

## **CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE**

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

**WEDNESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 2008**

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

Councillor Morris	Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor. J. Walsh	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor. R. Hayes	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. D. Grogan	Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services
Mr. P. Marsh	Assistant Director, Corporate Property Services
Mr. G. Parr	Senior Lawyer
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

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

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which contained monitoring information related to decisions taken at the Executive Member's previous meetings.

**The Executive Member Corporate Strategy and Finance NOTED the progress of the decisions taken.**

### **78. BSMART SYSTEMS AGREEMENT – USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS**

The Directors of Corporate Resources and Legal and Democratic Services submitted a joint report that explained the use of the emergency powers procedure to waive Standing Order 4 and award a contract to sQuidcard Ltd to enable the

Bsmart card to deliver and manage a welfare service for children and young people.

The Executive Member was reminded that approval had been given for Bolton to develop and deliver the 'Bsmart – Empowering Young People' scheme. An award totalling £2.3 million would enable young people in Bolton aged 13 to 16, either eligible for free school meals or looked after, to receive £35 per month to be spent on positive activities. The proposals were based around an extension to the existing Bolton Smart card scheme and incorporating an sQuid e-purse. The inclusion of the e-payments facility was key to the proposal and to the eventual success of the bid.

Discussions with sQuidcard Ltd (who had been granted a licence by the Authority to deliver an e – purse on the Bolton Smart card) had ascertained that they could deliver the EYP scheme and consequently the Executive Member had waived Standing Orders as the welfare scheme was considered an extension of the e-money service being provided by sQuidcard Ltd under a reciprocal licence agreement and only this company could provide the service.

**The Executive Member NOTED the action taken to permit the awarding of a contract to sQuidcard Ltd up to the value of £561,000 to deliver and manage a welfare service for children and young people through the Bsmart scheme and for the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to take all appropriate action to formalise the contract.**

## **79. ANTI – FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

The Head of Internal Audit and Risk submitted a report that requested the Executive Member's approval of the revised Anti – Fraud and Corruption Strategy.

The Anti-Fraud Policy was a key cornerstone of the Council's governance arrangements and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) had highlighted this area as fundamental to the good governance of an authority and recommended regular reviews.

There were no fundamental changes to the existing policy but the document now included some revised policies relating to ICT.

The revised Strategy had been considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2008.

**The Executive Member AGREED the revised Anti – Fraud and Corruption Strategy.**

## **80. REVISED WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY**

The Head of Internal Audit and Risk submitted a report that requested the Executive Member's approval of a revised whistle blowing policy.

The revised policy had been considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2008 and, once agreed by the Executive Member, would be widely publicised for staff.

**The Executive Member AGREED the revised Whistle Blowing Policy.**

## **81. CORPORATE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – QUARTER 3 2007/08**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which detailed the Corporate Resources Department's performance indicators for the third quarter 2007/08.

Performance against the indicators was considered very good, with most targets being met and performance improving. Actions over the last twelve months had led to an improvement in performance against a range of indicators and performance was improving; all the identified actions could be met from within existing allocated resources.

**The Executive Member NOTED the report.**

## **82. LAND AT TEMPEST ROAD, LOSTOCK – PROPOSED PLAYING FIELD DEVELOPMENT BY LADYBRIDGE FOOTBALL CLUB**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that detailed a request from Ladybridge Football Club (LFC) to take a lease of an area of land at Tempest Road for the development of playing fields.

It was explained that the request followed the withdrawal of a planning application on the site in September, 2007 for a similar proposal by Lostock Sports Club in favour of an alternative privately owned site on Chew Moor Lane in Lostock. The LFC proposal would exclude the area referred to locally as “Jubilee Park” and the area directly behind St John’s Wood. A 460 signatory petition had been presented to Council in December last year seeking the protection of “Jubilee Field” by the Council as amenity greenspace in perpetuity.

Initial enquiries had indicated that the development of playing fields with ancillary car parking was, in principle, an acceptable development in the Green Belt.

The LFC proposal comprised the development of 3 football pitches for junior teams, the creation of 72 car parking spaces and the possible provision of a temporary toilet block. The Club were not proposing a new changing room/pavilion building on the site but the proposal was likely to include the construction of an extension to the existing pavilion building across Tempest Road on other Council land.

The proposal was included in the Property Bulletin and there had been 3 responses from local ward members, namely Councillors Silvester, Gradwell and Mrs P Allen. The responses opposed the Club’s proposal and were attached to the report.

**The Executive Member DEFERRED the report until such time as the proposal has been considered by the Planning and Highways Committee and that the Director of**

**Corporate Resources solicit the views of the relevant ward members.**

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 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.**

### **83. AUTHORITY TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING HIGH RISK EQUAL PAY CASES**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report that sought the Executive Member's authorisation to make a contribution to the legal fees of 'no win no fee' solicitors who were representing claimants with equal pay claims with a view to settling high risk cases.

**The Executive Member AUTHORISED the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to put forward offers to settle the cases on the basis of paying to the claimants the appropriate compensation figure in accordance with the previously agreed matrix, together with a contribution of 10% of the compensation figure towards the legal costs of their legal representatives and that the Executive Member be apprised of progress.**

### **84. CAPITAL RECEIPTS PROGRAMME 2007/08**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that informed the Executive Member that the total expected useable capital receipt for 2007/08 amounted to £3,770,128.

**The Executive Member NOTED the report.**

### **85. WRITE-OFF OF UNCOLLECTABLE DEBT**

**The Executive Member AGREED the write offs as set out in the appended schedules.**

**86. THE TEACHERS CENTRE, RYDLEY STREET – USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that detailed the use of the emergency powers procedure to agree the terms of the disposal of the Teachers Centre at Rydley Street to the University of Bolton following the Executive Member meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2007.

**The Executive Member NOTED the report.**