

THE EXECUTIVE

MEETING, 16TH APRIL, 2007

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| Councillor Morris | Leader of the Council – Corporate Strategy and Finance |
| Councillor Mrs. Thomas | Children's Services |
| Councillor Adia | Development |
| Councillor J. Byrne | Environmental Services |
| Councillor Clare | Adult Social Care and Health |
| Councillor Ibrahim | Culture and Community Safety |
| Councillor Kay | Schools |
| Councillor Sherrington | Recycling and Waste Management |
| Councillor White | Human Resources and Diversity |
| Councillor Zaman | Regeneration |

Non-Voting Members

Councillor Peel
Councillor A.N. Spencer
Councillor Rushton
Councillor Critchley
Councillor Mrs Fairclough
Councillor Mrs. Ronson
Councillor Hayes
Councillor Cox

Officers

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| Mr. S. Arnfield | Director of Corporate Resources |
| Mr. A. Eastwood | Director of Legal and Democratic Services |
| Mr. K. Davies | |

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| | Director of Development and Regeneration |
| Mr. P. Crosbie | Assistant Director Environmental Services |
| Ms. S. Crossley | Assistant Director Adult Services |
| Mr. S. Garland | Head of Museums and Archives |
| Ms. C. James | Head of Strategic Projects |
| Mr. J. Farr | Principal Policy and Improvement Officer |
| Mr. A. Jennings | Democratic Services Manager |

Councillor Morris in the Chair

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Morgan and David Wilkinson.

65. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive held on 5th March, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

66. THE CHANGE PROGRAMME – REVIEW AND PRIORITIES

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which updated the Executive on progress on the Council's change programme and outlined the priorities for 2007/08.

Following a programme review in January, 2007 the Executive Management Team had commenced the integration of all aspects of the change programme planning and governance within the agreed Corporate Business Planning Process, to reflect the shift in the programme's lifecycle from development to delivery.

The report explained the achievements to date and highlighted that coordinating activity from a range of different services around common themes had reduced duplication of time and

resource and increased the scale of potential benefits .

The main outcomes delivered by the programme included the following ;

- Great Lever neighbourhood management ;
- Beacon status (anti social behaviour) ;
- Bolton at Home great estates project ;
- Strategic investment – Handleman ;
- Vulnerable persons transport ;
- Bolton innovation zone ;
- Online schools admissions system ;
- Web one stop shop ;
- Police presence in the one stop shop ;and
- High street library .

The report detailed additional projects that had delivered key achievements as a result of the change programme .

The report explained that under each of the four themes of the change programme there were a number of projects and action initiatives to deliver which were planned for the next 12 months (which may be added to during the year), each of which would be monitored by the appropriate Service Improvement Action Plan.

Resolved – That the progress made in the implementation of the Change Programme be noted and that the programme of projects across the Council to deliver the major service transformations to be achieved via the change programme be endorsed .

67. BOLTON TOWN CENTRE SWIMMING FACILITY

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report that advised the Executive on progress made in relation to providing a new swimming pool and leisure facility in the town centre .

The Executive had considered a report in December, 2006 which identified a range of sites that a new swimming pool could be located at and had requested officers to explore the future provision of a 25m swimming pool and associated fitness suite on either Chorley Street car park or land within the University of Bolton's Deane Campus.

Further work in conjunction with Serco and the University had indicated that the most desirable location for a new facility was on the University Campus and an architect had been commissioned to develop a number of options as follows ;

- Option 1: a 25m, six lane leisure pool, hydrotherapy pool; a 120 station fitness suite; and, 560m² sports laboratory ;
- Option 2: a 25m, six lane sports pool (to Amateur Swimming Association standard) with spectator viewing gallery; hydrotherapy pool, 120 station fitness suite; and, 560m² sports laboratory ; and
- Option 3: a 25m, eight lane sports pool (to Amateur Swimming Association standard) with spectator viewing gallery, hydrotherapy pool; a 120 station fitness suite; hydrotherapy pool; and, 610m² sports laboratory .

The report detailed the anticipated costs which reminded members that the Council's current capital programme included £6.5m as the Council's contribution to the cost of the facility and was based on option 2 without any contribution from the University . Land owned by the University could be provided at no additional cost to the Council as part of the University's contribution to the scheme .

The full capital and revenue consequences were still the subject of ongoing discussion with the University and were dependant upon the facilities the University required and would be refined as part of the next stage

The report then outlined the next stage in the process which included the following ;

(a) Business Plan

The first stage was for the main partners to agree the project objectives and to each commit to the preparation of a Business Plan. Outline proposals would then be developed including a design brief setting out facilities to be included, location, orientation, parking facilities and building design.

(b) Inception and Feasibility

The completion of the Business Plan would be followed by the preparation of a detailed cost report which would include identification of capital and revenue funding streams and the formal commitment of monies/land to the project by the project partners.

(c) Scheme Design

The commitment of the partners to the project and the specific identification of funds would allow the design of the project to be finalised. Once this had been completed the project would be the subject of a planning application.

Once planning consent had been received a tendering process would be undertaken to identify a suitable contractor. The construction period would be 14 to 18 months and it was anticipated that the scheme would be completed at the end of 2009 .

Resolved - That The Executive formally endorses the development of a new Bolton town centre swimming pool and leisure facility on the University's Deane Campus and that officers be authorised to progress the project with the University of Bolton, Bolton Community Leisure Trust and

Serco, including the preparation of a detailed Business Plan as now detailed.

68. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Chief Executive submitted a report that updated the Executive on developments around Bolton's Sustainable Community Strategy and highlighted the next steps in its adoption.

Members were reminded that a refresh of the Community Strategy, Clear Vision, Bright Future, 2003-2012 had been undertaken with the aim of providing a final version to be endorsed by the Vision Steering Group at its meeting on the 24th April 2007.

The refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy would set the 10 year framework for the Borough, under which short and medium term strategies (e.g. the Local Area Agreement, the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and individual agency plans) would be developed and implemented to support its goals .

A key feature of the refresh had been the agreement by the Vision Steering Group to focus on six key aims for the future, viz ;

- Strong and Confident Bolton ;
- Safe Bolton ;
- Achieving Bolton ;
- Prosperous Bolton ;
- Cleaner, Greener Bolton ; and
- Healthy Bolton

Under each aim would be the major outcomes to be achieved by 2017 as well as critical measures of success .

Resolved – (i) That the developments in the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy outlined in the report be noted.

(ii) That the key aims for the Sustainable Community Strategy as outlined in the report be agreed.

(iii) That following consideration of the draft Sustainable Community Strategy at the Vision Steering Group meeting on the 24th April 2007, the Strategy be submitted to the Council's meeting on 25th April, 2007 for approval.

69. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which sought the Executive's approval to the revised Procurement Strategy and in particular (a) section II which outlined the performance targets which would aim to achieve cashable savings of £0.5m per annum ;(b) section III which proposed a 3 year programme of value for money service reviews ;and (c) section VI which proposed that an Executive Member would have overall responsibility for Procurement.

The report explained that the purpose of the Strategy was to:

- provide a framework for the promotion of best practice procurement in supporting the Council to deliver its corporate priorities;
- communicate to all stakeholders, operational managers, Directors, procurement specialists, suppliers in the private and voluntary sectors, the Council's vision for the way forward in its procurement of services, supplies and works so that they may play a meaningful role in the implementation of that vision; and
- describe via the procurement strategy implementation plan the key actions the Council intended to take to drive best practice procurement forward.

Resolved – That the Procurement Strategy, as now submitted, be approved

70. BOLTON MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE – COLLECTIONS FOR FUTURE DISPOSALS

The Director of Adult Services submitted a report that explained that, as a result of the recommendations emerging from the Museum & Archive Collections Scrutiny Panel in 2004/05, an ongoing review of Bolton Museums & Archives collections had considered which items were most important for the Service to keep to support and develop its services.

Consequently, the report presented the first group of objects to be identified through this process as suitable for disposal.

The report had been approved by the Executive Member for Culture and Community Services on 26th February 2007 and it was explained that, in order to comply with the Bolton Museum Acquisition & Disposals Policy and the requirements of the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council's Accreditation Standards, all disposals must be approved by the Council's Executive.

Members felt that with, respect to the archaeology collections excavated in Bury, the MLA should be only advised of the Council's intention to return the collection to Bury Museum and that any comments from the MLA should be reported back to the Executive.

Resolved – (i) That the items listed in the report be approved for disposal .

(ii) That Mr Steve Garland be thanked for his work in developing the museum and archive service in Bolton and that the best wishes of the Executive be expressed for a full and happy retirement.

71. GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE DISPOSAL AUTHORITY – CHANGES TO THE LEVY AND FACILITIES

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which requested the Executive's approval to the Inter Authority Agreement which would facilitate the improved integration of collection and waste disposal, whilst providing a clear and transparent method of operation and charging of the waste disposal levy to the 9 district councils, together with a broad strategy for the development of the service .

Members were reminded that the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) had developed a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to secure major investments into the facilities for the disposal of waste on behalf of nine of the districts of Greater Manchester (including Bolton) which had been done in line with the agreed local Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

The mechanism for allocating waste disposal costs had also been reviewed and members were reminded that over the last few years the disposal levy had been calculated and charged to districts based on a mix of Council Tax Base and actual tonnages of waste. This had been on a transition arrangement with the intention of a charging mechanism based predominantly on tonnage of waste by 2008-09.

The PFI Contract was now at Preferred Bidder stage with Viridor and, in order to align the costs of disposal with a new and transparent allocation and charging mechanism, an agreed process (referred to as the Inter Authority Agreement) needed to be adopted.

Consequently, the report set out the key services to be delivered by GMWDA through the new PFI Contract and sought approval for the Council to sign up to the Inter Authority Agreement along with GMWDA and the other 8 districts.

The report described the disposal facilities and arrangements and explained that there were a number of key areas which had yet to be finalised and it was envisaged that the GMWDA's meeting on 1st May, 2007 would secure member authority decisions as to some of the last elements of the deal.

It was considered that the Inter Authority Agreement was an essential vehicle to facilitate the open and transparent charging of the disposal levy to the 9 districts in that it connected the individual and composite activities of the waste collection authorities to the disposal function provided through the contract with Viridor. Furthermore, the IAA : -

- Established a commitment from the 9 districts to the contract for the disposal of waste ;
- Enabled the contractor to provide cost efficient facilities and solutions to deal with the anticipated material streams ;
- Provided an open and transparent charging mechanism in that the majority of the levy was based on actual tonnages of waste delivered ;
- Allowed collection authorities to budget for current and future collection arrangements based on individual material streams (residual and recycling) ;
- Supported the principles of the waste strategy ;
- Was in line with the Government's default arrangement for the allocation of disposal levies ;and
- Rewarded collection authorities which at least achieved the targets within the waste strategy and encouraged good performance.

It was explained that, for Bolton, the adoption of a disposal levy based on actual tonnages was considered as a fairer and more equitable solution. In terms of the current Council budget and that the initial indications were that, based on the charging mechanisms prescribed in the IAA, the disposal levy element within the budget was adequate to fund the likely charge for 2007-08. For 2008-09 the base would rise by 4.5% but the overall impact on the total for Bolton would be influenced by

any changes to the collection service.

Resolved – That the Executive approves the adoption of the Inter Authority Agreement and authorises the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to sign the document, subject to the completed Schedules of the IAA being ratified by the Director of Environmental Services.

72. BOLTON TOWN CENTRE SKATEPARK

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report that advised the Executive on progress made in relation to providing a town centre skatepark facility.

A preferred site had now been identified to the east of Dawes Street, shown in the Appendix to the report, which was owned by the Council and was presently used as a car park.

The preferred site was within the boundary of the Cultural Quarter/Innovation Zone and, as the site was presently used as a car park, there would be a loss of income if it was used as a skatepark which was currently estimated at £55,000 per year, although there could be displacement onto other Council car parks offsetting some of the loss. Savings could also accrue in management and operating costs and these would be monitored during 2007/8. There would also be an annual maintenance cost and, as there was no provision in the Revenue budget for these costs, account would need to be made in the 2008/9 Budget.

Members were reminded that £75,000 had been made available from Corporate Resources for 2007-08 to facilitate the scheme and the Director had worked in close contact with a specialist skatepark equipment supplier which would require an exemption from standing orders relating to contracts to proceed with the scheme .

Consultation had been undertaken with proposed users and initial outputs from the consultation were being used to guide the design of the proposed scheme and the children and

youths involved would be closely embedded in the process to ensure that the resultant facility met their requirements.

It was hoped that the facility could be in place for the summer of 2007 and the Director explained that officers were still examining the possibility of a facility at Queens Park adjacent to the Bolton Lads and Girls Club which would be a longer term project with possible sponsorship.

Resolved – (i) That the preferred location for the town centre Skatepark , as shown in the appendix to the report, be approved and that the Director of Development and Regeneration be authorised to seek the necessary planning permission for the proposal; commence negotiations with APCOA for changes to the car parking management agreement; and to make arrangements for the revocation of the extant Traffic Regulation Order that allows car parking on the site.

(ii) That the appointment of a specialist contractor to undertake the scheme, as now detailed, be approved and that standing orders relating to contracts be excepted in the matter.

(iii) That the scheme be subject to continued consultation with the intended end users of the scheme as to the suitability of the site and the emerging scheme designs