

THE EXECUTIVE
MEETING, 2ND MARCH, 2009

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| Councillor Morris | Leader of the Council – Strategy and External Relationships |
| Councillor J. Byrne | Development |
| Councillor Sherrington | Cleaner, Greener, Safer |
| Councillor Kay | Human Resources and Diversity |
| Councillor Adia | Development |
| Councillor Ibrahim | Culture, Young People and Sport |
| Councillor Peel | Environmental Services |
| Councillor Murray | Health and Adult Social Care |

Non-Voting Members

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| Councillor Spencer | |
| Councillor Ashcroft | Deputy for Councillor R. Allen |
| Councillor Shaw | |
| Councillor J. Walsh | |
| Councillor Mrs Brierley | |
| Councillor Rushton | Deputy for Councillor Morgan |
| Councillor Hayes | |
| Councillor Mrs Ronson | |
| Councillor D. A Wilkinson | |

Officers

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| Mr. S. Harriss | Chief Executive |
| Mr. A. Eastwood | Director of Legal and Democratic Services |
| Mr. K. Davies | Director of Development and Regeneration |

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| | Deputy Director of Corporate Resources |
| Mr A. Donaldson | Assistant Director Policy Improvement and Area Working |
| Ms C. Hyams | Assistant Director |
| Mr. A. Jennings | Democratic Services Manager |

Councillor Morris in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors R. Allen, Hornby, Morgan and Zaman.

78. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 13th February, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

79. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STRATEGY

The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report that presented the employment and skills strategy which aimed to develop employment and skills development opportunities for employees and potential employees of the Council, in order that the Council as the largest single employer in the Town fulfilled its leadership role.

The three main aims of the strategy were :-

- (a) improving employment opportunities for young people through apprenticeships;
- (b) providing work placements for priority groups of Bolton's community in order to prepare them to seek employment; and
- (c) skills development of employees with the added value of developing the skills and economic prosperity of the community through providing staff

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members who lived in Bolton with basic skills and work related qualifications.

The strategy would seek to achieve the following objectives:-

Apprenticeships

- respond to workforce planning concerns over the organisation's ageing workforce by providing young people with apprenticeship opportunities;
- target vulnerable young people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to achieve employment or skills; and
- over a three year period, develop an Apprenticeship Scheme that was recognised as best practice.

Work Placements

- improve employment opportunities that addressed different barriers for priority groups that had been outside the labour market by providing quality experiences of work;
- support the development of young people undertaking qualifications such as the 14 -19 Diplomas; and
- develop a positive employer brand with young people which would encourage them to see the Council as a prospective employer of choice.

Skills

- improve the skills levels to Level 2 of up to 95% of employees by 2020;

- contribute to the raising of skills levels of Bolton's community by providing staff members who were residents with the basic skills of English, Maths, ICT and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages);
- achieve the North West Employers Skills for Life Get On Award and the Employer Skills Pledge; and
- build on existing learning and development opportunities to seek accreditation or verification of skills levels.

The report also provided details with respect to what had been done; what would be done and where did the Council need to be in relation to apprenticeships, work placements and skills.

The Executive stressed the importance of targeting the Council's looked after children in order to help and support them with suitable training to achieve employment or the necessary skills and it was felt that suitable departmental targets could be introduced to monitor the position.

It was also considered that future data could also include information regarding entry level enquiries.

Resolved – (i) That the Strategy's aims and areas of work identified over the next three years be noted.

(ii) That the progress made to date on improving apprenticeship opportunities at Bolton Council be noted.

(iii) That the Executive agrees the strategy as a means for raising skills levels and improving employment

opportunities within the Council, with the wider impact on people across Bolton.

80. AGMA KEY DECISIONS

The Leader of the Council submitted a report that detailed the key decisions taken by the AGMA Executive Board at its meeting on 30th January, 2009.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

81. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD – 3RD QUARTER 2008/09

The Chief Executive submitted a report that provided the Executive with an overview of the Council's performance and improvement actions at the end of quarter 3, 2008/09.

The report informed members that the Council and its partners were performing well and whilst the priorities identified in the community strategy 3 year plan were difficult and defied quick fixes the most recent data showed positive signs despite a challenging economic context.

The key findings were as follows:-

- performance against the most critical priorities such as reducing violent crime, lowering the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs), raising street cleanliness and reducing staff sickness was improving;
- overall performance was similar to previous quarters, with around half of Bolton's priorities on track. The proportion of Service Improvement Action Plan (SIAP) milestones achieved was similar to the same time last year;
- the organisation's value for money programme, which was key to driving out further efficiencies, was overall on track for the coming year. Already

over £7 million had been saved by the Council in 2008-09;

- customer service performance had improved slightly and a range of actions were being implemented to drive further improvements.

A number of performance challenge sessions had been held between the Executive Member Corporate Services, individual Executive Members, Directors and service managers with regards to reviewing the key issues facing the Council and its partners in delivering the main priorities. The sessions would be held on a six monthly basis and a number of common challenges had been identified, particularly in the following areas:-

- raising aspirations, especially amongst young people;
- preventing problems by changing behaviours (eg health, litter, climate change);
- understanding data and targeting services effectively;
- sharing outreach activities between partners and giving clear messages to local people; and
- better understanding as to what drove local perceptions and satisfaction.

Resolved – (i) That the progress being made against the Borough’s main aims and priority themes, as set out in the analysis contained in the report, be noted.

(ii) That the recommended improvement actions detailed in appendices A and B be noted.

(iii) That the findings of the performance challenge sessions detailed in section five of the report and the work with Directors to address the agreed actions be noted.

82. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 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.

83. MANCHESTER AIRPORT INVESTMENT

The Director of Legal and Democratic services submitted a report that informed the Executive of the current investment proposals of Manchester Airport Group (MAG) and to seek delegated authority to enable decisions to be made by the Council within the timescales imposed upon MAG.

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services explained that the proposal was extremely complex and would include detailed discussions with the Director of Corporate Resources and leading members from the three political parties on the Council ,together with discussions at a Greater Manchester level particularly with respect to Facility and Shareholders Agreements.

Resolved - (i) That the Leader of the Council (deputy Councillor J. Walsh) (following consultation with the Leader/Chief Executive/Directors of Corporate Resources and Legal and Democratic Services where appropriate) be authorised to act on behalf of the Council in Shareholders' Committee or in general/extraordinary meetings, as the case may be, to approve or otherwise the basis for submission of the final bid referred to in the report and to agree or otherwise any resolution connected to the bid or its funding and to vote accordingly, subject to further detailed consultation with the Leaders of the major and minor opposition parties on the details of the final bid prior to the Leader's attendance at the shareholders meeting on 24th March, 2009.

(ii) That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to approve the terms for restructuring the outstanding loans made under the Facility Agreement dated 31st March 1994 as referred to in paragraph 15 of the report and to complete all necessary documentation to give effect to this.