

A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD

WAS HELD ON 24 JUNE 2009

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio); Councillors Burgess (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Cully (P), Gill (P), Hicks (P), Hook (Chairman) (P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P), and Wright (P).

7. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received from the Mayor.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

9. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD HELD ON 11 MARCH AND 14 MAY 2009

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meetings held on 11 March and 14 May 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

10. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

12. PUSH BUSINESS PLAN REVIEW 2009

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which advised Members that the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) was required to produce a Business Plan each year to set out its proposed actions and priorities. In turn the Business Plan must be individually approved by the eleven Local Authority partners, to provide the mandate for the PUSH Joint Committee to take the necessary decisions and actions to implement the Business Plan. The report presented the PUSH Business Plan, as approved by the Joint Committee in March, for approval by this Board.

Members were advised that the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) would be reducing its operations and it was felt that the development of the Daedalus site, being a priority for SEEDA, should also be a priority for PUSH.

Members were assured that proposals for the Daedalus site would be worked up and would be included as a PUSH priority.

RESOLVED: That the PUSH Business Plan 2009-11 be approved as a basis for the operations of the PUSH Joint Committee.

13. A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO COMMUNITY COHESION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought Board approval for the development of a partnership approach toward community cohesion through the Gosport Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the development of a community cohesion strategy through the Gosport Partnership be approved to enable the Council and its partners to identify and address areas of local community tensions and promote good relations between local people.

14. BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP: ANNUAL UPDATE AND ANNUAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Building Control Partnership Manager which updated the Board on the progress and financial outturn of the Building Control Partnership in the financial year ending March 2009.

The report also requested confirmation of the continuation of the Partnership under the terms of the current legal agreement.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the contents of the Annual Update and Review Report be noted; and
- b) support for the continuation of the Building Control Partnership under the terms of the existing Legal Agreement be confirmed.

15. APPROVAL OF THE 2008/09 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer which set out the background to the requirement for members to approve the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts, which was shortly to be made available for public inspection and audit, together with some brief notes on the Statement and outturn position.

Members were advised that the accounts appeared in a new statutory format and would be produced in a more digestible form on the Council's website before auditing took place. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also included work on the outturn budget in its future work programme.

Concerns were raised regarding the high level of write offs the Board was being asked to approve. It was explained that these were debts which had accumulated over last five or six years and could justifiably have been written off earlier. Officers had worked on recovering the debts and, despite their being written off, they could be reinstated if necessary.

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Members' attention was drawn to an area of debt relating to new homelessness measures. The backlog had been dealt with and there had been no direct impact on the budget.

Members were advised that new controls had been introduced in Housing Services which were working well to ensure that individuals did not accumulate debts in different properties and then move away.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2009 be approved;
- b) the revenue variances detailed in Appendix C of the report be noted;
- c) the capital programme slippage detailed in Appendix D of the report be noted; and
- d) the write offs approved under delegated authority at Appendix G of the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.12 p.m.

CHAIRMAN