

CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER

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

TUESDAY, 31ST AUGUST, 2010

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

Councillor Bashir - Ismail	Executive Member for Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor J. Walsh (as deputy for Councillor Morgan)	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor J. Rothwell	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mr. M. Russell	Head of Greenspace
Mr. J. Gorton	Sports and Recreation Asset Manager
Ms. V. Mather	Head of Service Performance and Improvement
Ms. L. Butcher	Group Accountant
Mrs. S. Bailey	Principal Democratic Services Officer

18. 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.

19. PLAY BUILDER PROGRAMME

A report of the Director of Environmental Services was submitted which informed the Executive Member of a potential reduction in Playbuilder funding for the current Financial Year

and outlined the implications for Bolton Council's schemes.

By way of background information, the report advised that in June, 2008, the Council was awarded Playbuilder status with a three year funding allocation of:

- £1,132,439 capital to deliver between 20 and 25 new and refurbished play spaces aimed at 8 – 13 year olds (with an additional £50,000 awarded for good practice); and
- £45,222 revenue to be used for related costs.

To date, 14 sites had been completed in the first two years. The programme for the final year included a further 8 sites with a supporting programme of revenue activities.

The report advised that on 15th July, 2010, the Department of Education had written to the 122 Playbuilders confirming that the 2010/11 revenue element had been removed. Information was requested regarding the capital liabilities incurred between 1st April and 14th July 2010, in order to determine the level of payments which could be made in light of the savings required across the Department's capital budgets. In addition:

- the capital grant would be paid for all schemes where works had already begun on site;
- with immediate effect and until further notice, new contractual liabilities should not be incurred and groundworks / construction should not commence on any additional sites;
- where groundworks had not commenced, projects should not be progressed in any way that would prejudice the Authority's ability to exit the associated contracts as per the current stated terms; and

- revised allocations of the grant would be confirmed by the end of August, 2010.

Local authorities were also required to report costs for sites where contracts have been entered into, but construction had not begun.

It was currently unclear what proportion, if any, of these costs would be met, although the likelihood was that costs incurred from completed contracts would be covered.

In this regard, the report went on to outline the implications for the remaining 8 Bolton schemes, 3 of which had already commenced work before the deadline and would therefore qualify for a total of £160,000 Playbuilder grant, namely:

Eskrick Street/Elgin Street - £40,000

Norbreck Street - £50,000

Umberton Park - £70,000

The remaining 5 sites were at varying stages of consultation and design and some costs had already been incurred. It was anticipated that Playbuilder would meet all the costs to date on these sites in full.

The report went on to outline the ability of each site to deliver the play provision without Playbuilder contribution, which varied from scheme to scheme. Full details were provided in the report. With regard to the Hall 'i 'th Wood scheme, it was proposed to utilise available section 106 funding from the Bellway development on Crompton Way in the sum of £120,407.68.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

The use of available Section 106 funding, as detailed in the report now submitted.

20. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD – QUARTER 1

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which outlined the performance of the Environmental Services Department during the first quarter of 2010/11.

The report reported on performance in the following areas:

- cleanliness;
- parks and open spaces;
- waste and recycling;
- highways;
- internal business performance – sickness absence, national indicators, service improvement action plans' complaints, telephony.

The report also provided details of improvement actions to improve performance in 2010/11.

The Executive Member SUPPORTED –

The action plans to improve performance in 2010/11, as detailed in the report now submitted.

21. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2010/11 – QUARTER 1

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which informed the Executive Member of the financial position of the Environmental Services portfolio as at the end of Quarter One of the 2010/11 Financial Year.

With regard to Revenue Expenditure, the report advised that revenue expenditure was projected to exceed the budget by £119,000.

The Department had budgeted to use reserves of £400,000.

The main variances were largely due to Bolmoor, Trade Waste and the Markets.

Capital expenditure for the quarter totalled £2,932m against a programme of £23,834m. This followed the reduction to the 2010/11 capital programme agreed by Executive in the 2010/11 – Review of Capital Programme on 26th July 2010.

With regard to reserves, the Department's projected deficit reserve position at 31st March 2011 was £1,788,000.

Detailed repayment plans were included within the report.

Budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £892,000 which included demand led of £200,000 to repay the deficit reserve. The current projection was to achieve all planned efficiencies.

Specific areas of financial risk related to loss of income due to the economic downturn, reduction in grant funding and the potential increase in fuel costs.

The Executive Member NOTED the financial position of the Department at Quarter One and; ENDORSED –

The ongoing repayment plan in respect of the Department's deficit reserves, as detailed in the report now submitted.