
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:-

13 AUGUST 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 Arnfield	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr A Eastwood	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr P Marsh	Director of Legal and Democratic
Mr K Davies	Services
Ms C James	Assistant Director Corporate Property
Ms J Roe	Services
Mr A Holden	Director of Development and
Mrs V Ridge	Regeneration
	Assistant Director Partnerships and
	Neighbourhood Renewal
	Principal Policy Officer
	Principal Project Officer
	Principal Democratic Services Officer

22 DECISION MONITORING REPORT

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.

23 BOLTON PARISH PAROCHIAL CHURCH

Councillor J. Walsh declared a prejudicial interest in the under mentioned item and left the meeting during consideration and determination thereof.

The Chief Executive submitted a report that requested the Executive Member to consider a financial contribution of £25,000 towards the organ refurbishment at Bolton Parish Church .

The Executive Member was reminded that the Church fulfilled an important civic as well as congregational function and hosted many large services, concerts and exhibitions.

The total project costs were expected to be in the region of £250,000 and so far the Church had been successful in raising £200,000. The requested funds could be met from existing resources with the Chief Executives Department budget.

The Executive Member AGREED that, in view of the Parish Church's key role in a wide range of Civic functions within the Town Centre, a contribution be given of 10% towards the overall cost (£250,000), up to a maximum level of £25,000, whichever is the lower, towards the refurbishment of the church organ at Bolton Parish Church.

Attached Reports:

[Bolton Parish Parochial Church](#)

24 ALLOCATION OF ABG FLEXIBLE FUND/LPSA2 REWARD GRANT

The Chief Executive submitted a report that provided an update on the challenge/appraisal process for projects requesting ABG Flexible Fund/LPSA2 Reward Grant; highlighted the level of over-programming and requested that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to agree multi-annual contracts for appropriate projects.

The Executive Member was reminded that at the meeting on 11th June, 2008 indicative allocations were agreed for each project requesting ABG Flexible Fund/LPSA2 Reward Grant. It was also agreed that the Chief Executive would approve individual projects following a short challenge/appraisal process, and that further work would be undertaken to prioritise funding requests from each of the thematic areas, in order to reduce the level of over-programming to an appropriate level.

The challenge/appraisal Panels took place at the beginning of July and pre-contract negotiations were now underway with Theme/Project Leads.

The Executive Member was reminded that the funding requests considered at the meeting on 11th June, 2008 were significantly higher than the available funds (which if approved would have resulted in an over-programming level of around 18% which would

have posed risks in a nine month delivery period) .

The work had now been concluded and each partnership had been required to make reductions which took the over-programming rate to a more manageable 11%. Details of the revised allocations for each thematic area were attached at Annex 1.

The challenge/appraisal process had also highlighted the fact that, in some projects, failure to get a commitment beyond March, 2009 would pose significant risks, because of the barriers short-term funding created to the recruitment / retention of staff. It was therefore proposed that, where appropriate, projects be awarded a multi-annual contract which helped to address these risks. It was proposed that this flexibility was given only to those projects which clearly demonstrated their contribution to delivering the Community Strategy 3 Year Plan within the challenge / appraisal Process.

It was also suggested that multi-annual contracts should have an annual 'break clause' at the end of each financial year so that projects could be de-commissioned if they were failing to meet expectations and that only those schemes which were achieving and contributing to outcomes continued.

For those projects needing further development or not currently helping to deliver the Community Strategy 3 Year Plan, it was proposed that contracts were only awarded until the end of March, 2009 and that these projects be subject to a review to be considered by the appropriate thematic partnership[s] when determining priorities for any additional funding.

It was also proposed that the decision to award multi-annual contracts be delegated to the Chief Executive to expedite the process of awarding contracts, subject to a report back to the Executive Member in due course.

The Executive Member NOTED -

- (i) the details regarding the challenge/appraisal process;**
- (ii) the new indicative grant amounts agreed for each thematic area / projects; and AGREED**
- (iii) to delegate responsibility for approval of multi-annual contracts to the Chief Executive.**

Attached Reports:

[Allocation of ABG Flexible Fund/LPSA2 Reward Grant](#)

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.

25 CAPITAL RECEIPTS PROGRAMME 2008/09

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which advised the Executive Member of the current situation regarding the capital receipts programme.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

26 LAND AT WIGAN ROAD WESTHOUGHTON

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that requested the Executive Member to agree to the completion of a deed of variation for the removal of a restrictive covenant relating to an area of land at Wigan Road, Westhoughton.

The Executive Member AGREED that this item be deferred to allow further investigations to be undertaken.

27 LAND AT UNION ROAD AND NIGHTINGALE FARM, BLACKROD

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that requested the Executive Member's approval for the terms for two leases for the operation of household waste recycling centres at Union Road and Nightingale Farm, Blackrod operated by the Greater Manchester Waste Authority.

The Executive Member AGREED the terms of the leases and authorised the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the necessary documentation.

28 COLLEGES CO-LOCATION REPORT

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that advised the Executive Member of the progress made in respect of the proposals for the development of various sites to facilitate the Colleges co-location project.

**The Executive Member AGREED -
(i) the terms of the land swap between Bolton Community**

College and Bolton Council;

(ii) to the principle of the playground area being included in the disposal on the basis of same per acre value indicated in the report for the remainder of the site; and

(iii) to the Directors of Development and Regeneration and Corporate Resources continuing to negotiate terms for the disposal of the remainder of Wellington Yard to Bolton Community College and to report back progress to the Executive Member.

29 EAST LODGE HEATON CEMETERY

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that detailed the results of the further discussions held with the two community interests with respect to the offers for the grant of a 250 year lease of East Lodge and grounds at Heaton Cemetery.

The Executive Member AGREED the offer submitted by Masjid - E - Aqsa subject to a further report being submitted regarding proposals to ensure that the access to Heaton Cemetery is protected and, if appropriate, that a Tree Preservation Order be placed on the site.

30 FORMER SALVATION ARMY CITADEL, KING STREET FARNWORTH

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that sought the Executive Member's authority to complete the purchase of the former Salvation Army Citadel in King Street, Farnworth which adjoined existing council owned land.

The Executive Member AUTHORISED the Director of Corporate Resources to proceed with the acquisition and subsequent demolition of the property and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services complete the necessary legal formalities.

31 WATERMEAD

The Directors of Corporate Resources and Development submitted a report that requested the Executive Member to enter into two option agreements for an area of land at Watermead.

The Executive Member AGREED the terms for the option agreements and authorised the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to complete the necessary legal documentation.

