
EXECUTIVE MEMBER STRATEGY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS

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

WEDNESDAY, 9TH JULY ,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. P. Marsh	Director of Legal and Democratic
Mr J. Gorton	Services
Mr. M. Kane	Assistant Director Corporate Property
Miss K. Treadwell	Services
	Sport and Recreation Asset Manager
	Special Projects and Partnerships
	Manager
	Democratic Services Officer

13 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](#)

14 BOLTON LADS AND GIRLS CLUB - FUTURE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval for a new, streamlined approach to

working with, and supporting Bolton Lads & Girls Club.

The Executive Member was reminded of the work of the Club and the support provided by the Council in the past.

The Council's financial support had been provided through a range of funding sources, often through external funding and across different Council departments, and had been either through grant aid or had been commissioned by the Council to provide specific services. Over the past two years there had been approximately £300,000 revenue per annum provided to operate around twenty individual projects at the club. There had also been two separate capital projects, funded through NRF to support the extension of the mentoring projects' requirements and the Youth Enterprise Academy.

It was proposed that a more streamlined approach be put in place to support the Club and to enable them to contribute more effectively to meeting outcomes in the Borough's Community Strategy – Bolton: Our Vision 2007-2017 and the Children's Plan. This streamlined approach could be in the form of three categories of funding:

- Annual Grant Aid;
- Commissioned Work; and
- Grant Programme .

An annual grant could be provided by the Council in order that the Club had some financial security, in the same way as the 10 other grant aided voluntary organisations providing general borough wide activity. This could develop into a three year arrangement upon negotiation with the Club, an approach which was being developed with other voluntary and community groups which received revenue support from the Council currently via an annual service level agreement. The grant aid, which could be made available on an annual continuing basis, would consist of the following:

Independent Advocacy Scheme

£17,200

* Area Based Grant

Independence Group for Young People with Disabilities

£11,212

Part Time Sessional Youth Worker

£4,187

Super Mentoring Project
 £20,000
 Commissioned – PAYP Holiday Provision
 £9,260*
 Connexions (NEET) Reduction Project – Personal Advisor
 £25,000*
 Staff Support from Carers Grant
 £9,600*
 Accreditation Project
 £33,549
 Total
 £130,008

Where projects were funded through Area Based Grant, resources could only be agreed up to a maximum of three years. The Council would put in place an agreed monitoring system to monitor performance and spend and future funding would be dependent upon performance.

Other funding might be available to the Club but would not necessarily be available on a continuing annual basis. Specific pieces of work would be commissioned as appropriate by the Council, dependent upon needs and resources available within service departments.

The Club currently delivered a Looked After Children Mentoring Scheme which was funded up to March, 2008 from the Rainer Trust. The Club had used its own funds to continue funding the project up to June, 2008 with Area Based Grant funding the project until March, 2009. At the end of the calendar year, project performance would be reviewed and future funding would be considered.

It is also proposed to develop one overarching contract/service level agreement with the Club which set out the key objectives and outcomes that the Council wished to secure from the Club which would be linked to national and local priorities, for example, the Every Child Matters Agenda and narrowing the gap, in return for the annual grant. A detailed grant agreement between the Council and the Club would be developed under delegated authority and would set out key objectives and outcomes, together with a detailed service specification and financial schedule outlining the duration and regularity of payments.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

(i) the new streamlined approach to supporting Bolton Lads and Girls Club; and

(ii) the development, in principle, of an overarching grant

agreement between the Council and Bolton Lads & Girls Club with the detailed agreement being delegated to the Chief Executive.

Attached Reports:

[Bolton Lads and Girls Club - Future Support Arrangements](#)

15 CORPORATE BIG ISSUES 2009/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report that reviewed the Council's strategic position and set out the 'big issues' to inform the business planning process.

Using the Council's three main aims as a framework, the report summarised the big issues facing the Council over the next few years and provided an opportunity to reflect on the current position and the challenges and opportunities ahead and formed the basis of the business planning process moving forward.

This report also proposed that the headline financial guidance for 2009/12 should be that all services should work on the basis of finding 4% via directions, at least 3% of which needed to be cashable efficiency savings. A more detailed report would be submitted to the Executive at its meeting on 25th July, 2008.

In addition to this report, and more detailed financial guidance being presented to the Executive on the 25 July, services were requested to produce their own service big issue papers and present these to Executive Members as appropriate during the next cycle.

The Executive Member AGREED –

- (i) the corporate big issues for 2009/12 and financial headline guidance for the same period;**
- (ii) that the report and more detailed financial guidance be submitted to the Executive on the 25 July, 2008; and**
- (iii) that each department now develops their own big issues paper, in the context of the corporate big issues and financial guidance, and submit such to Executive Members in the next cycle.**

Attached Reports:

[Corporate Big Issues 2009/12](#)

16 LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report that sought approval, from the land and property perspective, for the proposed development of Local Nature Reserves and the authorisation for the Directors of Environmental Services, Legal Services and Corporate Resources to progress the necessary legal process to enable the declaration of the identified areas as Local Natures Reserves (appendix A to the report) and as prioritised by the Local Nature Reserves Working Group.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener Safer.

The Executive Member AGREED –

- (i) the development and declarations of Local Nature Reserves as identified at Appendix A, as prioritised by the Local Nature Reserves Working Group;**
- (ii) that the Directors of Environmental Services, Legal Services and Corporate Resources progress the necessary legal process to enable the declaration as Local Natures Reserves of the sites identified in Appendix A, as prioritised by the Local Nature Reserves Working Group; and**
- (iii) that a report be brought back to this meeting in six months time regarding the progress of the proposed developments.**

Attached Reports:

[Local Nature Reserves](#)

17 BREC SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT - ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2008/09

The Chief Executive submitted a report that updated the Executive Member on the issues associated with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for BREC during 2008/09 and requested the Executive Member to agree a process to manage the BREC SLA for the remainder of 2008/09 on a quarterly basis.

The Executive Member for Culture and Community Services had approved a number of Service Level Agreements for 2008/09 for revenue funded organisations at his meeting on the 31st March ,2008. Bolton Racial Equality Council (BREC) were within this group but were proposing some change.

Consequently, the Executive Member agreed the payment of the first quarter of the monies associated with the BREC SLA for 2008/09, whilst further discussions were undertaken with the Group as to their future role.

These discussions were ongoing and the Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships was requested to approve the release of the second quarter's monies for BREC and to authorise the Chief Executive to oversee the management and payment of the remainder of the grant in line with their SLA as discussions with BREC continued.

The Executive Member AGREED –

- (i) to the release of the second quarter funding for BREC in relation to the activities agreed in their SLA for 2008/09;**
- (ii) that the Chief Executive be authorised to release the financial commitment to BREC for the remainder of 2008/09, up to the £44,380;**
- (iii) that the Chief Executive continue dialogue with BREC regarding their role within Bolton; and**
- (iv) that a quarterly report be brought back to this meeting regarding the progress of BREC.**

Attached Reports:

[BREC Service Level Agreement - Arrangements for 2008/09](#)

18 NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL DELIVERY

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report that proposed new working arrangements, in particular the partnership arrangements with Bolton at Home, aimed at stepping up neighbourhood renewal delivery in the Borough and including proposed staffing changes within the Development and Regeneration Department in order to help drive forward the agreed aims and core business of the Council.

As part of the Government's new performance framework, the Council and the Vision Partnership had aligned its performance management to the Community Strategy and the 3 year plan (incorporating the Local Area Agreement). Within this wider

framework were the Neighbourhood Action Plans which set out the local targets from the Community Strategy, in particular narrowing the gap targets, with a focus on the interventions needed to achieve them.

The leadership and co-ordination of the neighbourhood renewal strategy had transferred from the Development and Regeneration Department, to the Chief Executive's Department under the management of the Chief Officer for Partnerships and Strategic Projects in order to align the work with the local strategic partnership as neighbourhood renewal was a clear partnership priority. Accordingly, the Neighbourhood Renewal Policy Team and European Partnership/Funding Team, previously located in Development and Regeneration had moved into the Chief Executive's Department.

Work was underway to realign the functions of the team and to ensure greater support to the delivery arm of Neighbourhood Renewal in the targeted areas, the delivery of neighbourhood renewal remaining within the Development and Regeneration Department.

The delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal was under the management of the Chief Housing and Regeneration Officer and it was intended that this may be through a partnership based on the neighbourhood management approach. The Neighbourhood Manager (Great Lever/Farnworth) would lead and coordinate the Council's activity in all the NR areas through both existing and new Neighbourhood Managers within target areas which would require a number of new posts to be funded.

Consequently, it was proposed that the Great Lever / Farnworth Neighbourhood Manager, re-titled Chief Neighbourhood Management Officer, together with Bolton at Home's Deputy Director of Regeneration, would lead the delivery of Neighbourhood Renewal in the targeted areas through a roll out of the Neighbourhood Management approach. In order to take this forward three additional Neighbourhood Managers would need to be recruited into the Development and Regeneration Department utilising Area Based Grant. Similar posts were being proposed by Bolton at Home and there would be common roles and responsibilities. All these posts will cover the 11 targeted NRS areas.

Confirmation of the grading of the post was awaited.

The Executive Member AGREED the staffing proposals contained in the report, subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources and Diversity.

Attached Reports:

[Neighbourhood Renewal Delivery](#)

[Neighbourhood Renewal Delivery](#)

[Neighbourhood Renewal Delivery](#)

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.

19 PROPERTY PERFORMANCE REPORT NO 2 (JULY 2008)

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that provided the Executive Member with details of the performance of the Council's land and property portfolio and its Corporate Property Services function.

The Executive Member NOTED the performance out-turn data for the suite of land and property performance indicators for 2007/08 as detailed in the Report ,together with the performance results in respect of the council's Operational and Non-Operational Portfolios.

20 HORWICH MARKET

The Directors of Corporate Resources and Development and Regeneration submitted a joint report that sought approval to commission a Feasibility Study with respect to Horwich Market.

The details of a condition survey undertaken were set out in the report and appropriate consultation would be undertaken with ward members and stakeholders.

The Executive Member AGREED –

(i) the commissioning of a Feasibility Study for the Horwich Market site as outlined in the report ; and

(ii) that a quarterly report be brought back to this meeting regarding the progress of Horwich Market.

21 35 PARK ROAD LITTLE LEVER

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that sought approval for the completion of a Deed of Variation with a charge deferred to a later date without any interest payment with respect to 35 Park Lane, Little Lever.

The Executive Member APPROVED the report and authorised the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the necessary legal documentation.