

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 26 September 2006
(7:00 - 7:33 pm)

Present: Councillor L A Smith (Deputy Chair), Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor H J Collins, Councillor S Kallar, Councillor R C Little, Councillor M A McCarthy, Councillor M E McKenzie and Councillor Mrs V M Rush

Also Present: Councillor Ms E Carpenter

Apologies: Councillor C J Fairbrass and Councillor G J Bramley

67. Minutes (15 August 2006)

Agreed.

68. Declaration of Members Interest

Councillor Ms E Carpenter declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 – Development of Additional Primary School Places in Barking.

69. Reference from the Scrutiny Management Board Call-In: Best Value Review of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Received a report outlining the findings of the Scrutiny Management Board at their meeting on 6 September 2006, held to consider a Call-In of the Executive decision on 18 July 2006 relating to the Best Value Review of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Agreed the withdrawal from their overall decision that the future provision of ICT and e-government be provided by a mixture of in-house, externalised and partnership working as this particular part of the decision lacked clarity and the issues it raised would be covered in subsequent reports referred to in the full minute.

70. Development of Additional Primary School Places in Barking

Received a report regarding the development of additional primary school places in the Barking area in order to respond to both current and future forecast demand for places.

Agreed, in order to assist the Council in making adequate provision for school places in the Borough, to:

1. the preparation of a consultation proposal document to be circulated widely through the school community to parents, school staff, governors and other stakeholders;
2. notices being published indicating the Council's intentions in respect of

these proposals, but subject to the consultation process;

3. a formal submission being made to the School Organisation Committee when the results of the consultation have been concluded;
4. the procurement route set out in section 4 of the report;
5. appoint Councillor J Alexander to participate in the procurement project for both consultancy and construction; and
6. the use of the grant from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) of £16.2m to be used to secure additional school places.

71. Budget Monitoring 2006/07

Received a report on the Council's revenue and capital position from the beginning of April to the end of July 2006.

Noted, as a matter of good financial practise:

1. the current position of the Council's revenue and capital budget (sections 3, 5 and 6 of the report);
2. the position and projected out-turn for the Housing Revenue Account (section 4 of the report);
3. that departments are finalising the necessary action plans where budget pressures exist. These action plans will be reported back to the Executive in the next Budget Monitoring report to ensure that the necessary balanced budget for the Council is achieved by year end; and
4. the adjustment to the Revenues and Benefits working budget (section 3.4.3 of the report).

72. Private Business

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

73. Fair Access to Care Services - A Review of the Eligibility Criteria for Social Care Services

Received a report concerning the eligibility for adult social care services provided or arranged by the Council, seeking to amend the existing Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) eligibility criteria.

Agreed, in order to respond fairly to service needs and resource allocation, as well as ensure that the FACS thresholds are clear for staff to apply, that:

1. the FACS policy threshold be set at 'substantial', so that people with substantial and high risks to independence will be entitled to help from the Council;

2. existing service users continue to receive their services until their care is reviewed when they will be subject to reassessment under the new level of FACS criteria;
3. the FACS policy is reviewed annually;
4. a briefing on the changes to the FACS policy be made available to all Councillors in due course.