

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Monday 16 July 2007

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Goddard (Chair), Bance, Campbell, Fooks, and Van Zyl.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Brian Dinsdale (Interim Chief Executive), Michael Lawrence and Mark Luntley (Strategic Directors), Sarah Fogden (Financial and Asset Management Business Unit), Sue Shutter (Human Resources Business Manager), Lindsay Cane and Brenda Lammin (Legal and Democratic Services Business Unit).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Andrew Davies (Legal and Democratic Services Unit), Graham Smith (Parking and Transport Business Manager), Colin Barlow and Steve Holt (Leisure and Cultural Services Business Unit), John Kulasek (Financial and Asset Management Business Unit).

51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sajjad Malik, David Rundle (Vice-Chair) and Matthew Sellwood.

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

53. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Dylan Davies, on behalf of Unison, submitted a number of questions addressed to Councillor Rundle in respect of the future of the Peers Sports Centre (minute 62 refers).

The Chief Executive advised, and the Leader of the Council agreed, that it was not appropriate to deal with questions relating to staff matters under the public question item at an Executive Board meeting and that they would be dealt with by discussions between the unions and management.

Councillor Pressel (who said she was speaking on behalf of the Environment Scrutiny Committee) addressed a number of questions to Councillor Fooks about waste and recycling (minute 55 refers). Councillor Fooks pointed out that advance notification should have been given of the questions but that she would do her best to respond. A summary of the questions asked and the responses given is set out below.

Question 1

Could something be done to make information about what happens to our recycling after collection easier to find on the Council's website?

Response

I have checked this and believe the information is clear and easy to find. If Councillor Pressel is having difficulties I am sure an officer would be able to assist her.

Question 2

What is going to be done to improve consultation with City Works about new developments, particularly in respect of turning circles for refuse vehicles?

Response

Consultation already takes place, although it is more to do with Planning than City Works. Planning have been reminded about this and will be reminded again. I hope that Area Committees will also be mindful of the need to ensure that this matter is properly addressed in the applications they determine.

Question 3

Would the Portfolio Holder agree with the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's comments that fortnightly refuse collections were not appropriate for inner city areas?

Response

I would agree that fortnightly collections of residual waste are not always appropriate for blocks of flats or similar dwellings and that is why weekly collections are continuing for some of these properties. Collection arrangements for blocks of flats will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with each situation being considered on its individual merits

Question 4

We have been told that all residents understand that there should be no side waste and bin lids should be closed. What is being done to enforce this and related issues concerning bins and boxes on pavements, messy gardens and rat infestations.

Response

The new arrangements are working well in the majority of cases. Where necessary, enforcement action will be taken, including fines for persistent offenders.

Question 5

Does the Portfolio Holder agree that it is not good enough to have just two officers dealing with education on recycling and refuse collection for the whole city, including dealing with comments on rat infestations?

Response

This simply is not the case, there are more than two officers dealing with such matters, and statistics show that complaints about rats are falling compared to last year.

54. FINANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Board considered a recommendation of the Finance Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that a letter be sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government lobbying for the inclusion of climate change indicators to be included in the national set to be measured in the new CAA framework.

(No member voted against.)

55. ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – WASTE AND RECYCLING

The Board considered a recommendation of the Environment Scrutiny Committee (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the recommendations be endorsed and it be noted that: -

- (1) details of where the Council’s recycling goes after collection were on the Council’s website and officers were preparing an article for the next “Your Oxford” on the topic;
- (2) City Works were currently consulted on planning applications for large new developments;
- (3) planning officers were being reminded to check the adequacy of waste storage and collection arrangements on all new developments.

(No member voted against.)

56. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) RECATEGORISATION

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

Resolved: -

- (1) that the Strategic Director, Finance and Corporate Services, be authorised to apply to the Audit Commission Panel in October 2007 for re-categorisation of the Council’s CPA rating;
- (2) to thank all staff for their hard work which had led to improvements in performance.

(No member voted against.)

57. SEACOURT PARK AND RIDE – CCTV SYSTEM

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) £40,000 be released from the ring-fenced park and ride security account to provide funding for the new CCTV system at the Seacourt park and ride car park;
- (2) Council be RECOMMENDED to approve a change to the Budget Framework by way of a £40,000 virement from the earmarked Car Parks Reserve on the Balance Sheet to the Transport and Parking Business Unit General Fund.

(No member voted against.)

58. PARK AND RIDE – RING FENCED ACCOUNT

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that the ring fencing around the Park and Ride Security Account be lifted and the funds currently in the account be released.

(Councillor Bance abstained.)

59. DRAFT RESPONSE TO COUNTY’S PROPOSAL FOR A MINERAL SITE (SAND AND GRAVEL) AT LAND BETWEEN GRANDPONT AND NORTH/SOUTH HINKSEY

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

Resolved that the reasoned objections to the proposal that land at Grandpont was a suitable site for extraction, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be supported and sent to Oxfordshire County Council’s Minerals and Waste Team as the City Council’s formal response.

(No member voted against.)

60. CAPITAL MAINTENANCE WORKS FOR TEMPLE COWLEY POOLS

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

Resolved that: -

- (1) project approval be granted to spend £173,250 allocated within the 2007-08 Capital Programme on essential repairs to enable the Centre to remain operational (subject to funding being available);
- (2) it be noted that: -
 - a. there will be a temporary closure of Temple Cowley Swimming Pools for a period of approximately 5 weeks to enable essential repairs to be carried out to the ventilation system and heat pumps;
 - b. a comprehensive condition survey of the building and plant was to be undertaken by an independent surveyor.

(No member voted against.)

61. CAPITAL WORKS FOR THE ICE RINK

The Interim Leisure and Cultural Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that project approval be granted to spend £185,023 allocated within the 2007-08 Capital Programme on the essential repairs identified to enable the Ice Rink to remain operational (subject to funding being available).

(No member voted against.)

62. FUTURE OF PEERS SPORTS CENTRE

The Interim Leisure and Cultural Services Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that: -

- (1) the principle of a managed withdrawal from the dual use operational agreement at Peers Sports Centre be approved;
- (2) staff employed at Peers Sports Centre on 'open ended' contracts who were affected by the above decision be redeployed, as set out in paragraph 17 of the report.

(Councillor Bance abstained.)

63. AREA COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no recommendations for the Board to consider.

64. PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUESTIONS

There were no such questions.

65. DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no such decisions.

66. FUTURE ITEMS

No matters were raised under this item.

67. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of the Board held on 18 and 21 June 2007 be approved as a correct record.

68. 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)	69
C2	information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	70

69. RESTRUCTURE OF THE LEASE OF PREMISES AT 6 – 8 BROAD STREET AND SHIP STREET

The Financial and Asset Management Business Manager submitted an exempt from publication report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that approval be given to the assignment and restructure of the lease

of premises at 6 – 8 Broad Street and Ship Street, as set out in the report.

(No member voted against.)

70. DISPOSAL OF THE RADCLIFFE ARMS, CRANHAM STREET, JERICHO

The Financial and Asset Management Business Manager submitted an exempt from publication report (previously circulated and now appended).

Resolved that approval be given to the disposal of the freehold interest in the Radcliffe Arms, Cranham Street, Jericho, on the terms set out in the report.

(No member voted against.)

The meeting began at 9.00 am, the resolution to exclude press and public was taken at 9.33 am, and the meeting ended at 9.43 am.