



EXECUTIVE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Wednesday, 27th May 2009

PRESENT

MEMBERS

Councillor Gordon Birtwistle, in the Chair.

Councillors Charlie Briggs, Margaret Lishman, Martin Smith and Jeff Sumner.

OFFICERS

Steve Rumbelow	-	Chief Executive
Nick Aves	-	Director of Resources
David Brown	-	Director of Environment
Mick Cartledge	-	Director of Community Services
Mike Cook	-	Director of Regeneration and Housing
Tom Forshaw	-	Head of Chief Executive's Office
Paul Gatrell	-	Head of Housing
David Wilcock	-	Head of People and Law
Heather Brennan	-	People and Development Manager
Helen Jones	-	Strategic Arts Development Officer
Imelda Grady	-	Democracy Officer

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Charles Bullas and Roger Frost.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on [28th April 2009](#) were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

3. Public Question Time

It was noted that the requests to speak from Claire Parker and Lynn Flynn on item 16, Restructuring the Regeneration and Housing Directorate had been withdrawn as their points had been covered in a letter from Unison Burnley Branch that had been circulated at the meeting.

4. [Housing Investment Programme 2009-2010](#)

Purpose To seek Executive approval to the Burnley Housing Investment Programme 2009/10, funded from Elevate and Housing Capital grants, and to recommend to Full Council that this programme is included within the Council's budget.

Reason for Decision To allow the continued delivery of the Burnley Housing Investment Programme.

Decision

- (1) That approval be given to the Burnley Housing Investment Programme 2009/10 as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the report and as attached at appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) That Full Council be recommended to revise the Burnley Housing Investment Programme 2009/10 to £14,335,725, of which £13,348,628 is capital and £987,097 is revenue; and
- (3) That approval be given to the release of all budgets associated with the Housing Investment Programme 2009/10.

5. [Asset Management Strategy](#)

Purpose To update Members on the current status of the Council's Asset Management Planning Process and Asset Management Strategy.

Reason for Decision To strengthen the Council's procedures for Asset Management and Capital Strategy Planning.

It is clear that more resources have to be devoted to this area of activity to fulfil the requirements of the Use of Resources within the Comprehensive Area Assessment from 2009.

Decision That the Asset Management Strategy 2009 be adopted.

6. Burnley Arts and Culture Action Plan

Purpose To seek Member approval of the new Burnley Arts and Cultural Action Plan 2009 – 2012.

Reason for Decision The previous strategy has been well received and has supported Burnley council to develop the role of the arts across council departments, exploring new ways of working and engaging residents in the town's regeneration, gaining regional and national recognition for the good work achieved.

It is now time to build on the momentum gained through project delivery over the last 4 years, to further embed arts as a successful way of engaging and supporting local residents in the borough's social and physical regeneration. The new strategy aims to build on previous successes, learn from project challenges and respond to residents needs to develop a challenging yet achievable plan for delivery.

Decision

- (1) That the achievements delivered through the 2005-09 arts strategy be noted and the Burnley Arts and Cultural Action Plan 2009-2012 be approved with the ambition of embedding the arts and culture as a key support mechanism for Burnley's physical and social development;
- (2) That approval be given to the creation of a 29.5 hour Cultural Regeneration Officer Post, Grade 8 with in the Council's Arts Development Team for a fixed term of 3 years; and
- (3) That delegated authority be given to the Strategic Arts Development Officer in conjunction with the Head of Leisure and Recreation to apply for and receive external grants and funds and appoint appropriate creative industries to assist in delivering the strategy.

7. Asset Management - AIT Office Block, Lawrence Avenue, Burnley

Purpose To seek Executive approval to undertake the demolition of the derelict AIT office block, Burnley, which is in Council ownership as shown on the plan attached to the report.

Reason for Decision The property in question is regularly targeted by youths and vandals and regularly has to be secured by the Council. The building has been severely damaged by theft, arson and vandals in the past and has no economic use.

Demolition of the building is essential for Health and Safety reasons and a Risk Assessment has been undertaken to justify this approach. The demolition would save the Council ongoing maintenance costs, reduce the

attraction of the site to local vandals and remove any potential for insurance claims relating to injuries sustained by trespassers gaining access to the building.

- Decision
- (1) That approval be given to the release of funding from the Capital Programme for the demolition of the AIT office block on Council-owned land off Lawrence Avenue, Burnley, at an estimated cost of £70,000 during financial year 2009/10; and
 - (2) That the Head of Property Consultancy, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources, be authorised to tender the works in accordance with Standing Orders and let the contract for the most competitive quote.

8. Appointment to Traffic Regulation Sub Committee

Purpose To seek appointment of any three Members of the Executive to serve as the Traffic Regulation Order Sub Committee, the terms of reference being:

Reason for Decision To amend or confirm Traffic Regulation Orders or refer them to the Executive for a decision.

Decision That Councillors Gordon Birtwistle, Charles Bullas and Roger Frost be appointed as the Executive members to serve on the Traffic Regulation Sub Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

9. Appointment to Community Engagement Working Group

Purpose To seek appointment of any three Members of the Executive to serve on the Community Engagement Working Group.

Reason for Decision To lead the Council's work on the development of proposals for Area Structures with the specific objective of achieving improved communications and engagement in all areas of the Borough.

Decision That Councillors Charles Bullas, Margaret Lishman and Jeff Sumner be appointed as the Executive Members to serve on the Community Engagement Working Group for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

10. Exclusion of the Public

- Purpose** To consider when it may be relevant to exclude the public from the meeting, and clarify the order of the agenda.
- Reason for Decision** Minute Nos 11 and 12 contain exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and Minute No. 13 contains exempt information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- Decision** That the public be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the items in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information within the meaning of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972.

11. Access and Landscaping Scheme Princess Way, Burnley

- Purpose** To establish the Princess Way Landscaping Scheme within the Capital Programme 2009-2010 subject to 100% external funding being made available for design and construction.
- To authorise the Head of Streetscene to tender the works and appoint an Approved Contractor in accordance with Standing Orders for Contracts.
- Reason for Decision** To improve the pedestrian and disabled access between the new college and the town centre and to enhance the visual aspect of this prominent site into Burnley.
- Decision**
- (1) That approval be given for the establishment of the Princess Way Landscaping Scheme within the Capital Programme 2009-2010 at an estimated cost of £50,000 subject to 100% external funding being made available for its design and construction; and
 - (2) That the Head of Streetscene be authorised to tender the works and appoint an Approved Contractor in accordance with Standing Orders.

12. Treasury Management Advice

- Purpose** To inform Members of the progress made in discussions with various consultants for the provision of advice on treasury management issues.
- To establish a budget for treasury management consultants.

To recommend the appointment of Sector Treasury Services Limited.

Reason for Decision To enable the procurement of specialist advice relating to the Council's treasury management dealings. This will further strengthen the management of risk and the maximising of opportunities which have become more important as a result of last years financial markets crisis and the continuing economic downturn.

Decision (1) That approval be given to the establishment of a supplementary budget of £9,000 in 2009/10 for the procurement of treasury management advisory services and the Head of Finance be authorised to seek to mitigate or neutralise these costs through the restructuring of the Council's borrowing portfolio; and

(2) That approval be given to the appointment of Sector Treasury Services as the Council's treasury management advisors for an initial period of one year.

13. Re-structuring the Regeneration and Housing Directorate

Purpose To seek approval to a restructuring of the DRH Directorate, and to commence its implementation by approving the recruitment of the Heads of Service within the Directorate.

A letter from Unison Burnley Branch dated 27th May 2009 was circulated at the meeting as additional information.

Reason for Decision The new structure will enable the Council to improve the delivery of its strategic regeneration priorities within the Council's Strategic Plan and the Borough's Sustainable Community Strategy. In addition the re-allocation of resources currently within the Community Engagement and Cohesion Unit will enable an improved focus on engagement activity in the Borough, will provide an updated equalities service for the Council, and will add needed capacity to the Council's strategic HR work area.

The approvals to commence the recruitment of Heads of Service and other posts will enable the establishment of the new structure to start promptly and will also give a degree of certainty to staff affected by the restructure. Finally the implementation of the restructure throughout the year will ensure the delivery of the Directorate's revenue budget targets for 2009/10.

Decision (1) That approval be given to;

(i) the establishment of a Housing and Neighbourhoods Unit as detailed in paragraph 8c of the report and at appendix 1 to the report;

- (ii) the establishment of a Economic Regeneration and business Support Unit as detailed in paragraph 8b of the report and at Appendix 1 to the report;
 - (iii) the recruitment of the Heads of Service to the above units subject to the application of the Council's redeployment policy and appropriate ring fencing to be confirmed in consultation with the trade unions;
 - (iv) the reallocation of equalities work to the People and Law Unit and community cohesion and engagement work to the Chief Executive's Office as detailed in paragraph 8d of the report;
- (2) That it be noted that the restructure delivers estimated savings to the Council's revenue budget of £338k in 2009/10.
- (3) That it be noted that any remaining staffing changes involved will be approved and implemented by Individual Portfolio holder decision.