

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

Minutes of a meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 30 September, 2009 at 6.30 p.m. at the Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT:

Councillors I.T.W. Fletcher (Speaker), D.G. Allen, G. Ashcroft, D.W.D. Ashley, R.K. Austin, R. Aveley, S. Bentley, K.T. Blundell (Mayor), S.P. Burrell, E.J. Carter, R.G. Chaplin, E.A. Clare, J.A. Dixon, N.A. Dugmore, A.J. Eade (Leader), V.A. Fletcher, J.A. Francis, G.M. Green, E.J. Greenaway, R.E. Groom, Y.C. Hicks, P.A.E. Homer, T.J. Hope, M.B. Hosken, G.P. Hossell, S.M. Kelly, R.T. Kiernan, A. Lawrence, L. Lomax, A.A. Mackenzie, C.N. Mason, A.D. McClements, A.A. Meredith, J.C. Minor, C.P.R. Mollett, R.A. Overton, F.R. Picken, H. Rhodes, K.S. Sahota, J.M. Seymour, C.F. Smith, M.J. Smith, A.J. Stanton, E.M. Swift, K.L. Tomlinson, W.L. Tomlinson, V. Tonks, R.M. Tyler, D.R.W. White, A.G.P. Williams, H.J. Williams and D.G. Wright

34. PRAYERS

Prayers were said by the Reverend Peter Lawley, Vicar of St. George's & Priorslee. Following a request from Councillor K.L. Tomlinson, which was supported by Members and the Speaker, Reverend Lawley said a prayer for Councillor U.E. Sambrook. Councillor Sambrook was on leave of absence due to a serious illness.

35. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Borough Council held on 23 July, 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Speaker.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors G.J.L. Davies and U.E. Sambrook

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor L. Lomax declared a personal interest in agenda item 14 (b) – the motion on service provision at the Princess Royal Hospital.

38. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Mayoral Engagements

The Mayor drew Members attention to her attendance at the opening of the Listen and Care Centre at Leegomery. This service offered support for people with mental health issues and had been awarded the prestigious Queen's award for volunteers in 2008. The Mayor also highlighted her

attendance at TCAT for the Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities cricket match as well as her attendance at the official opening of the 2009 Ironbridge World Heritage festival. Members noted the engagements undertaken by the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor between 29th July, 2009 and 27th September, 2009.

(b) Awards

- (i) The Mayor presented the award to the Enterprise HQ for being the most enterprising place in the region as part of Enterprising Britain, a nationwide competition run by Enterprise Insight on behalf of the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. The award was accepted by Liz Wakeham-Jones, Sales & Marketing Manager, on behalf of Enterprise HQ.
- (ii) The Mayor presented Anne Winn, Customer Services Officer in Revenues & Benefits with the award for winning the 'Unsung Hero' category in the inaugural 2009 Call Centre Hero Awards organised by the Call Centre Clinic.
- (iii) The Mayor presented the 'Project of the Year' award won by the Telford International Railfreight Terminal as part of the Rail Freight Group Annual Awards. Kate Turner, Project Manager, accepted the Award on behalf of the Project Team.

39. REPORT OF LEADER

The Leader reported that contracts had now been exchanged with Asda Plc for the sale of the Civic offices site. He also highlighted the Council's joint working arrangements with the Southwater Event Group which would lead to the regeneration of the Southwater area. The project would include two hotels, major improvements to the conference centre and a refurbishment of the Telford Ice Rink.

40. CABINET DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Members received the report on the Cabinet decisions made since the last meeting of the Council on 23 July, 2009 and noted the delegations granted to officers.

Councillor S.P. Burrell, Cabinet Member: Children & Young People, informed Members that Cabinet had agreed to the co-location of the Three Oaks and Stirchley Primary Schools on the site of a new Sports & Learning Community which would replace the Lord Silkin school. Councillor Burrell told Members that a scale model of the design for the new Abraham Darby Sports and Learning Community was available in the Council Chamber. A new Sports & Learning Community would also be developed on the site of the current Phoenix School.

41. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

(i) 21 July, 2009 – 2009/10 Financial Performance

Councillor A. Lawrence presented the report of the Head of Finance & Audit. Councillor Lawrence told Members that the report, received by Cabinet in July, showed overall revenue spending projected within approved budgets as well as providing an update on capital programme spending. The report also highlighted a number of virements, new capital allocations and slippage which required formal approval by Council

RESOLVED - that approval be given for the new capital allocations and slippage and the revenue and capital virements detailed in paragraph 5.1 of the attached report.

(ii) 15 September, 2009 – Planning of School Places: Borough Towns Initiative – Sports & Learning Community

Councillor S.P. Burrell presented the joint report of the Head of Property & Design, the Head of Commissioning for Leisure & Culture, and the Head of BSF, Resources & Social Regeneration.

RESOLVED – that approval be granted of a total capital budget of £1.66m, being £1.16m co-location grant funding allocated from the DCSF and the balance from the Lawn Tennis Association in respect of the tennis facility.

(iii) 15 September, 2009 – North Woodside Phase 1 Capital Approval

Councillor E.J. Carter presented the report of the Corporate Director: Environment & Regeneration.

RESOLVED – that Council supported a capital approval for £6.479m in respect of North Woodside Phase 1 and, in particular, agreed to receive a contribution of £4.25m from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) as part of this investment package.

42. ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2008/09

Councillor D.R.W. White, Chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board presented the Annual Scrutiny report for 2008/09.

RESOLVED – that the Scrutiny Annual Report be noted.

43. ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2008/09

Councillor D. Wright, Chairman of the Audit Committee, presented the Annual Audit report for 2008/09.

RESOLVED – that members of the Council noted the contents of the Annual Report 2008/09.

44. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

- (a) The Speaker, as Chairman of the Council Constitution Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting of Committee held on 3 September, 2009, which contained a number of recommendations to Council.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed Scheme for Public Speaking at Plans Board, as set out in Annex A of the report, be further considered by the Council Constitution Committee and be brought back to a future meeting of the Council;
- (b) That the proposed Scheme for Dealing with Petitions, as set out in Annex C of the report, be further considered by the Council Constitution Committee and be brought back to a future meeting of the ;
- (c) The changes to Article 12 – Officers of the Constitution, as set out in Annex F of the report be approved;
- (d) The changes to Part 4 (Rules of Procedure), Section 6 (Financial Regulations), sub-section 2 (Responsibilities) and sub-section 9 (Internal Audit), as set out in Annexes G1 & 2 be approved;
- (e) The inclusion within Part 4 (Rules of Procedure), Section 5 (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules) of a Protocol for Councillor Call for Action, as set out in Annex H, be approved;
- (f) The changes to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee, as set out in Annex I of the report, and of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, as set out in Annex J of the report, be approved;
- (g) The addition to the Functions, Powers and Duties of the Plans Board, the Licensing Committee, the Standards Committee, the Personnel Board, the Scrutiny Leadership Board and the Council Constitution Committee of a duty to annually review their effectiveness and their Terms of Reference be approved;

- (h) **The noting of minor amendments, as set out in Annex K of the report, made to the Constitution by the Head of Legal Services under delegated authority be approved;**
 - (i) **Approval be granted for the Head of Legal Services to review the current 100g(2) List of Delegations granted to Officers and for the inclusion of the words “*As a result of the significant re-structure taking place, the delegations rest with the Chief Executive and the responsible Corporate Director and Head of Service rather than as necessarily identified in the Scheme*” in the 100g(2) List to cover the restructuring of the Council until such time as the review had been completed;**
 - (j) **With respect to Rule 10 – Questions by Members, paragraph 10.3(d) be amended to read ‘within 7 working days’ and paragraph 10.6(c) be amended with the addition of the words ‘within 7 working days’.**
- (b) Councillor A. Stanton presented the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 17 September, 2009 which contained a recommendation to Council in respect of the draft Gifts and Hospitality Guidance.

RESOLVED - that the updated Gifts and Hospitality Guidance attached at Annex 1 of the report, be adopted.

45. MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Council noted the resolved minutes of the Plans Board for 22 July, 12 August and 2 September, 2009, of the Licensing Committee of 24, 27 and 30 July, 3 August and 1 September, 2009, of the Scrutiny Leadership Board for 9 July, 2009, and the Audit Committee of 28 July, 2009.

46. QUESTIONS

No questions had been submitted.

47. NOTICES OF MOTION

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2.2(i) the Speaker agreed, at the request of Members, to vary the order of items on the agenda paper. Because of its importance, the motion on the Princess Royal Hospital was dealt with first.

- (a) Councillor C.F. Smith, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, moved the following Motion:

'When it is proposed to sell off land and property, the Ward Members will be informed and fully consulted before the land/property is put up for sale, or offered conditionally to a prospective purchaser.'

The Motion was seconded by Councillor R.E. Groom.

RESOLVED – that the Motion be approved.

- (b) Councillor A.J. Eade moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, and with the support of all the Group Leaders, the following Motion:

'I wish to bring the attention of Members to the serious threats that are now being proposed to services at Princess Royal Hospital. The preferred option being put forward by NHS bodies will result in the main A&E plus acute surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics and neonate services being located in Shrewsbury. This will mean that local people will be deprived of access in Telford to these essential health services. It is imperative that the Council fights the removal and down-grading of services from PRH and protects the health and well-being of our population.

Members are requested to indicate their full backing and commitment to actions and a campaign to protect Princess Royal Hospital as the corner-stone of acute health services for this area.'

The Motion was seconded by Councillor R.K. Austin.

Councillor Eade, proposing the motion, told Members that any short term decisions to move services away from the Princess Royal Hospital would inevitably lead to the loss of hospital services in the long term. The proposal to build one new hospital between Telford and Shrewsbury was unlikely to happen due to the pressure on public finances. Both Telford and Shrewsbury needed and deserved full accident and emergency services. He urged Members to support the fight to protect hospital services in Telford.

Councillors G.M. Green and V. Tonks both spoke strongly in support of protecting services at the Princess Royal Hospital. A number of Members, speaking in support of the motion, pointed to the healthcare needs of Telford's growing population. Without exception, Members were opposed to any downgrading of services at the Princess Royal Hospital. Councillor R.K. Austin, seconding the motion, agreed wholeheartedly that everything should be done to protect services. Councillor A.J. Eade, summing up, thanked Members for their unanimous support.

RESOLVED – that the Motion be approved.

- (c) Councillor A. Stanton moved, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the following Motion:

'This Council recognises the positive comments from the community regarding the introduction of the current flag policy by this Council in September 2007. Due to this success this Council instructs that the current policy's jurisdiction is extended and applied to all civic sites and buildings within the Borough of Telford and Wrekin.'

The Motion was seconded by Councillor J.M. Seymour

RESOLVED – that the Motion be approved.

The meeting ended at 9.02 p.m.

Speaker:

Date: