

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 16 September 2003
(7:00 - 9:38 pm)

Present: Councillor C Geddes (Deputy-Chair, in the Chair), Councillor G J Bramley, Councillor S Kallar, Councillor M E McKenzie, Councillor B M Osborn, Councillor J W Porter and Councillor T G W Wade.

Apologies: Councillor C J Fairbrass, Councillor J L Alexander and Councillor L A Smith.

At 9.30 p.m. Executive Members agreed to extend the meeting by a further 30 minutes, in accordance with Article 1 paragraph 5.3 of the Constitution, in order to conduct the remaining business of the meeting.

106. Minutes (9 September 2003)

Agreed.

107. Performance Monitoring

Received the Best Value Performance Plan monitoring report for the first quarter 2003/04. The Management Team gave a presentation on, and we discussed, performance against a range of key Performance Indicators within the Plan.

108. Budget Monitoring

Received a monitoring report covering the Council's capital and revenue expenditure to the end of June 2003.

Noted the potential budget overspend of £600,000 in the Education, Arts and Libraries Department and that action was being taken to address this. Also noted the actions taken within the Housing and Health Department to address pressures on the Housing General Fund Budget and the Housing Revenue Account

109. Neighbourhood Management Co-ordination

Received a report proposing that the Barking and Dagenham Partnership make a bid for Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Status for the Abbey and Gascoigne ward areas. A successful bid provides opportunities to lever in significant funding to improve current floor targets as set out in Appendix B of the report. The initial bidding round provides up to an initial £200,000 to recruit key staff, establish a partnership and develop a delivery plan.

Agreed:

1. To support an initial bid for a Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder in order to improve current floor targets as set out in Appendix B of the report. The bid will cover the Abbey ward and the majority of the Gascoigne ward, up to a threshold to be negotiated within the bid

2. To receive a further report, in due course, to consider the possibility of Registered Social Landlord leadership in the Pathfinder.

110. Private Business

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

111. * Restructuring Regeneration

Received a report outlining proposals for the re-organisation of the Council's functions in relation to regeneration, sustainable development and transport planning to ensure clarity of direction and overall co-ordination and, in particular, the delivery of physical projects.

Agreed, in order to ensure that the Council is effectively resourced and well positioned in relation to the regeneration of the Borough and to assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of "*Regenerating the Local Economy*", "*Raising General Pride in the Borough*", and "*Improving Housing, Health and Social Care*", that:

1. All regeneration strategies be brought together within a revised Community Strategy;
2. A Regeneration Board is established to co-ordinate the Council's contribution to regeneration. The Board will provide support to the Executive in developing regeneration policy and strategy; co-ordinating programmes and projects and ensure the implementation of agreed policies and programmes in line with the Community Strategy. The Board will replace existing officer meetings relating to regeneration, asset and Capital Programme management;
3. Two Divisions be established within the Leisure and Environmental Services Department, namely:
 - Regeneration Implementation; and
 - Strategic Planning and Transportation;
4. Consultation with affected staff and the Trade Unions be undertaken based on the staffing structures as outlined in Appendices A and D (revised) of the report;
5. £600,000 (full year effect) be allocated from identified reserves as set out in section 8 of the report; and
6. A Regeneration Statement is produced for the Borough, to be developed after internal and external consultation. A further report is to be presented to the Executive for agreement around the end of November 2003.

112. * Decent Homes Standard 2004

Received a report providing an update on the packaging and delivery mechanisms for meeting the Decent Homes Standard (DHS) targets for 2004.

Noted:

1. That the original target of 3,300 kitchens and re-wires will not be met at a level consistent with good quality service delivery;
2. The action currently being taken to recover the target for the 2004 DHS as set out in Section 4 of the report;
3. That loss and expense claims in an amount to be ascertained are expected and will be reported in due course. The sum of £176,000 is to be paid to meet the Council's obligations;
4. The measures taken to strengthen legal and contractual representation as set out in Section 5 of the report;
5. The action proposed for DHS delivery after April 2004, set out in Section 6 of the report; and
6. That a full report, listing finance and contractual issues, will be submitted to the Executive in October. This report will also advise the Executive on the programmes and proposed delivery mechanisms for 2004 / 2005 and beyond.

113. * Development of Barking Town Square: Progress Report

Received a report summarising progress made to date to secure the development of the Barking Town Square since Members authorised the signing of the Development Agreement and Agreement for Lease on 8 April 2003. The report outlines progress made towards and the results of the 'Test of Viability' introduced into the Development Agreement to cover key issues around the delivery of the Barking Life Long Learning Centre and affordable housing as integral parts of the development.

Agreed, in order to assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of "*Regenerating the Local Economy*" and "*Better Education and Learning for All*", to proceed with the development of the Barking Town Square.

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