

STRATEGY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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

WEDNESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 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
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director Corporate Resources
Mr. A. Eastwood	Director of Chief Executive's Department
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mrs C. Sutton	Head of Strategic Development
Mr. A. Walker	Head of Service (Enterprise, Employment and Skills)
Ms. L. Boardman	Principal Project Officer
Mr. P. Brown	Head of Estates and Asset Management
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

46. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of 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.

47. LAND AT SABDEN ROAD JOHNSON FOLD ESTATE

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that sought the Executive Member's approval to grant a licence to the Great Estates Community Gardening Group for an area of land at Sabden Road to progress a food growing project.

The project was supported by Bolton at Home and the main terms and conditions for the occupation of the land were detailed.

The Executive Member AGREED the terms and conditions for the licence to occupy the land and that the Director of the Chief Executive's Department be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation.

48. URGENT ITEM – USE OF ADDITIONAL WORKING NEIGHBOURHOODS FUNDING 2010

In accordance with the Local Authority's Executive Arrangements and Access to Information Regulations 2000, the Chairman of the Corporate Issues Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the following item was urgent and could not reasonably await consideration until the next meeting of the Executive Member.

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report that set out proposals for the use of an additional £553,466 allocated to Bolton as part of a £40million programme to extend the economic support available from the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

The guidance and suggested use of this funding indicated that it should be used to address the economic impacts of the recession with particular reference to addressing the additional barriers and competition for work which the long-term jobless faced.

The above complemented the work the Council had already commissioned throughout the current year to use a mix of Working Neighbourhoods Funds and the Council's own resource to produce a package of anti-recession measures to create and retain jobs, address the impact of recession on individuals and to work more intensively in the hardest hit communities.

A detailed programme of activity was contained in the schedule to the report and could be summarised as follows:-

Project	Cost
Saturday opening of Bolton Work Shop	£25,000 (full year) (3 month pilot £6,500)
Double Business Start – up Support	£175,000
Neighbourhood Employment Worker Teams (pilots)	£125,000 per pilot area Total £250,000
Enhanced Support for Bolton's Small Businesses	£50,000
Total	£500,000

The following project was proposed as a contingency

Extension of New Way Provision	£52,000
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The Executive Member AGREED –

- (i) The proposals as set out in the report, subject to the proposal relating to the extension of new way provision being agreed as a contingency project, and that they be funded and delivered in the next financial year following approval via the Strategic Resource Unit;
- (ii) That the proposal relating to Saturday opening of Bolton Workshop be undertaken using existing staffing resources; and
- (iii) That the Director of Development and Regeneration be requested to provide members with details as to how these proposals fit in with the overall programme of anti-recession measures.

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 the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

48. BOLTON NHS LIFT HEALTH CENTRES – SITE ISSUES

The Directors of Development and Regeneration and Corporate Resources submitted a report that provided an overview of the Primary Care Trust's (PCT) strategy to deliver new health centres across the Borough and summarised the main issues concerning the associated land disposals.

The phasing of the remaining health centre developments were as follows:-

Health Centre	Expected Year of Completion
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Avondale and Farnworth	2012/13
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Great Lever	2013/14
Little Lever	2014/15
Horwich and Westhoughton	2015/16

Suitable sites had been identified that provided adequate public transport, car parking facilities and disabled access as well as the potential to achieve significant regeneration impacts and it was emphasised that these factors needed to be carefully considered against site feasibility and costs within the timescales for development.

Furthermore, detailed discussions were needed to determine and agree the land values and accommodation schedules for each building.

The Executive Member AGREED – (i) to enter into negotiations for the disposal of the sites identified at Farnworth, Great Lever and Little Lever and that further reports will be submitted for the formal disposal of each site;

(ii) that the disposal of the site at Horwich and subsequent negotiations be subject to further discussions with the Horwich and Blackrod ward members as to the suitability of the site;

(iii) that any option agreement entered into with the PCT in respect of the disposal of the sites is to contain provision for the Council to review the position in 3 years time.

49. MEREHALL COTTAGES, MEREHALL

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that detailed the terms and conditions for the leasing of the Merehall Cottages to the Merehall Training Company.

The Executive Member AGREED the terms and conditions, now detailed, for the leasing of the Merehall Cottages and that the Director of the Chief Executive's Department be authorised to complete the necessary legal formalities.