
STRATEGY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

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

WEDNESDAY, 11TH JUNE, 2008

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

Councillor Morris	Executive Member Strategy and
Councillor J. Walsh	External Relationships
Councillor Hayes	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. S. Harriss	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. S. Arnfield	Chief Executive
Mr. A. Eastwood	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Legal and Democratic
Ms. C. James	Services
Mr. P. Marsh	Director of Development and
Ms. N. Connell	Regeneration
Ms. M. Martin -Mathews	Head of Strategic Projects
Mr. R. Binks	Assistant Director Corporate Property
Mr. A. Jennings	Services
	Manager Neighbourhood Renewal
	Policy Team
	European Funding Partnership Manager
	Policy Accountant
	Democratic Services Manager

1 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.**

Attached Reports:

[Monitoring of Executive Member Decisions](#)

2 NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND (NRF) PROGRAMME 2006/08 UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report that provided details of the final position of the NRF Programme 2007/08.

It was explained that total expenditure for the year amounted to £5.726 M which indicated an overspend of £73,045 which would be met via the 2008/09 Area Based Grant.

The Executive Member NOTED the final position of the Programme and AGREED that the overspend of £73,045 be met via the 2008/09 Area Based Grant.

Attached Reports:

[Neighbourhood Renewal Fund \(NRF\) Programme 2006/08 Update](#)

3 AREA BASED GRANT AND INTERIM ALLOCATIONS OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING

The Chief Executive submitted a report which set out ;

(a) details of the funding arrangements through the Area Based Grant and how this provided the opportunity to align resources to deliver the outcomes set out in the Community Strategy 3 year plan; and

(b) details on proposals for the deployment of funding from the 2008/09 Area Based Grant allocation and future decision making arrangements following consideration by the Executive regarding the overall allocations per theme.

The report provided outline information on individual proposals which made up the thematic areas and which were considered at the Executive's meeting on 2nd June, 2008. These include a number of projects which were continuing from previous funding streams (e.g. Neighbourhood Renewal Fund), others were new interventions which were anticipated to support the achievement of targets within the Community Strategy 3 year plan.

Whilst consideration had been given to schemes where there may be recurring amounts required in the following 2 years approvals were only being sought for the 2008/9 year, in order to ensure that there was sufficient resources within the area based grant (flexible element) to cover this, should this be necessary. Monitoring and performance management would be ongoing, but towards the end of the first year each scheme would be reviewed, in terms of

success/likelihood of achieving targets, following which recommendation would be made regarding funding requirements for future one /two years.

The Chief Executive submitted a number of revisions to the project summaries detailed in Appendix 2 as follows :-

(1) Achieving Theme Proposals

(a) Juvenile Response

This project was awarded £75,000 by the Executive on 9th January, 2008. The annual request was for £150,000 and not £75,000 as identified; and

(b)YIP

The project was awarded £127,612 by the Executive on 9th January 2008. The annual request was for £255,224 and not £110,000 as identified.

(2) Stronger Theme Proposals

(a) Anti-Social Behaviour Service Centre

The project would ensure that all tenants in the Borough received the same service in the enforcement, prevention and intervention of anti social behaviour. The aim was to create stronger, more confident communities by working with residents and all stakeholders in order to look at some of the issues and problems within the neighbourhoods that contributed to, or were a cause of anti social behaviour.

Proposed area based grant - £60,000

(b) New Employment for Communities

This project was built upon a successful pilot, carried out by St Vincents Housing Association and their voluntary sector partners. The project would put together a series of programmes including basic skills, money skills, and driving skills etc. which enabled them to go into employment. The programmes would be targeted at both unemployed people in targeted neighbourhoods, as well as new migrants to the area bringing the employment and cohesion agenda together.

Proposed area based grant - £30,000

It was recommended that the decision making for the individual proposals be delegated to the Chief Executive, within the context

of the overall “in principle” approval agreed by the Executive Member.

Additionally, there were three schemes which were submitted through the LAA Agencies group for full approval at this stage; two of these were schemes for which previous funding was expiring, and another where it would be helpful for the first six months funding to be approved, in order for the scheme to continue. Details of these were provided as follows;

(a) NEETs Intervention Scheme

It was recommended that full funding of £31,850 be approved until 30 September, 2008. The project’s objectives and delivery would be reviewed during this time to assess whether, and how, a longer term project should be commissioned.

(b) Bolton WISE ‘Working with Fathers’

It was recommended that an allocation of £20,000 be allocated from the Area Based Grant to support the Bolton WISE Working with Fathers project until 30 September, 2008. In the interim, the Council’s Children’s Services Department would review the activity and may seek to re-commission it under a broader parenting programme.

(c) Looked After Children – Mentoring

Until recently, the mentoring scheme was funded by the Rainer Trust and fund raising. Funding of £35,000 was now recommended in order to continue the pilot scheme until the end of March, 2009. This would enable the scheme to be assessed in terms of improved school attendance and attainment, as well as softer measures such as improved confidence, building relationships and achieving action plans.

Should the project continue to be successful, it was likely that further funding will be requested at a future date to cover activity beyond March, 2009.

The Executive Member was reminded that £125,000 was approved for use by the Area Forums for the first 6 months of 2008/9 earlier in the year. A further £125,000 was included within the stronger communities theme.

In order for these resources to commence as part of new Area Forum arrangements as soon as possible, it was proposed that this be allocated by ward according to each wards levels of deprivation (75% of the total) and according to its population (25%) .

The Executive Member NOTED:

**(i) the details regarding the Area Based grant programme and the future funding arrangements;
APPROVED**

(ii) the proposals within each thematic area, as outlined in the report, and the revisions submitted, together with the possible levels of funding from the area based grant (flexible element) and LPSA2 reward grant; subject to the overall programme needing to be kept within the total approved by the Executive on the 2nd June, 2008 and that further work be undertaken and funding requirements be reduced/prioritised as part of the current challenge/appraisal process;

(iii) the allocation of interim full funding to support the activities outlined in sections 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 of the report ;

(iv) the allocation in full to Area Forums (£250,000 for 2008/9) on the basis as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report ;

(v) further reports being submitted to the Executive Member in due course; and AUTHORISED

(vi) the Chief Executive to approve individual projects within the framework of the details of this report, following challenge /appraisal arrangements on each individual project arrangements

Attached Reports:

[Area Based Grant and Interim Allocations of Flexible Funding](#)

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CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 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.

4 BREIGHTMET LIBRARY (BIG LOTTERY FUND)

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that reminded the Executive Member of the use of the emergency powers procedure to authorise the sending of a letter of comfort to the LIFT Company regarding abortive construction costs (and fees) should the Council fail to procure full lottery funding for a new library as part of the Primary Care Resource Centre in Breightmet.

Additionally the Council needed to enter into a formal contract with the Company.

The Executive Member NOTED the action taken.

5 CAPITAL RECEIPTS PROGRAMME 2007/08

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

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

6 GROUND FLOOR OFFICE ACCOMMODATION - NO 4 THE COURTYARD CALVIN STREET

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that reminded the Executive Member of the use of the emergency powers procedure to approve the terms and conditions for Bolton at Home to enter into a new lease – in of the ground floor of 4 The Courtyard.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

7 LAND AT MASON STREET HORWICH

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report that reminded the Executive Member of the use of the emergency powers procedure to agree that the Council take no further action in enforcing a Section 106 agreement with respect to an area of land at Mason Street, Horwich and to de-register the 106 agreement from the Local Land Charges Register.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

8 HORWICH LOCO WORKS REGENERATION SCHEME - COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report that reminded the Executive Member of the use of the emergency powers procedure to enable the Council to enter into a co-operation agreement to progress the Horwich Loco Works Regeneration Scheme.

The Director informed the Executive Member of the latest position ,in particular the submission of separate plans for the site by the two developers initially involved in the agreement.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

9 BOLTON INNOVATION ZONE SELECTION OF A DEVELOPER PARTNER

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report that reminded the Executive Member of the use of the emergency powers procedure to enable the Council to enter into a period of exclusivity, expiring on 31st July, 2008, with a developer consortium to allow a full financial package to be prepared and submitted by the consortium in support of their detailed proposal with respect to the Bolton Innovation Zone.

The Director informed the Executive Member that, in light of a recent European ruling regarding the letting of contracts and the definition of works, a further procurement exercise would take place commencing end of June, 2008.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

10 MANCHESTER ROAD/RAIKES LANE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report that reminded the Executive Member of the use of the emergency powers procedure to approve a contribution of £75,000 from the Development and Regeneration capital programme and £75,000 from the Highways Minor Works capital programme towards the costs of Manchester Road/Raikes Lane highway improvements to facilitate a second phase of development at the former Greyhound Stadium site in the area.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

11 FARNWORTH MARKET PRECINCT

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

Details of the amended format of the documentation with the developers was contained in the report.

The Executive Member AGREED – (i) the amended format of the documentation and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to conclude the documentation;

(ii) that the Director of Corporate Resources be authorised to undertake discussions with Ediston, along the lines now indicated, with respect to the possible future configuration of the Market and that Ward Members be kept suitably informed and that a further report be submitted to the Executive Member if necessary; and

(iii) that the scheme be included in the 2008/09 capital programme.

12 EAST LODGE HEATON CEMETERY

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which detailed the results of a tender exercise for the grant of a 250 year lease for the East Lodge and grounds at Heaton Cemetery.

The Executive Member AGREED – (i) that the Director of Corporate Resources undertake further discussions with the two tenderers now indicated and that a further comprehensive report be submitted on the details of such discussions ,together with the necessary details with respect to parking and improvements to the entrance; and

(ii) that a further report be submitted with respect to the chapels at the cemetery.