

A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

WAS HELD ON 14 MARCH 2007

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Cully) (ex-officio) (P); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Cully) (P); Councillors Burgess (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Gill (P), Hook (P), Langdon (P), Smith (P), Taylor (P) and Wright (P) .

46. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

48. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meetings held on 23 and 30 November 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct records.

49. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

50. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART I

51. GOSPORT PENINSULAR ACCESS PANEL

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The special circumstances were that Councillor Chegwyn raised a matter in relation to a meeting to be held on Tuesday, 20 March 2007.

Hampshire County Council had recently set up a Gosport Peninsular Access Panel which comprised County Councillors for Gosport and Fareham and Councillors from Gosport and Fareham District Councils. The Panel was to meet on Tuesday, 20 March to specifically discuss the replacement ferry pontoon. There was an urgent need for the Council to nominate 2 members to attend this meeting.

The Borough Solicitor advised that nominations to outside bodies were a decision for full Council but the Board could make recommendations and the matter progress as a Part I Item. The Chief Executive was able to take urgent action on Part I matters if in his opinion action is necessary as a matter of urgency, the Board is made aware of his intention to take urgent action at the time the Part I item is discussed and the minutes of the Board record the urgent action and are reported to the Council.

The Chief Executive advised the members of his intention to use the urgency procedure in Standing Order 7.5.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- a) as there were 2 places on the Panel the 2 members should only be appointed for this one meeting;
- b) the process for deciding which Groups are represented on the Panel should be by the drawing of lots by the Borough Solicitor;
- c) the Board noted that the Chief Executive was of the opinion that action on this Part I item was necessary as a matter of urgency as the issue of the replacement of the ferry pontoon was pressing and the meeting was to take place before the next Council meeting. Therefore he intended to take urgent action under Standing Order 7.5 to appoint 2 members nominated by the Group Leaders of the Groups decided by the drawing of lots; and
- d) Council is requested to nominate 2 members to the Panel to attend meetings after 20 March 2007.

PART II

52. SYD ASHBY: FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Civic and Commemorative Events Sub-Board held on 12 February 2007 which recommended that Mr Ashby be awarded the Freedom of the Borough.

RESOLVED: That, in recognition of his eminent services to the people of the Borough of Gosport over many years, the award of the Freedom of the Borough to Mr Syd Ashby be referred to an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on a date to be agreed.

53. APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Civic and Commemorative Events Sub-Board held on 12 February 2007 which recommended that former Councillor and Mayor Aleck Hayward be appointed an Honorary Alderman.

RESOLVED: That the appointment of former Councillor and Mayor Aleck Hayward be referred to an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held at 5.30 p.m. on 4 April 2007.

54. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PRIORITY G – USE MATERIAL RESOURCES MORE EFFICIENTLY

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager which outlined what the Council needed to do to deliver those priority actions required towards the successful delivery of Local Area Agreement priority G 'Use Material Resources More Efficiently'.

Officers advised that the White Paper on Local Government placed increasing emphasis on Local Area Agreements as a way of delivering what communities want and the Council should therefore sign up to the ambitions outlined in the Environmental Services Manager's report.

An action plan would be developed covering the various activities carried out within units of the Council. It was anticipated that the fourth ambition included in the report i.e. to ensure that recycling services be available at all the major Council owned sites, would begin to be realised on 2 April 2007 when a contractor would be carrying out the work required. This action would also lead to financial savings.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Council formally sign up to the ambitions listed in the report;
- b) specific actions be developed in order to deliver the Council's ambitions for the corporate approach to material resources; and
- c) outputs and outcomes be measured and reported back to the LAA lead on Priority G.

55. HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY 2007/08

Consideration was given to a cross reference from the Housing Board which, at its meeting on 7 March 2007, recommended that the new draft Housing Renewal Policy 2007/08 be formally adopted.

RESOLVED: That the Housing Renewal Policy 2007/08 be formally adopted.

56. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

The Board was presented with a report of the Borough Treasurer which considered the updated Medium Term Financial and Capital Strategies.

The report contained three recommendations, which were that:

1. the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy be approved;
2. the Board consider whether the policy of annual council tax increases being restricted to no more than 4% should be changed in the light of forecasts contained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy; and,

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3. the Board decide how it would address the budget crisis forecast for the years 2008/9 to 2010/11.

Members decided that the policy of annual council tax increases being restricted to no more than 4% should be continued.

Members decided that a working group should be established on a 1:1:1 basis, with nominated substitutes, to discuss budget issues for the years 2008/09 to 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Capital Strategy be approved;
- b) the policy of annual council tax increases being restricted to no more than 4% be continued; and
- c) a 1:1:1 working group be established comprising the Group Leaders (with nominated substitutes) to discuss budget issues for the years 2008/09 to 2010/11.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m. and concluded at 6.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN