

## THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 18 July 2006  
(7:00 - 8:35 pm)

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

**Apologies:** Councillor S Kallar

### 31. Minutes (27 June 2006)

**Agreed.**

### 32. LBBD Submission Version of the Statement of Community Involvement

Received the submission version of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which set out:

- The Council's vision and standards for community involvement
- A description of the local community, identifying groups who may have been under represented
- How the community will be involved in preparing Local Development Framework (LDF) documents
- Suitable methods for involving the community in each LDF document
- How the community will be involved in decisions on planning applications
- What resources will be provided to carry out community involvement on the LDF

**Agreed,** in order to ensure that the Council can progress its strategy for increasing community and stakeholder participation in the planning process, and that the Council stays on track with the milestones agreed in the Council's Local Development Scheme, that:

- 1) The submission version of the SCI, the summary of the submission version of the SCI and its accompanying consultation statement be approved and submitted to the Secretary of State, after which it will then be subject to a statutory public consultation period of six weeks.
- 2) The Corporate Director of Regeneration be authorised to make any minor amendments as may be necessary to the SCI, its summary and accompanying consultation statement.

### 33. Revised Local Development Scheme

Received a report seeking approval to update the three-year rolling work programme for the Local Development Framework (LDF), known as the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The revised LDS identifies the planning documents

that the Council intends to produce as part of its LDF over the next three years. It also sets out key milestones for each document. It must be submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State to be signed off and thereafter be kept up to date (any subsequent changes to the LDS must also be approved off by the Secretary of State).

**Agreed**, in order to ensure that the Council has an up-to-date work programme for the LDF which is a requirement of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and will ensure that the Council is meeting its milestones which it will be assessed against in relation to the allocation of Planning Deliver Grant, that:

- 1) The Revised Local Development Scheme be submitted to the Secretary of State and brought into effect from the date at which the Government Office for London notifies the Council that the Secretary of State has signed it off.
- 2) The Corporate Director of Regeneration be authorised to make any minor amendments as may be necessary to the revised LDS, including any minor amendments which may be recommended by the Secretary of State.

#### **34. East London Transit Phase 1a**

Received a report detailing Transport for London's (TfL) proposals to implement a high-quality bus service operating between Ilford and Dagenham Dock, via Barking Town Centre and Barking Riverside. This is the East London Transit (ELT) scheme – Phase 1a. The ultimate vision is for a network of high-quality bus routes in East London, both north and south of the river. Phase 1a is the first of a number of routes that are planned to serve the Borough.

The scheme is characterised by high quality buses and stops with high levels of on street bus priority to give an attractive; reliable and fast service. However, there are two significant issues the opening up of the pedestrian parts of Station Parade and Ripple Road, which will impact on the street market and in turn the town centre.

**Agreed**, that Transport for London be informed that the Council is supportive of better connectivity (e.g. buses) in the Borough, but not supportive of a scheme running through the town centre unless it conforms to the original aspirations of a high quality link (e.g. trams).

#### **35. Provision of Daycare, Out-of-School and Creche Services in Children's Centres and Extended Schools**

Received a report concerning the provision of daycare, out-of-school and crèche services in Council-operated facilities.

**Agreed**, in order to assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of 'Better education and learning for all' and 'Regenerating the local economy', to:

- 1) Approve the appointment of Places for Children as its preferred provider of daycare service in children's centres;
- 2) Approve the appointment of Romford YMCA as its preferred provider of out-of-school childcare services in extended schools.

### **36. Older People's Strategy for Barking and Dagenham**

Received a report detailing the first overarching strategy for older people produced by the borough. It brings together the key services for older people and sets out the borough's aim of improving the independence, wellbeing and choice for older people.

The strategy has been developed through a joint working group consisting of representatives from the Council, Primary Care Trust and the Community Empowerment Network. There has also been consultation with key partners and officers.

**Agreed**, in order to achieve significant improvements in performance for the CPA using the Key Lines of Enquiry framework, to approve the Older People's Strategy.

### **37. Use of 598 Rainham Road South as a Tenants' and Residents' Resource Centre**

Received a report concerning the possible use of a Council dwelling as a Resource Centre for the Tenants and Residents Federation, as the current arrangement of a room in Roycraft House is no longer available.

There is an urgent need to find alternative accommodation for the Resource Centre and although there will always be issues with any location or style of accommodation, 598 Rainham Road South has been identified as providing a very good alternative to the present arrangements and at a lower cost. These premises, which were long ago converted as a Doctor's surgery, are ideally placed and could be used with virtually no expenditure on alterations or repairs.

**Agreed**, in order to assist the Council in achieving its Community Priority of 'Developing Rights and Responsibilities with the Local Community', that 598 Rainham Road South be made available as office accommodation for the local Tenants and Residents Federation on the terms set out in the report.

### **38. Budget Monitoring 2006/07**

Received a report detailing the Council's revenue and capital position from the beginning of April to the end of May 2006/07.

The position for revenue expenditure indicates that currently budget pressures exist across all four main service departments. These pressures will be addressed as part of the Council's ongoing budget monitoring process and departments are currently preparing the necessary action plans to ensure that the Council meets its overall budget for the year and produces the necessary balanced budget by the year end.

**Agreed**, that as a matter of good financial practise, to:

- 1) Note the current position of the Council's revenue and capital budget;
- 2) Note the position and projected out-turn for the Housing Revenue Account;

- 3) Note that departments are preparing the necessary action plans where budget pressures exist. These will be reported back regularly to the Executive in future Budget Monitoring reports to ensure that the Council meets its approved budget and the necessary balanced budget for the Council is achieved by year end;
- 4) Approve the use in 2006/07 of the financial provision made in the HRA to fund Private Finance Initiative (PFI) consultants costs in order to bring the Council's Housing Stock up to Decent Homes standard as per the Housing Futures Financial Model for the PFI.

**39. Acquisition of properties and authority to use Compulsory Purchase Order powers - Development of The Lintons**

Received a report seeking authority to the exercise by the Council of its Compulsory Purchase Order making powers to secure outstanding interests in the land needed to allow the redevelopment of The Lintons to proceed in a timely manner.

**Agreed**, in order to assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of "Regenerating the Local Economy", and to assist in the good planning of the area and to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area, to:

- (1) Authorise the use by the Council of its Compulsory Purchase Order making powers pursuant to Section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 for the acquisition of the outstanding leasehold interests in the properties outlined in the report, for the purposes of securing a mixed use housing scheme as part of The Lintons development;
- (2) Authorise the Corporate Director of Regeneration, or her nominated Officer to take all necessary steps to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of a Compulsory Purpose Order including the publication and service of all Notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any public inquiry following the making of the Compulsory Purchase Order for the properties outlined in the report; and
- (3) Authorise the appropriation of the land owned by the Council (the area within the broad line shown on the plan on Appendix B of the report) for the purpose of bringing forward The Lintons scheme) in accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**40. Private Business**

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

**41. Best Value Review of Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

Received a report detailing the Best Value Review of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

**Agreed**, in order to maximise existing investment and enable a transformation in service delivery and ways of working, that:

- 1) The Best Value Review Service Improvement Plan is adopted and implemented;
- 2) The future provision of ICT and e-government is provided by a mixture of in-house, externalised and partnership working;
- 3) The staffing structure is adjusted to strengthen business development and technical development;
- 4) ICT will prepare a detailed business plan to quantify the required level of investment needed in the service. This business plan will also identify the expected improvements and benefits that this investment will deliver to the Council's services including any potential cash efficiencies that may arise. Any requests for additional resources will be considered through the Council's annual budget process;
- 5) A further report is submitted on investment in the voice and data network and the modernisation of the desktop PCs.

#### **42. Best Value Review of Legal Services**

Received a report detailing the Best Value Review of Legal Services.

**Agreed**, in order to achieve Value for Money services and efficiencies as required by the Government's Gershon Report, that the existing external Legal Services contracts with the firms identified in the Appendix to the report be extended for the period 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2008, and thereafter from 1 October 2008 to 30 September 2010 if the Corporate Director of Resources remains of the view that existing contractual arrangements continue to deliver a best value service.

#### **43. Dagenham Swimming Pool - Main Pool Ceiling**

Received a report concerning the urgent repairs required to the main swimming pool ceiling and plant equipment.

**Agreed**, to address the health and safety issues associated with the main pool ceiling and for the pool to be re-opened as quickly as possible to the public and community in order to reduce the impact to the community and loss of income, that:

- 1) Dagenham Swimming Pool stays open to provide a swimming facility in the Borough, and:
  - a) the work is carried out on a 24 hour, 7 day week programme (Option 2), to allow the facility to be reopened at the earliest opportunity;
  - b) £271,519 capital funding in 2006/07 is allocated to carry out urgent repairs to the main swimming pool ceiling and plant equipment, to be funded from capital resources and that this scheme and associated funding be approved for addition to the 2006/07 capital programme.

- c) £79,000 revenue funding be agreed to be funded from a one off contingency sum from central reserves.
- 2) To note that further essential repair works will be needed in future years to maintain the swimming pool in a fit for purpose condition. A rolling programme is being developed and will be included in the 2007/08 budget bidding process.
- 3 Given the urgency of the works required, and to save any further delay in tendering for these works, in accordance with Constitution Contract Rules paragraph 4.1, to authorise a single tender action for the works by appointing TRAC International Ltd (specialist access contractors).