

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday 14 May 2007

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Goddard (Chair), Rundle (Vice-Chair), Altaf-Khan, Bance, Campbell, Fooks, Malik, Sellwood and Van Zyl.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Brian Dinsdale (Interim Chief Executive), Sharon Cosgrove, and Michael Lawrence (Strategic Directors), Sue Shutter (Human Resources Business Manager), Sarah Fogden (Financial and Asset Management Business Unit), Jeremy Thomas and Colin Gregory (Legal and Democratic Services Business Unit).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Mark Luntley (Strategic Director), Michael Crofton-Briggs and Mark Jaggard (Planning Services Business Unit), Graham Smith (Parking and Transport Business Unit), Marianne Upton (Community Housing Business Unit), John Kulasek (Financial and Asset Management Business Unit).

1. MEMBERSHIP

The Chair welcomed Councillors Altaf-Khan and Campbell, who had been appointed to the Executive Board for the new Council Year.

Councillor Bance asked for clarification on Members portfolio responsibilities. and the Chair asked for written confirmation to be circulated to all Councillors.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Murray and from Councillor Rundle for early departure.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following questions were asked in accordance with Procedure Rule 13(iii) on the West End Area Action Plan (minute 337): -

Question from Mark Davies

In view of the national strategic role of the Oxford Canal as one of the first four trunk canals in Britain, and its modern-day tourism potential for Oxford, why doesn't the Action Plan insist on restoration of the Canal's terminus, both as the last-ever opportunity to preserve physical evidence that the 'Town' of Oxford's historical importance is more than as a mere adjunct to the University, and also because the Canal's unique place in national heritage should make purely commercial considerations secondary ?

Summary of response from Councillor Goddard (Leader of the Council)

The matter would be fully considered when the report on the West End Area Action Plan was dealt with later in the meeting. However, public consultation had indicated that there was a demand for the canal base to be re-opened and there was a need to legitimately consider the range of interests involved and to ensure a co-ordinated approach towards the most efficient and effective arrangement.

Question from Hugh Jaegar

Summary of response from Councillor Goddard (Leader of the Council)

Mr Jaegar was not in attendance and Mark Jaggard said that provision for motor cycle parking and cycle provision was properly addressed in all new development taking place in accordance with the Local Plan. Parking on the street or in public car parks was the responsibility of the Highways Authority and outside the scope of the West End Area Action Plan.

5. ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS – ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

The Board considered recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated and now appended) relating to previous recommendations made in respect of environmental enforcement issues. The Board also considered the comments of Councillor Phelps (Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee).

The meeting heard of the Scrutiny Committee's frustration regarding the many aspects of enforcement. However, it was noted that the recent Environment Seminar had particularly addressed such matters and that work was ongoing to implement the various measures considered by Scrutiny.

Resolved to -

- (1) record the Board's thanks to the members of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council who had recently resigned, for all their efforts on behalf of the local community;
- (2) ask the Strategic Director Physical Environment to write to the members of the Environment Scrutiny Committee (copied to all Councillors) with details of the recent Enforcement Seminar and with the answers to the questions

from the Environment Scrutiny Committee contained in the report presented to Executive Board.

6. APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING ADVISORY PANEL

The Finance Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

It was noted that, with regard to attendance by Councillors in general, the intention when considering the arrangements for the Panel had been to enable attendance to be flexible so as to suit the efficient functioning of the Panel. The Housing Portfolio Holder would not be a member of the Panel.

Resolved that a Housing Advisory Panel be appointed comprising Councillors Benjamin, Scanlan and Turner.

7. FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES – COUNCIL MOTION

The Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Councillor Van Zyl addressed a number of issues raised and confirmed that East Area concerns had been recognised and would continue to be considered as part of the ongoing development of strategies relating to family planning and associated issues.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the developments that had taken place within the family planning service be noted;
- (2) it be noted that a report was submitted to the Health Scrutiny Committee on 26 April 2007 providing an update on the Sexual Health Strategy;
- (3) the Chief Executive write to Executive Board Councillors on the outcome of an outstanding request to write to the Primary Care Trust.

8. WEST END AREA ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION DRAFT

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

The following amendments to the Plan were agreed:-

Page 9, penultimate paragraph, line 5, after "Another" insert "and preferable". After the end of that sentence insert a new sentence " Applications to implement this preferred option will be encouraged unless it is shown to be not practicable or economically viable"

Page 18, second paragraph under heading **Affordable housing from commercial development**, second sentence, after "if it proves" insert "in the light of "open book" assessment".

Page 22, Amend the wording in the box on **Policy WE21: Office accommodation** as follows:
first sentence, replace "about" by "up to"; delete the whole of the second sentence in the box.

Page 24, in the box **Policy WE24: Cultural attractions** after "cultural attractions" insert "artists' studios".

Resolved to RECOMMEND Council that: -

- (1) the Submission Draft West End Area Action Plan be approved for submission to the Secretary of State (as amended);
- (2) the Planning Policy Manager be authorised to make any necessary editorial corrections prior to submission.

9. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ALLOCATION CRITERIA FOR ROSE HILL FLATS AND DESIGNATED ELDERLY TWO FLATS ON ASHHURST WAY

The Community Housing and Oxford City Homes Business Managers submitted a joint report (previously circulated and now appended). The Board also considered the comments of the Housing Scrutiny Committee as set out in the report and the comments of the South East Area Committee and the Housing Advisory Board, as reported orally at the meeting.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the comments of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, South East Area Committee and Housing Advisory Board be noted;
- (2) the process for the pilot project be approved;
- (3) subject to consultation carried out with tenants at the scheme, the allocation criteria for the Rose Hill Flats (including 4 flats in Ashurst Way) be changed by removing the restriction of letting to over 40s only, and let in accordance with the local lettings plan (Appendix 1 to the report);
- (4) Council be RECOMMENDED to adopt the management and lettings scheme for the Rose Hill Flats (including 4 flats in Ashurst Way), as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (5) the Estates Managers and Lettings Team be thanked for their work in progressing the strategy.

10. SALE OF 26 BARTON VILLAGE ROAD

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

Resolved that: -

- (1) the best offer currently available be accepted, as set out in the exempt from publication Appendix to the report;
- (2) in the event that the proposed purchase does not proceed to completion at this level the Financial and Asset Management Business Manager be authorised to proceed with a sale at a best achievable price at or above the open market value.

11. YEAR END FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2006/07

The Strategic Director, Finance and Corporate Services, submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

The Chief Executive confirmed that previously existing instances of overspend had been recognised and addressed. Measures were now in place to allow greater stability and to implement a system for improving financial management information.

Resolved that: -

- (1) the year-end financial position be noted;
- (2) the General Fund Area Committee project carry-forward, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report, and the Housing Revenue Account carry-forwards, as set out in Appendix 5 to the report, be approved.

12. DRAFT DIRECTORATE PLANS FOR 2007/08

The Interim Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

The Chief Executive explained how the format of the documents had been changed so that they could be used by the Executive and the Scrutiny process to help monitor and measure performance.

Each of the Strategic Directors then presented their draft Directorate Plan. Members suggested that it would be useful if both the mandatory and discretionary priorities could be identified.

Resolved that each directorate plan be noted.

13. AREA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Resolved that, further to a recommendation of the Central, South and West Area Committee on advice centres, to note confirmation from the Strategic Director Housing, Health and Community that with regard to the request for discussion on the provision of advice in the City, a number of officer level meetings had already taken place with the County Council.

14. PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUESTIONS

There were no such questions for the Board to consider.

15. DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no such decisions for the Board to consider.

16. FUTURE ITEMS

No matters were raised under this item.

17. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the Board held on 16 April 2007, as amended, be approved as a correct record.

18. 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)	19
C2	information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	20

19. SALE OF 26 BARTON VILLAGE ROAD

The Financial and Asset Management Business Manager submitted an exempt from publication appendix (previously circulated and now appended) to the report referred to in minute 339.

Resolved that the information contained in the exempt from publication appendix be noted.

Summary of decision contained in minute 20

The Board considered a report of the Financial and Asset Management Business Manager concerning disposal of The Slade, Mascall Avenue. It agreed that the property be disposed of to Bidder B in accordance with the terms set out in the report and that the Interim Chief Executive be authorised to complete a transaction at or above the offer made by Bidder C in the event that the sale to Bidder B does not proceed to completion.

The meeting began at 9.00 am, the resolution to exclude press and public was taken at 10.33 am, and the meeting ended at 10.46 am.