

THE EXECUTIVE

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

Present: Councillor C Geddes (Deputy Chair), Councillor G J Bramley, Councillor H J Collins, Councillor S Kallar and Councillor T G W Wade

Also Present: Councillor J R Denyer, Councillor B M Osborn and Councillor Mrs V M Rush

Apologies: Councillor C J Fairbrass, Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor M A McCarthy, Councillor M E McKenzie and Councillor L A Smith

91. Minutes (17 August 2004)

Agreed.

92. Corporate Monitoring Group Membership

Further to Minute 13 (27 April 2003), received a report outlining advice received from PriceWaterhouseCoopers that the membership of the Corporate Monitoring Group (CMG) should be expanded from two to three Members when undertaking the role of an Audit Committee.

Agreed to recommend the Assembly to appoint another Member to the Corporate Monitoring Group Audit Committee in order to assist the CMG in this role.

93. Attendance at the Collaborative Action Research Network 2004 Annual Conference

Agreed attendance by the Borough's Strand Co-ordinator for Gifted and Talented students and the Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators from Barking Abbey, Dagenham Park, Eastbrook and Eastbury Comprehensive Schools at the Collaborative Action Research Network (CARN) International Conference on 5 – 7 November 2004, at a cost of £1,530 plus travel costs, in order to present a joint paper on their work with gifted and talented students in their schools.

94. Warren Comprehensive OFSTED Inspection

Noted a report outlining the findings of the recent OFSTED inspection of Warren Comprehensive School and actions taken in response to the findings.

95. Citizenship Ceremonies

Further to Minute 362 (13 April 2004), received a report reviewing the Citizenship Ceremonies and the proposed Fees and Charges.

Agreed, in order to comply with requirements of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 and assist the Council in achieving its Community Priority of "Raising General Pride in the Borough", to:

1. Citizenship Ceremonies to continue to be held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre and at other suitable premises as may be required in the future; and
2. Set the fee for non standard ceremonies at £100.

96. Draft Final Report of the Leisure Facilities Scrutiny Panel

Noted the report of the above Scrutiny Panel, which will now be submitted to the Assembly on 13 October 2004.

97. Food Safety Business Plan

Received a report setting out the above plan, which forms the basis on which the Food Safety Service will be delivered in 2004 / 2005.

Agreed to recommend the Assembly to approve the plan, in accordance with the Food Standards Act 1999.

98. Health and Safety Business Plan

Received a report setting out the above plan, which forms the basis on which the Health and Safety Service will be delivered in 2004 / 2005.

Agreed the plan, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

99. Third Annual Report of the Regeneration Strategy - An Urban Renaissance in East London

In November 2001, the Council published its regeneration strategy, 'An Urban Renaissance in East London'. The strategy set out a number of key actions, based on the Community Priorities, to regenerate the Borough.

Agreed the third Annual Report of the Strategy setting out the steps taken to achieve the targets during the year from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004.

100. * Social Services Management Training and Development Report

Received a report seeking approval, in accordance with the Conferences, Visits and Hospitality Rules, for the Social Services Management Team to attend a training / development session.

Agreed attendance by the Social Services Management Team at the proposed training / development session, to be held at the Moat House, Grays, on 16 - 17 September, at a cost of approximately £1,600, in order to continue to drive forward performance improvements.

101. Private Business

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

102. Sustainable Communities Fund Bids

Received a report setting out proposed projects to be submitted to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for Sustainable Communities Funding 2004 / 2005.

Agreed, in order to contribute to the Community Priority of Regenerating the Local Economy, to the list of projects attached to the report to be submitted to the ODPM for funding from the Sustainable Communities Fund for 2004 / 2005.

103. Procurement Spend to Save - Progress Report

Further to Minute 422 (29 April 2003), noted a report providing an update on savings and improvements made as a result of the Procurement Spend to Save initiative.

Agreed to continue to receive updates on a six monthly basis.

104. Corporate Communications - Packaging of Support Services Contract with regard to the Distribution of Citizen Magazine

Received a report seeking permission for the use of an approved list of service providers for the distribution of the Citizen magazine.

Agreed that the Head of Corporate Communications be permitted to hold a list of approved service providers, which can be used interchangeably, in order to provide flexibility and reliability in the delivery of the Citizen magazine.

105. Managing the Conclusion of Shape Up for Homes

Noted a report setting out the current position on the Shape Up for Homes Programme. The report specifically highlighted the adjudication regarding fee payments to Schal International, the outcomes from an audit of trade contracts and proposals for the close out of the Shape Up for Homes Programme.

Agreed to the appointment of J.R. Knowles Ltd, in accordance with Section 4.1 of the Council's Contract Rules, for a fee as detailed in the report to deal with claims arising from Shape Up for Homes Programme contracts and to finalise accounts on the last installation contracts.

A report setting out the costs and benefits of the Shape Up for Homes Programme will be submitted to the Executive after the official closure of the Programme.

106. Major Adaptations - Disabled Facilities Grant Application

Received a report setting out an application for a Disabled Facilities Grant, which exceeds the £25,000 ceiling for officer approval.

Agreed the application, as it represents value for money and optimises care arrangements by providing facilities in the home for a person who would otherwise require residential care.

107. * Urgent Decision Required in Respect of the Education Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract

(Councillor Bramley declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in this item as he is a Non Executive Board Member on the Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust)

Received a report setting out the following urgent action being taken under Article 1, Paragraph 17.1, of the Constitution:

The Council is issuing a variation order / Notice of Change in order to provide for a Health Centre on the Jo Richardson Community School (JRCS) site. The Notice of Change has to be made by 8 September 2004 as formally stated by the Private Finance Initiative Contractor - Bouygues Education UK.

The Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust requested that provision be made for a Health Centre on the JRCS site. This requires that the Children's Centre be relocated to the South of the site adjacent to the proposed Health Centre.

Whilst not a matter for decision at this meeting, Members felt that the action being taken was appropriate in the circumstances.

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