

## WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017

**Present:** Cllrs A Alford (Chairman), P Barrowcliff, I Gardner, M Penfold MBE, J Russell, A Thacker (Vice-Chairman) and T Yarker

**Apologies:** Cllrs

**Also present:** Cllr S Jones MBE

**Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):**

Stephen Hill (Strategic Director), Tony Hurley (Leisure Commissioning Manager), Greg Northcote (Estates Manager), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), Linda Quinton (Democratic Services Officer), Oliver Rendle (Environmental Assessment Officer), Nick Thornley (Head of Economy, Leisure & Tourism) and Jason Vaughan (Strategic Director)

**95. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**96. Code of Conduct**

There were no declarations of interest.

**97. Executive Committee Forward Plan**

Members received and noted the committee's Forward Plan. There were no reported updates.

**98. Support for Dorset County Museum's 'Tomorrow's Museum Project**

Councillor Penfold introduced a report on the request received from the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society for grant and a loan to support their major development project. The matter had been deferred from the previous committee for further financial information. The Society was also hoping to benefit from future developer contributions. Members discussed this significant future project for Dorchester and sought reassurance that there were contingencies in place within the repayment schedule should there be any slippage in the project. Council officers would continue to be in close contact with the Trust.

Decision

- (a) That the committee agrees to award to the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society the following funding as a contribution to the Society's 'Tomorrow's Museum for Dorset' project:

- a) a grant of £150,000 from the council's Corporate Projects Reserve;
  - b) a loan of £475,000 from the Corporate Projects Reserve to be repaid with interest over a 7 year period and by March 2027 at the latest in accordance with the council's Community Lending Policy.
- (b) That the future developer contributions for museums from the Section 106 agreement for phases 3 and 4 of the Poundbury development, which are estimated to total £141,000, are to be forward funded by the District Council by way of the use of the Corporate Projects Reserve and paid as a grant to the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society as a contribution to the Society's 'Tomorrow's Museum for Dorset' project
- (c) That the Strategic Director and Section 151 Officer be given delegated authority to agree the terms of both the grant and loan agreements with the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society in accordance with the recommendations (2) and (3) above.

**99. Support for Improved Community Arts Facilities in Sherborne**

Councillor Penfold introduced a report on a request for funding for improvements to the West End Community Centre and to also seek agreement to the allocation of reserves and developer contributions earmarked for the improvement of arts facilities in Sherborne.

Following discussion, Members concurred that recommendation 5 be deleted from the report should recommendation 2 be approved.

**Decision**

- (a) That the committee agrees to award a grant of £200,000 from the council's capital programme, allocated for improvements to community arts facilities in Sherborne, to the Sherborne West End Community Association (charity no. 301175) for the project to extend the West End Community Hall (planning application WD/D/17/000772).
- (b) That the Strategic Director and Corporate Manager Legal Services are given delegated authority to agree the terms of the grant agreements with the Sherborne West End Community Association in accordance with the recommendation (2) above.
- (c) That the council no longer seeks to accumulate up to £100,000 of developer contributions for recreation and community facilities in Sherborne for the purpose of contributing to the Sherborne Community Arts Centre project but instead liaises with local members and Sherborne Town Council to allocate any developer contributions to appropriate local projects.

**100. Affordable Housing Petition**

Councillor Yarker introduced a report on the petition received relating to affordable housing and which had been referred to the committee from full council held on 28 February.

Members were requested to note the views expressed in the petition and that a further, future report relating to once-off funding to support projects and schemes would be brought to the committee. Members and officers were working hard on the accelerated home building programme.

Decision

That members note the views expressed in the petition prior to their deliberations on a future, separate report considering once-off funding to support projects and schemes, including the potential use of reserves to support the provision of additional affordable housing.

**101. Response to consultation of Housing White paper**

Councillor Gardner introduced the report on a proposed response to the Government's Housing White Paper, published on 7 February and which set out a range of proposals aimed at addressing current nation-wide problems with the housing market. The three partnership councils would be sending identical responses to the White Paper. The Corporate Manager, Planning advised that one option that District Councils could adopt would be to set targets for housing allocations in Neighbourhood Plans in their areas. Officers however, might have concerns about that approach and would respond as appropriate when the methodology came out for consultation.

Members also noted that if an authority had its 5 year land supply independently verified, it could not be reviewed for 12 months. Where there were planning appeals based on the 5 year land supply, this could a worthwhile and cost-effective option.

Decision

That the response set out in Appendix 2 be agreed as this council's response to the consultation on the Housing White Paper.

**102. Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour Supplementary Planning Document**

Councillor Gardner introduced a report which was seeking the adoption of the Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The SPD had gone through an extensive joint consultation process by the four authorities in the Poole Harbour catchment. The finalised document was

aimed at mitigating the impacts of development on the Poole Harbour European wildlife designation.

Members heard that the four authorities would prepare regular monitoring and implementation reports on the progress made in the provision of mitigation. The four councils could look to other organisations to manage the land on their behalf, such as the Dorset Wildlife trust.

Decision

That the Executive Committee:

- a) adopts the Nitrogen Reduction in Poole Harbour SPD as set out in Appendix 2; and
- b) agrees to delegate further minor changes to the SPD to the Corporate Manager – Planning (Community and Policy Development) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder
- c) That the Strategy Committee receive future monitoring and implementation reports on this issue.

#### 103. **Property Asset Management Plan - Disposal List**

The Committee considered a report by the Estate Manager together with an exempt report (minute 109 refers) which set out a desktop review of properties in the Asset Register and which identified potential development sites for either residential or employment use together with other assets for disposal. Members received a detailed, exempt presentation on these sites.

Decision

That the Executive Committee:

- a) approves the workplan to realise the value of the assets contained in the 2017 and 2018 Disposal Opportunity Lists in the Confidential Appendix in principle.
- b) authorises the Strategic Director in consultation with the Assets and Finance Portfolio Holder to progress the work program through the use of external consultants and agents as required including use of the West Dorset Public Sector Partnership LLP where appropriate, offsetting all related preparation and disposal costs against future capital receipts.
- c) agrees that officers report progress periodically to the Committee and through the WDDC Public Sector Partnership LLP Board.

#### 104. **Review of Members' Allowances - report of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel**

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive which referred to the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) into the

Council's Scheme of Member's Allowances. The matter would be referred to full Council for decision, to include any comments of the Committee.

Decision

That the report and recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Council's Scheme of Members' Allowances be presented to Full Council for formal consideration.

**105. Minutes of the Dorset Waste Partnership**

Decision

That the minutes of the Dorset Waste Partnership of 16 January 2017 be received.

**106. Western Dorset Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Economy, Leisure and Tourism which was seeking agreement to a high level action plan to deliver the recently adopted Western Dorset Economic Growth Strategy.

Decision

(a) That the Western Dorset Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan is adopted as the first five year whole council dynamic action plan for delivery of the recently agreed strategy.

(b) That progress on the action plan is reported to Western Dorset Growth Strategy Member Board.

**107. Urgent items**

There were no items of urgent business.

**108. Exempt Business**

Decision

That under section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as detailed in paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12a to the Act.

**109. Exempt Appendix - Property Asset Management Plan**

Members received and noted the exempt appendix in connection with minute 103 above.

**Duration of meeting:** 2.15 - 4.15 pm

**Chairman**

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