

COUNCIL – 27 April 2009

MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL

The following minutes require confirmation by the Council.

Cabinet – 19 March 2009

MINUTE 406 – NOMINATION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2009/10

The Cabinet was requested to make nominations for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2009/10, which would be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council on 11 May 2009.

Resolved - That the Council be recommended that

(1) Councillor Andrew Hodson be nominated for the position of Mayor for the municipal year 2009/10; and

(2) Councillor Alan Jennings be nominated for Deputy Mayor.

MINUTE 407 – ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management updated Members on the implementation of the Office Accommodation Strategy; sought approval of new Policies relating to Disposals and Community Asset Transfer; and authorised officers to progress Disposals and Community Transfers, in accordance with these policies. An addendum was circulated containing further information about the Community Fund and recommends how it should be used to support the asset transfer process.

Resolved: - That

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4) the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management be nominated as the new Council representative on the joint Working Group administering the Community Fund, to replace the departing Head of Legal and Member Services.

(5)

MINUTE 415 – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

At its meeting on 9 July 2008, the Cabinet had considered a report on proposed constitutional amendments and resolved to review the structure of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management presented a report on this matter which also proposed a revised scheme of delegation to portfolio holders.

Resolved - That

- (1) the scheme of delegation of executive functions to portfolio holders be amended to allow all non-key decisions to be made under delegation in line with paragraph 3.3 of the report;
- (2) the [proposed] Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee be re-titled 'Sustainable Communities' Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) Cabinet reaffirms its view that all non-executive members of the Council (other than the Mayor) should have the opportunity to serve on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee if they so choose and therefore believes that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should have 10 members;
- (4) the proposal to move to five overview and scrutiny committees, based on the Council's corporate priorities be forwarded to the three Party Leaders for their comments to be brought back to the Cabinet at its next meeting; and
- (5) Cabinet's preference is that the Scrutiny Chairs Committee be a properly constituted committee and that its role be that of programme co-ordination and call-ins that involve two or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

MINUTE 425 – MERSEY GATEWAY BRIDGE PROJECT GROUP

The Director of Technical Services informed Members of the proposal to refresh the partnership arrangements relating to the new Mersey crossing – known as the Mersey Gateway.

Cabinet was requested to approve the attendance of one officer and one elected Member to the reformed Mersey Gateway Bridge Project Group.

Resolved - That Council be recommended that the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Services and the Head of Streetscene and Waste be nominated to the reformed Mersey Gateway Bridge Project Group and the body be included in the schedule of approved bodies within the Constitution.

Cabinet – 9 April 2009

MINUTE 450 – PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORK AND TOOLKIT

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, reported upon actions which had been taken to develop the recommendations of the Audit Commission relating to governance arrangements for partnerships, and he presented a draft Partnership Framework and Toolkit (Appendix 1). The document provided a framework for ensuring that the Council's partnership arrangements were clear and transparent and it would ensure that the Council would only enter in to partnerships or remain in them where there was clear added value and the benefits outweighed any risks or drawback. Furthermore, it recognised that the Council should focus its limited resources on those partnerships which would contribute towards meeting the Council's LAA improvement targets, strategic objectives or statutory responsibilities.

It was proposed to include the framework within the constitution of the Council to reinforce the importance of governance within partnerships.

Recommended - That the Partnership Framework and Toolkit be endorsed and referred to Council for approval and inclusion within the Constitution.

MINUTE 451 – SCHEME OF DELEGATION – DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND PLANNING-RELATED MATTERS

The Director of Technical Services submitted a report recommending that the current Scheme of Delegation relating to the determination of planning applications and other associated planning matters including enforcement action be revised, as outlined in Appendix B.

The Planning Committee (minute 247 – 12/3/09) and the Regeneration and Planning Strategy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (minute 38 – 18/3/09) had endorsed the proposals to amend the Scheme of Delegation.

Recommended –That Cabinet endorse the proposals and recommend to Council that the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation be adopted, as outlined in Appendix B.

MINUTE 453 – RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The Director of Corporate Services presented a report seeking Cabinet’s support for provision within the Council’s constitution to increase his delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Planning Strategy, to approve business support grants from £5,000 to an amount of up to £20,000.

Resolved - That Cabinet support the request for provision within the Council’s constitution to allow the delegated authority for the Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with Cabinet member for Regeneration and Planning Strategy, to approve business support grants of up to £20,000.