

## **STRATEGY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 2010**

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

Councillor Morris	Executive Member for Strategy and External Relations
Councillor J. Walsh	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Hayes	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. P. Brown	Head of Estates and Asset Management
Ms. V. Morris	Head of Renewal and Cohesion
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

### **36. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which monitored the progress of decisions within the portfolio of the Executive Member for Strategy and External Relations.

**The Executive Member for Strategy and External Relations NOTED the progress of the decisions taken.**

### **37. SCHOOL MEALS PROMOTION**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that proposed the extension of the school meals £1 promotion until Easter 2011.

It was reported that in light of the success of the scheme resulting in a 30% actual increase in numbers the scheme would be extended at an additional cost of £420,000 to be funded from a £250,000 grant received to promote healthy living and part use of the YPO surplus.

Continuation of the scheme beyond Easter 2011 would cost £420,000 per term or £1.3m per year and the proposal to continue would be considered as part of the 2011/12 budget option process.

**The Executive Member AGREED to extend the £1 school meals promotion until Easter 2011 and that any further extension beyond this date be considered as part of the 2011/12 budget.**

### **38. PURCHASE OF WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES – EMERGENCY POWERS PROCEDURE**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that reminded the Executive Member of the use of the Emergency Powers procedure to purchase two additional waste collection vehicles at a cost of £190,000 to improve the efficiency of the service.

**The Executive Member NOTED the report.**

### **39. ANIMAL AID – ADOPTION OF THE COMPASSIONATE CHARTER**

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report that suggested an appropriate response to the petition submitted to the Council at its meeting on 9th December, 2009 by the campaigning group Animal Aid requesting the Council to adopt an overarching ethical policy that would help animals,

people and the planet as set out in the Group's Compassionate Charter.

The Charter identified the eight specific actions that it requested the Council to implement in adopting the Charter as follows:-

1. Purchase only cruelty-free toiletries and cleaning products;
2. Ban circuses with animals from Council land;
3. Ban the giving of pets as prizes at funfairs
4. Promote and subsidise spaying and neutering programmes;
5. Ban the sale of foie gras and veal on Council premises;
6. Go fur-free;
7. Use only humane, non-lethal methods of wildlife management;
8. Make the town a plastic bag free zone.

The report explained that the Council had already agreed to implement a number of the above and the others could be adopted with some modifications, as there would be financial implications to the Council from adopting the Animal Aid Charter in its current form. Consequently, it was proposed that the principles could be adopted in the modified form set out below taking into account the comments made by the Corporate Resources and Housing, Neighbourhoods and Regulations PDGs. The Executive Member amended para 3 below to include fish.

"The Council agrees that compassion in the treatment of animals is an important principle and should not be contrary to the economy or the farming community.

The Council proposes to adopt the following principles:-

1. The continued use of cleaning products in Council premises which are cruelty-free

2. Not to permit circuses which have wild animals onto its land
3. Not to allow animals (including fish) to be given as prizes at any events on its land or premises
4. The promotion and support of organisations promoting spaying and neutering of animals through education work with residents in association with the Dog Unit in Environmental Services
5. The continue the Council's stance on the ban of foie gras from all its Council premises
6. To continue the Council's stance on the ban of natural furs on its Mayoral insignia
7. To consider humane ways to deal efficiently with pest control requirements.
8. To encourage the minimisation of plastic and other non bio-degradable waste in the Borough, through education work with schools and residents by the Environmental Cleaning and Waste Management Department of the Council.

**The Executive Member AGREED the modified form of the Charter as set out in the report, and now amended, to reflect local circumstances.**

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 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.**

#### **40. REVIEW OF CORPORATE LANGUAGE SUPPORT SERVICES**

Councillor Hayes declared a personal interest in the following matter.

The Chief Executive submitted a report that set out the consultation findings as part of the review of the Council's Corporate Language support Service (CLASS) and consequent proposals.

Members were reminded that the rationale behind the review was not only to generate savings but to respond to the changing context of translation and interpretation needs and services.

Key elements of the formal consultation included:

- discussions with staff affected and their trades union.
- shared with a range of groups who represented those communities who would use language support services including The Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM); The Hindu Forum; Bolton Solidarity Community Association (BSCA); Bolton Refugee Asylum Seeker Support (BRASS); Bolton Community and Voluntary Service (BCVS), the Bolton Deaf Society and the Council's sensory centre.
- shared with directors of all Council departments whose service users needed language support.
- shared with key public sector partners who used or commissioned language support services, including Bolton at Home, NHS Bolton, Hospital, Police, Bolton Community College and Bolton University.

In light of the responses received which were supportive no changes were proposed to the proposals as set out in the

original consultation report at Appendix 1.

With the decommissioning of CLASS, all language support would be commissioned direct to the market through departments. 86% of the Council's needs were currently met in this way and the residual amount could easily be accounted for.

The response from the GMB was appended to the report.

**The Executive Member AGREED, subject to the approval of the Executive Member Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity the option for the decommissioning of CLASS with all language support commissioned direct to the market through departments.**

#### **41. LITTLE BOLTON TOWN HALL AND 34 ALL SAINTS STREET**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that sought the Executive Member's approval for the leasehold disposal of Little Bolton Town Hall.

**The Executive Member AGREED the leasehold disposal of the properties on the terms now reported and that the Director of the Chief Executive's Department complete the necessary legal formalities.**