

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD WAS HELD ON 17 MAY 2011

The Mayor (Councillor Allen) (ex-officio) (P); Councillors Beavis (P), Burgess (P), Carter, C R (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Forder (P), Hook (Chairman) (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Philpott (P) and Wright (P).

81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.

82. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were received.

83. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

84. SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought the adoption of the Council's first Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan (Appendix A) as the Council's framework equalities document replacing the Corporate Equalities Policy and individual Race, Gender and Disability Equality Schemes.

The Scheme sets out how the Council intends to meet its duties under the Equality Act, which became law in April 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan be adopted.

85. SOLENT LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval for the Council to become a member of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Solent LEP covered South Hampshire including Gosport and the Isle of Wight which together formed a functional economic area centred around Portsmouth and Southampton. Membership of the Solent LEP consisted of three classes:

- Business – those undertaking professional business or other commercial activities with a view to profit in the LEP region.
- Higher education – those higher education corporations and institutions in the LEP region.
- Public Sector – County Council, District. Borough Councils or Unitary

Authorities having statutory responsibilities with the LEP region.

Gosport Borough Council had been formally requested to join the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Limited as one of its members drawn from the Public Sector.

RESOLVED: That Gosport Borough Council accepts the invitation to become a member of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Limited.

86. AREA BASED INSULATION SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought member approval to sign up to the Hampshire wide area based insulation scheme.

It was reported that Gosport had a high proportion of older properties within the Borough and average income per family is low compared to the rest of Hampshire. There remained a significant number of properties in Gosport which would benefit from both loft and cavity insulation. This scheme was an extremely cost effective way of enabling householders to significantly reduce their energy bills and CO₂ emissions. It could also have a significant effect on Fuel poverty within the Borough.

RESOLVED: That the Board agrees to participate in the Area Based Insulation Scheme and delegates authority to the Borough Solicitor to enter into any necessary legal agreements to deliver the Area Based Insulation Scheme.

87. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following items the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the reports.

88. SALE OF PREMISES AT TORONTO PLACE

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Chief Executive which sought approval for the sale of the freehold interest of the land shown edged black on Plan 1.

The report was exempt from publication as it contained details of the financial affairs of the Council and a third party at a time when negotiations are not finally concluded. These negotiations could be prejudiced if this information was made public which may have an adverse impact on the arrangement to the detriment of the Council tax payers. Therefore the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That the Board authorises the Head of Property Services to agree

terms for the sale of the freehold interest of the premises at Toronto Place known as the former Disinfection Centre and to authorise the Borough Solicitor to enter into such legal documentation as is necessary to effect the above decision.

89. NEW GOSPORT LEISURE CENTRE

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that the following exempt item be considered at this meeting.

The special circumstances were created by the fact that the Chairman wished the Board to approve a Council preferred bidder for the new Gosport Leisure Centre so that the scheme could be progressed as quickly as possible.

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Community and Customer Services Manager which made a recommendation as to the appointment of the Council's preferred bidder.

The report was exempt from publication as it contained details of the financial affairs of the Council and a third party at a time when contract documents are not finally concluded. Completion of the contract could be prejudiced if this information was made public which may have an adverse impact on the contract arrangements to the detriment of the Council tax payers. Therefore the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- a) accept DC Leisure Management Limited's bid for Optimum Facility Mix – including Sports Hall, Soft Play / Creche and 5/7 a-side floodlit STP;
- b) select DC Leisure Management Limited as its preferred bidder;
- c) agree to the disposal of the land subject to the statutory procedure referred to in Section 6 of the report and note the Council's intention to 'Opt to Tax' set out in Section 7 of the report;
- d) authorise the Borough Solicitor to extend the contract with the Arena Group for the management of the Holbrook Recreation Centre as set out in Section 4 of the report; and
- e) authorise the Borough Solicitor to enter into any necessary agreements to give effect to the Board's decision.

The meeting ended at 7.06pm.

CHAIRMAN