circumstances to be added to the Bolton Roll of Honour in future.**

61. AUCTION 26TH FEBRUARY, 2009

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that requested the Executive Member to agree to the sale of the Council's interests in a number of properties by auction and authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the necessary legal documentation.

The individual properties were detailed as follows :-

- Land at Weston Street, Farnworth –disposal of the Council's freehold interest – the Director informed the Executive Member of a revised reserved price;

- 18 Great Moor Street, Bolton – disposal by way of a 250 year lease;
- Horrobin Fold Farm, Chorley Old Road – disposal of the Council's freehold interest subject to a Farm Business Tenancy, sale to include 50% clawback provision for future development ; and
- 7 Walker Fold, Smithills – disposal by way of 999 year lease.

The Director requested the Executive Member to use the emergency powers provision to action any decision he made owing to the imminent date of the auction.

The Executive Member AGREED - the sale of the properties by auction and authorised the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the necessary legal documentation and that the emergency powers procedure be enacted to progress the decision in light of the date of the auction.

62. LEVER PARK SCHOOL, STOCKS PARK DRIVE, HORWICH

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that advised the Executive Member of the transfer of land and buildings known as Lever Park School.

The Governors of Lever Park School had notified the Authority that they had resolved to change the category of the school from Community to a Foundation School which would be supported by a Charitable Trust set up for this purpose. The implementation date for the change was 23rd February, 2009 and the new Trust would be the 'Lever Park Learning Trust'. The Authority would be represented on the Trust.

Under the provisions of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the transfer of the school site was automatic at nil cost and would involve the transfer of the school site, including buildings, to the Trustees. The land and buildings being transferred would be held for the purposes of the school from the implementation date.

To facilitate the transfer it was necessary to complete a transfer document to enable title to the land to be registered in the name of the new Trust.

The Executive Member AGREED :-

(i) to note the transfer of land and buildings as shown edged black on the plan submitted to the School Trustees at nil cost; and

(ii) to authorise the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the formalities in connection with the transfer.

63. FARNWORTH MARKET PRECINCT

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that informed the Executive Member of the current position regarding the redevelopment of Farnworth Market Precinct.

The Executive Member had requested a further report on the provision of a market canopy at the market.

Consideration had been given to the principle of the provision of a canopy and the view that the market should be a 'bone fide' open street market had been explored. Markets management were of the opinion that the provision of a canopy was favourable and, in the light of this, consideration had been given to its provision.

Leslie Jones, architects, had been asked to provide indicative designs to a prepared brief including such aspects as ground conditions/layout of stalls/ canopy design and it was reported that the design costs and the costs of the canopy would be the subject of a further report to the Executive Member, together with a financial appraisal of the overall scheme.

The Executive Member AGREED in principle to the provision of the canopy at the market as part of the relocation proposals, subject to a further report on the costs and the financial appraisal of the overall scheme.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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 each case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

64. CAPITAL RECEIPTS PROGRAMME

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted the latest figures relating to the capital receipts programme.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.