

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 30 March 2004
(7:00 - 8:17 pm)

Present: Councillor C J Fairbrass (Chair), Councillor C Geddes (Deputy Chair), Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor G J Bramley, Councillor S Kallar, Councillor M E McKenzie, Councillor B M Osborn, Councillor J W Porter, Councillor L A Smith and Councillor T G W Wade

Also Present: Councillor Mrs D Hunt, Councillor T J Justice and Councillor Mrs V M Rush

347. Minutes (23 March 2004)

Agreed.

348. Local Futures - 'Borough Profile of Barking and Dagenham'

Received a presentation by John Fisher on the Profile of Barking and Dagenham in respect of the economy, society and the environment.

349. The Third Sectors Access to the Service of the Criminal Records Bureau

Received a report seeking to enable the voluntary sector in Barking and Dagenham to gain access to the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosure service.

Agreed, in order to enable the voluntary sector to conduct effective CRB checks independently from the Council, that:

1. The Barking and Dagenham Volunteer Bureau act as an umbrella organisation for disclosure checks for the voluntary sector in Barking and Dagenham;
2. A written review of the process be submitted to the Executive in January 2005 to ensure the safeguarding of children and vulnerable people who receive the services from local voluntary sector organisations;
3. Further discussions be held with the Council for Voluntary Services about their potential to be an umbrella organisation for CRB checks; and
4. Voluntary sector organisations who wish to undertake their own CRB checks continue to be entitled to do so.

350. Private Business

Agreed to exclude the public and press for the remainder of the meeting, as the business was confidential.

351. Changes in Management Arrangements in Social Services

Received a report proposing changes to the management structures within the Social Services Department.

Agreed, in order to create a more flexible senior management structure to meet the changing needs of the services delivered, to:

1. The interim arrangements as set out in the report and waive the Councils Constitution (Contract Rules 4.1e) in respect of the appointments alluded to in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.3 of the report;
2. The proposed changes to the management structure as set out in Appendix A and B of the report; and
3. Set up a panel in order to enable the recruitment to the post of Head of Strategy and Performance.

352. Refocusing of the Leisure and Environmental Services Department

Received a report outlining proposals to re-organise the Leisure and Environmental Services Department.

Agreed, in order to ensure that the Council delivers the community priorities effectively, in particular, 'Cleaner, Greener Safer'; 'Raising General Pride in the Borough' and 'Developing Rights and Responsibilities with the Community', to:

1. The proposed structure for the Leisure and Environmental Services Department as set out in Appendix 1 of the report for consultation with affected staff and the Trade Unions as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report;
2. Rename the Department to 'Regeneration and Environment', in order to reflect the recent changes incorporating regeneration services, on the condition that this should be at minimal cost; and
3. A progress report to be submitted to the Executive, following consultation, to confirm that savings targets have been achieved and to seek approval for new posts that fall within the LSMR range.

353. Award of Print and Distribution Contract for Citizen Magazine

Received a report seeking approval for the award of the Print and Distribution contracts for the 'Citizen' magazine.

Agreed, in order that the Citizen magazine can be printed and distributed, assisting the Council in achieving the Community Priority of "Raising general pride in the Borough", to:

1. Award the print contract for the Citizen magazine to Mayhew McCrimmon for the period of 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2007 at a cost of £86,436 per annum; and

2. Award the distribution contract to LTC for a year with the option to extend for three years at a cost of £48,840 per annum.

354. The Shape Up Programme

Noted a report setting out details of the Shape Up for Homes programme, including the current situation and projected final position of 19,872 houses refurbished and central heating installed in 10,437 properties. The report also set out the projected completion date of July 2004 and projected final costs.

Agreed the allocation of up to £3m from the Decent Homes Delivery programme in order to complete the Shape Up for Homes programme.

355. Virement for Completion of Refurbishment of Travellers' Site

Further to Minute 404 (15 April 2003), received a report detailing unforeseen costs associated with the renovation of the Traveller's site.

Agreed a virement of £73,000, from the Private Sector Housing Renovation Grant budget, to cover the unexpected legal and ancillary costs associated with the renovation of the Traveller's site.

356. * Head of Housing Services Redundancy Proposal

Further to Minute 294 (17 February 2004), received a report proposing the voluntary redundancy of the Head of Housing Services as part of the restructure of the Housing Landlord Service.

Agreed to the voluntary redundancy of the Head of Housing Services with effect from 30 September 2004 (or such earlier date as may be mutually agreed between the Council and the Head of Housing Services).

357. * Head of Information Management and Technology

Noted the difficulties in appointing to the above post.

Agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to apply a market supplement to the above post.

* Item considered as a matter of urgency with the consent of the Chair under Section 100 (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.