

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

Monday, 19 April 2004

PRESENT: Councillor Larratt (Chair); Councillor Hadland (Deputy Chair); Councillors Hill, C. Lill, J. Lill, Palethorpe and Tavener

1. APOLOGIES

None

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 29th March 2004 were signed by the Chair.

3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES

RESOLVED: That P Mawson and J Cooper be granted leave to address the Executive in respect of Item 13 "Grosvenor/Greyfriars".

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

(A) CALL- IN OF CAR PARK STRATEGY

Councillor Mason submitted a report from a joint meeting of the Planning, Transportation & Regeneration and Financial Strategy & Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees that had considered the report agreed by the Executive on 16th February 2004 in respect of Car Park Strategy. The joint meeting had made seven recommendations that were discussed in turn.

RESOLVED: That the seven recommendations made by the Joint Meeting of the Planning, Transportation & Regeneration and Financial Strategy & Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committees be accepted

(B) REPORT OF CHAIRS AND DEPUTIES OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

(i) Requests from Executive to Overview & Scrutiny

Councillor Simpson submitted a report from a meeting of the Chairs and Deputies of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in respect of a process to clarify what the Executive were seeking when they made referrals to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: That the procedure and proforma proposed by the Chairs and Deputies of Overview and Scrutiny Committees be adopted.

(ii) Procedures for Executive responses to Overview & Scrutiny

Councillor Simpson submitted a report from a meeting of the Chairs and Deputies of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in respect of a process for the Executive when considering reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees in terms of acceptance and implementation or rejection of any recommendations made.

RECOMMENDATION: That the process proposed by the Chairs and Deputies of Overview and Scrutiny Committees be adopted and that the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

(iii) Late Reports

Councillor Simpson submitted a Report from a meeting of the Chairs and Deputies of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in respect of late reports and the difficulties that that posed for Members and Officers alike.

RESOLVED: That the circulation of late reports for meetings of the Executive be discouraged.

6. CPA- ROUND TABLE MEETING (LC)

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk commented that the first Round Table Meeting had taken place on 6th April 2004 with colleagues from the ODPM. The first version of the Council's Recovery Plan had been presented and discussed at some length. The Plan had been accepted and a second meeting of the Round Table was to take place on 22nd April 2004 at which more details of the Plan were to be presented.

Councillors had been taking a lead at a cross-party meeting in respect of the Recovery Plan. Work was now in hand to appoint a Chief Executive and Directors and to this end consultants would be used. In order to assist the Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk and the Deputy Chief Executive, further assistance at Director level was being sought.

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk made reference to discussions with the IDeA in respect of a consultancy to the value of £69,000.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the Report be noted and that the Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk be authorised in consultation with the Leader of the Council to finalise negotiations with the IDeA in respect of consultancy up to a value of £69,000.
 - (2) That for the foreseeable future a briefing be given to all Councillors at each full Council meeting and that the Recovery Process be a standard item on Executive Agendas.

7. GRAFITTI SERVICES- REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (HE)

The Director of Community Services submitted a report setting out the powers awarded to the Council to pilot a new approach to tackling graffiti. As part of the Government sponsored pilot project, the Council would need to amend its free graffiti policy particularly in respect of structures in or on the public street or owned by a statutory undertaker or educational institution and accessible or visible to the public.

In answer to a question the Director of Community Services commented that the early results from the implementation of the Recycling Scheme had shown an increase in recyclable material collected from 14% to 27% in the corresponding weeks from April 2003. Extra resources had been put in place in the call centre to deal with the high number of phone calls which had been made.

RESOLVED: (1) That the Council continue its free service to remove

graffiti free of charge except for property falling under Section 48 (sub-sections 9 & 10) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and as detailed in paragraph 2.4(a) of the Report.

- (2) That a further report clarifying what was meant by the legislation in paragraph 2.4 (b) of the report be made before a decision on this aspect is made.
- (3) That for property falling under Section 48 (sub-sections 9 & 10) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 a charge equivalent to cost to the Council of £28.00 (including VAT) per half hour for removing graffiti be made.
- (4) That the progress towards developing the graffiti service as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
- (5) That all those employees involved with the implementation of the recycling scheme be thanked for their work to-date.

8. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN- FIRST DEPOSIT DRAFT (PRT)

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk submitted a report that set out the County Council's consultation on the first deposit draft of the Minerals Local Plan. He further commented that the County Council had recognised the need to utilise recyclable material and to leave the river valleys unexploited. There was also a recognition for traffic management in the locations identified. There were two sites that potentially affected the Borough, those being between Collingtree and Milton Malsor and at Buckton Fields.

RESOLVED: That the comments set out in the report form the Council's formal response to the County Council's first deposit draft of the Minerals Local Plan.

9. CONSULTATION ON PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 1: CREATING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES (PRT)

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk submitted a report that summarised the contents of a consultation document that would replace the existing Planning Policy Guidance on Planning Policy and Principles. The Planning Policy Statement was based on three key themes of sustainable development, spatial planning and community involvement. Once adopted this document would not only form the basis on which Local Planning Development Frameworks would be prepared and progressed but would also provide the ethos on which Planning as a whole would be managed for the future.

Councillor Taverner expressed concern at the way community involvement had worked in practice in respect of the St Crispin's redevelopment, which had been developer led and had been little more than a publicity stunt. The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk commented that the community involvement process would be local authority led.

RESLOVED: That subject to paragraph 6.4 being amended to include reference to pressures adjacent to the Borough's boundaries and to paragraph 6.9 being amended in respect of the third

line by the replacement of "other" by " many" the proposed response on the Draft PPS1 be approved.

10. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004 (PRT)

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk submitted a report on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The assessment was known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and was presently a consultation document published by the ODPM.

RESOLVED: That the proposed response to the consultation document be approved.

11. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO THE WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (LC, PRT)

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk commented that a letter was expected imminently from the ODPM in respect of the establishment of the West Northamptonshire Urban Development Corporation. It was understood that Lord Rooker was to make an announcement on 21st April 2004 and simultaneously the process for appointments to the Board would also be announced.

RESOLVED: That the position be noted and that a copy of the ODPM letter be circulated to all Members of the Council once received.

12. ENGLISH PARTNERSHIPS; LAND AT SIXFIELDS/ HARVEY REEVES ROAD/ RANSOME ROAD AND OTHER MAJOR PROPERTY AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS (FS)

The Director of Strategic Resources submitted a report that summarised the position as at 31st March 2004 in respect of the sites transferred to English Partnerships and other major property related transactions. The Acting Chief Executive and town Clerk commented that Planning Applications from English Partnerships in respect of Sixfields, Harvey Reeves Road, Ransome Road, and the Southern Development Link Road had been submitted and a joint press release with English Partnerships was to be made during the week.

The Director of Strategic Resources reported that a new lease of Sixfields Stadium to Northampton Town Football Club had been completed and that in respect of Kingsthorpe Hall the Secretary of State had indicated that the development would not be called in.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and that the employees involved be congratulated on successful conclusion of the property transactions reported.

13. NORTHAMPTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY 2004 (PRT)

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk submitted a report in respect of proposals for the Christmas Lights Display for 2004 and 2005. Improvements to the 2003 display had been agreed with the contractor. It was also intended to negotiate with the Town Centre Partnership for a greater contribution towards the cost.

RESOLVED: That the Council fund the Northampton Town Centre Christmas Lights for 2004, to be erected in November and to commit funding for 2005 on the basis that the Town Centre Partnership would make a contribution towards their cost.

14. SESAME- 17TH INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EXCHANGE; PARMA, ITALY (LC)

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk submitted a report seeking endorsement for participation in the 17th International Business Exchange in Parma, Italy in June.

RESOLVED: That the Council participate in the 17th International Business Exchange to be held in Parma Italy in June 2004 and that agreement be sought with other SESAME Partners to re-affirm the business based nature of the Exchange.

15. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chair moved that the Public and Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that there was likely to be disclosure to them of such categories of exempt information as defined by Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 as listed against such items of business by reference to the appropriate paragraph of Schedule 12A to such Act.

The Motion was Carried.

16. GROSVENOR/ GREYFRIARS (PRT) (9)

Mr P Mawson and Mr J Cooper on behalf of Donaldson's consultants commented on the progress of the negotiations with Legal & General in respect of the redevelopment of Grosvenor/Greyfriars. The slow progress to-date was disappointing but Mr Mawson remained positive in respect of what the proposals represented to Legal & General in investment terms. He also commented upon the Council's need not only to achieve a facility that would benefit the Town in the future but also the statutory need to achieve best consideration. Potential options that were available to the Council were discussed.

RESLOVED: That the Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk write to Legal & General re-affirming the Council's commitment to their proposed redevelopment of Grosvenor/Greyfriars and seek their formal commitment to progress their proposals by the end of June 2004.

17. UPPER NENE VALLEY COUNTRY PARK PHASE 1: MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (PRT, HE) (9)

The Acting Chief Executive and Town Clerk submitted a report seeking the approval of the appointment of a Contractor for the annual routine maintenance of the landscaped areas, footpaths and fences of the Country Park.

RESOLVED: That Northampton Borough Council Street Scene be appointed to maintain Upper Nene Valley Country Park Phase 1 in accordance with the tender submitted as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

18. LAND OFF FRIARS AVENUE (FS) (9)

The Director of Strategic Resources submitted a report seeking authorisation to the disposal of an area of land to a developer. Planning permission for a residential development had been granted.

It was noted that the footpath referred to in the report belonged to the County Council was in poor condition and required maintenance.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the disposal of the land shown on

the plan attached to the report and the release of the restrictive covenants to 83/85 Friars Avenue on the terms reported to enable the development of the site to take place.

The meeting concluded at 20.03 hours

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