

CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Cleaner, Greener, Safer on:-

TUESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

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

Councillor Bashir - Ismail	Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor Morgan	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor J. Rothwell	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Ms. S. Schofield	Assistant Director of Environmental Services
Ms. J. Pollard	Policy Accountant
Mrs. S. Bailey	Principal Democratic Services Officer

22. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Member.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

23. INCREASING RECYCLING IN LOW PARTICIPATION AREAS

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined proposed initiatives to increase recycling rates in poor performing areas and to reduce contamination in burgundy bins using £60k of Area Based Grant funding.

The Executive Member was advised that the main areas of low participation included Farnworth, Rumworth and Crompton and

the initial campaign would target 900 households in those locations. If additional funding could be secured, the campaign would be expanded to cover Great Lever, Halliwell and Breightmet.

The report also detailed what the campaign would involve, namely:

- providing information and advice on waste management and recycling;
- new collection calendar for residents;
- containers provided to residents that needed them; and
- partnership working where possible.

Other work would involve roadshows, local newsletters, website, work with schools and internal staff bulletins.

A key feature of the campaign would involve education about contamination and the financial consequences if the Council did not reduce it. A contamination sticker would be introduced to assist members of the public in recognising what items could be placed in which bins and to advise them that their waste had been contaminated and why. An example was attached to the report at Appendix 4.

A copy of a Communications Plan showing the timescales involved was also attached to the report at Appendix 3.

Monitoring of participation before and after the campaign would take place together with tonnages of residual waste and recyclate collected, the numbers and type of containers delivered and contamination before and after.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

The low participation campaign for recycling, as detailed in the report now submitted.

22. ALLOTMENTS - SERVICE REVIEW

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which gave an update on the progress of the review of the Allotments Service which had been agreed by the Executive Member in February, 2010.

The report reminded the Executive Member that the review had aimed to:

- increase availability of plots and reduce waiting lists;
- reduce the number of new tenancies starting in summer;
- reduce tenancy failures amongst new tenants and keep older tenants involved for longer; and
- significantly reduce the service subsidy by 2014.

With specific reference to reducing the service, a number of actions had been identified to deliver the reduction in service subsidy by 2014. These included reducing costs and increasing income through charging to recover costs for services such as administration, water and toilets. This was to be achieved by the introduction of an administration charge on all tenancies from the new tenancy renewal date of 1st October, 2010 with increases in future years for charges for water and toilets, if costs could not be reduced through consultation with allotment sites in the intervening period.

Subsequently, as a result of financial pressures on the Council, it was proposed to bring forward the potential implementation of additional charges for water and toilets to 1st October, 2010 with a much shortened consultation period. These new service charges were approved by the Executive Member on 29th June, 2010 as part of the Environmental Services Fees and Charges Report.

Following that decision, a High Court Judgement from 1981 was brought to the Department's attention that could have a bearing on the implementation of the decisions relating to the fees and charges element of the Allotment Service Review. Officers who had undertaken the review were previously unaware of the case. Advice on the matter had been provided by the Council's Legal Services Department.

The Council had also had positive discussion with the regional representative of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) who had been able to provide comment and advice from a national perspective on the issues which had arisen.

As a result of the legal advice received and discussion with the NSALG, it was proposed that the implementation of elements of the Allotments Service Review and approved fees and charges for allotments be deferred or amended, as detailed in the report now submitted, and that further discussions take place with the NSALG and Allotment tenants prior to a further report to the Executive Member.

The Executive Member NOTED –

(i) The issues arising from the amendments to the fees and charges for allotments, as previously approved, and the legal advice in relation to that; and APPROVED –

(ii) The deferral, as a consequence of the legal advice received, of the implementation of the new service charges for administration, water and toilets pending a further report following the completion of the consultation with tenants and other stakeholders regarding the provision of these services and the future structure of the allotment service fees and charges; AND –

- (iii) **The implementation of the revised fees and charges, as set out in the report now submitted, which includes a 3% inflationary increase upon the 2009/10 fees and charges.**

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The background papers and reports in relation to the following item of business are considered confidential as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

23.NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES – SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY REVIEW PROPOSALS

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which:

- (a) outlined the findings of a review of Neighbourhood Services which had taken place to account for a reduction in revenue and capital funding from 2011/12 onwards; and
- (b) put forward a range of proposals for consultation.

The report reminded the Executive Member that the Environmental Services Department as a whole was facing significant budget savings over the next three years and that the Neighbourhood Services Division was required to find its share of the savings in the sum of £1.729M as follows:

Year 1 - £605k
 Year 2 - £495k
 Year 3 - £629k

In addition, further losses in external funding were anticipated over the next two years together with reduced capital.

In this regard, the report went on to outline a suggested response to the reduced monies in terms of:

- revised structures;
- planning for reduced income from trading activities;
- exit strategy for external and capital funding;
- income opportunities;
- reducing costs;
- ongoing risks.

The report went on to describe the proposed revised structures and changes to posts together with the areas, services and events that would be affected.

An outline timetable for consultation and implementation of the proposals was provided in the report. Diagrammatical structures illustrating changes to services and staff were also appended to the report.

An Equality Impact Assessment had been carried out and was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 29th September, 2010.

**The Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
APPROVED –**

**The report for consultation purposes with stakeholders,
staff and trades unions.**