

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday 29 January 2007

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Goddard (Chair), Rundle (Vice-Chair), Armitage, Bance, Fooks, Malik, Murray, Sellwood and Tall.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Brian Dinsdale (Interim Chief Executive); Sharon Cosgrove, Mark Luntley and Michael Lawrence (Strategic Directors), Sarah Fogden (Financial and Asset Management Business Manager), Jeremy Thomas and Brenda Lammin (Legal and Democratic Services Business Unit).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Andrew Davies and Pat Jones (Scrutiny Officers), John Copley and Ian Wright (Environmental Health Business Unit), Michael Crofton-Briggs, Mark Jaggard, Lorraine Freeman, Matthew Bates and Fiona Bartholomew (Planning Services Business Unit), Ian Barrett (Customer Services Business Unit), John Kulasek (Financial and Asset Management Business Unit).

218. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor van Zyl.

219. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

220. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no questions asked in accordance with Procedure Rule 13(iii).

221. ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION – OSNEY TREES

The Environment Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered the comments of Councillor Phelps (Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee).

Resolved that it be noted that: -

- (1) the proposed tree planting day on 27 January 2007 had been postponed and another attempt would be made to gain agreement between residents and officers;
- (2) all the recommendations made by the Environment Scrutiny on this issue

would be considered together at the February meeting of the Board.

222. CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOL.

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered the comments of the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15 January 2007. With the agreement of the Chair, Councillor Phelps (Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee) and Councillor Sargent addressed the Board.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the draft Clean Neighbourhood Enforcement Protocol be approved for consultation with relevant stakeholders;
- (2) it be noted that it was proposed that any enforcement action taken would be proportionate and expedient.

223. ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT SCRUTINY REVIEW – FINAL REPORT

The Environment Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15 January 2007. Councillor Phelps (Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee) attended to present the findings of the review.

Resolved that a further report be submitted to the Board, in February 2007 if possible, giving officers' comments on operational issues and implementation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Group, as amended in accordance with the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee.

224. THE CONTROL OF LEAFLETING IN THE CITY CENTRE

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). With the agreement of the Chair, Councillor Sargent addressed the Board.

Resolved that: -

- (1) subject to greater clarity regarding the streets and alleyways to be designated in the order, the designation order to control leafletting in the city centre be introduced under Section 94B and Schedule 3A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to cover the streets and areas listed in Appendices 1 and 2;
- (2) the Environmental Health Business Manager be authorised to enforce its requirements;

- (3) the Environmental Health Business Manager be asked to develop a consent scheme for approval by the Board at the earliest opportunity.

225. PROPOSED EXPENDITURE OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE COUNCIL UNDER PLANNING AGREEMENTS

The Planning Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that Council be RECOMMENDED to: -

- (1) agree to the inclusion of new schemes to be added to the Capital Programme and additional contributions to schemes already in the Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) authorise officers to commission design work in order to enable project appraisals and/or scheme details to be prepared on the new schemes to be implemented by the City Council, as set out in Appendix 1.

226. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – PARKING STANDARDS TRANSPORT ASSESSMENTS AND TRAVEL PLANS

The Planning Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that Council be RECOMMENDED to: -

- (1) adopt the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on Parking Standards, Transport Assessments and Travel Plans, subject to the amendment of paragraph 54 of the SPD by the addition of reference to the high student population being another factor in low car ownership levels in Oxford;
- (2) authorise the Planning Policy Manager to make any necessary editorial corrections in the light of further legal advice.

227. BONN SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT – MAJOR PROJECT APPROVAL AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

The Planning Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) Major Project Approval be granted for the redevelopment of Bonn Square conditional upon Council approving the request to increase the capital budget to £1,912,000 on 12 February 2007 but recognising that implementation will be phased in line with the receipt of funding;

- (2) tendering for Phases 1a, 1b and 2 be commenced but contractual commitment be restricted only to those items of work which can be financed from available funds;
- (3) the Strategic Director, Physical Environment , in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be authorised to amend the order in which elements of the scheme are progressed should either or both of the outstanding statutory 'planning' consents be refused;
- (4) subject to approval of a grant of £750,000 from the New Growth Points Fund, to waive paragraph 11.09 of the Contract Regulations and authorise the Strategic Director, Physical Environment, to accept the most economically advantageous tender for such phases of the scheme as are determined under resolution 3 above;
- (5) an appropriate interest be taken in the Baptist Church forecourt to enable the approved scheme to be built;
- (6) a Highways Agency Agreement be entered into with the County Council under s278 of the Highways Act 1980 to enable works to the highway to be carried out and for highway maintenance;
- (7) Council be RECOMMENDED to approve the increase in the capital budget to £1,912,000, conditional upon the funding being received.

228. CONSULTATION ON FACE-TO-FACE SERVICES

The Customer Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the Council's current commitment to face- to-face service delivery be maintained and extended;
- (2) it be confirmed that the Cowley Centre was considered to be an appropriate site for a local Council office;
- (3) it be confirmed that bids for the initial set up costs and annual running costs for such an office be submitted for consideration in the 2007/08 Budget setting process;
- (4) it be agreed that the future provision of a city centre facility be concluded out of the negotiations with the developers of the St Aldate's Chambers site;
- (5) it be noted that investigations are on-going into the possibilities for working with partners in providing further face-to-face services in other parts of the city (for example, Blackbird Leys).

229. ALBION PLACE DEVELOPMENT

The Financial and Asset Management Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) officers be authorised to enter into discussions with the Westgate Partnership on a possible development of the Albion Place Car Park to replace the housing units which might be demolished on Abbey Place as part of the Westgate redevelopment;
- (2) Major Project Approval be granted for the scheme;
- (3) further reports be submitted to the Executive Board prior to signature of any binding documents, seeking approval for a local lettings plan and final authorisation and approval of the various contracts needed to proceed with the development.

230. THE COUNCIL BUDGET 2007/08

The Strategic Director, Finance and Corporate Services, submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered recommendations of the Finance Scrutiny Committee and East Area Parliament and updated and additional information on the budget circulated at the meeting

Resolved that Council be RECOMMENDED that: -

- (1) it be noted that the resolutions below were based on the updated and additional information circulated at the meeting;
- (2) the General Fund Budget at Section 1 of the Budget Book at Appendix 4 to the report be approved;
- (3) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) at Section 2 of the Budget Book at Appendix 4 to the report be approved;
- (4) the following schemes be deleted from the Capital Programme, creating funding of £1,236,000 to fund new schemes : -

Donnington Changing Rooms	£370,000
Environmental Health carry-forward	£460,000
Westgate	£ 98,000
Community Centres (Year 1 of programme)	£233,000
Homezone – contribution to County scheme	£ 75,000;

- (5) it be agreed to devolve budgets for community centres, small parks, play areas and Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT) activities

to Area Committees subject to a further report outlining how this could operate in practice;

- (6) it be noted that the Portfolio Holder had accepted all the comments and recommendations made by the Finance Scrutiny Committee on 18 January 2007;
- (7) Council consider all other recommendations and comments arising from the consultation (as set out in Appendix 3 plus additional comments from East Area Parliament circulated at the meeting), and note that written responses would be sent to non-Council bodies and individuals who had commented on the indicative budget;
- (8) Council decide which items in the Capital Bids list would be included in the Capital Programme 2007/08, following consideration by the party groups.

231. AREA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a recommendation of the Central, South and West Area Committee.

Resolved that, in respect of minute 113 of the Central, South and West Area Committee concerning comments made by Mr Power in the open session, it be noted that: -

- (1) the Portfolio Holder had clarified the situation regarding actions taken by officers in respect of new refuse collection and recycling arrangements;
- (2) complaints about odours from bins should in the first instance be referred to Neighbourhood Environmental Actions Teams (NEATs) and they would take whatever action was necessary (which may or may not involve Environmental Health) and therefore the Portfolio Holder did not believe it appropriate to instruct the Environmental Health Business Manager to respond to complaints from members of the public on such issues;
- (3) reports would be submitted to the Board on the motions at Council on 22 January 2007 relating to the refuse collection and recycling scheme.

232. PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUESTIONS

There were no such questions for the Board to consider.

233. DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no such decisions for the Board to consider.

234. FUTURE ITEMS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a list (previously circulated and now appended) of future agenda items.

Resolved to note the list of future items and that references to the Oxford Waste Partnership should be to the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.

235. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of meetings of the Board held on 18 December 2006 and 8 January 2007 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments: -

Minute 172 – Question 2 penultimate line, delete “authorise” and replace with “authorities”

Minute 205 – resolution (1) to be deleted and replaced with “the 2007/08 Council Tax Base for the City Council’s area as a whole be set at 46,180 (calculation shown in Appendix 1 of the report)”.

236. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

Resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule I2A of the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason for exemption</u>	<u>Minute No</u>
C1	information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	237
C2	information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	238

237. MINUTES

Resolved that the exempt from publication minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the Board held on 8 January 2007 be approved as a correct record.

238. DISPOSAL OF 169 WALTON STREET

The Financial and Asset Management Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that in view of the fact neither of the two prospective purchasers who had submitted the highest bids were willing to proceed at this time, the property be re-marketed and the Financial and Asset Management Business Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, be authorised to dispose of the property at the highest possible price at or above the agent's valuation.

The meeting began at 9.00 am, press and public were excluded at 11.29 am, and the meeting ended at 11.33 am.