

EXECUTIVE

Tuesday 22 March 2011

Present:-

Councillor Edwards (Chair)

Councillors D Baldwin, Fullam, R M Hannaford, Mrs Henson, Martin, Mrs J Morrish, Sheldon and Sutton

Chief Executive, Director Community and Environment, Director Corporate Services, Director Economy and Development, Assistant Chief Executive, Head of Planning and Building Control and Member Services Officer (SLS)

28

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on 25 January and 8 February 2011 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

29

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Councillor RM Hannaford declared a personal interest as the Vice Chair and a Trustee of Exwick Community Association, and as a Board Member of Exeter Age Concern. Councillor Martin declared a personal interest as a Trustee of Exeter Community Transport Association (ECTA).

The Director Community and Environment responded to a Member's comment on the loss of the core grant awarded to the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and gave reassurance that the number of concerts held in the city would not be affected, as the Council's funding had been mainly used for workshops in schools and outreach projects in the city. A Member responded to questions about the Exeter Phoenix grant by indicating that it enabled accommodation to be offered to a number of small, locally based arts and theatre groups providing jobs and activities. A Member referred to the cuts in grant as very regrettable, but suggested that prioritising the remaining grants budget would help some organisations remain solvent.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Grants Committee held on 24 February 2011 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

30

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared the following personal interests:-

COUNCILLOR	MINUTES
Cllr R Hannaford	29 (Vice Chair and Trustee of Exwick Community Association and Board Member of Exeter Age Concern)
Cllr Martin	29 (Trustee of Exeter Community Transport Association (ECTA)) 33 (Member of the Co-operative Party)

31 **DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT ON HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (INCLUDING CLASS C4 USES)**

The Head of Planning and Building Control presented a report seeking approval of a draft Supplementary Planning document (SPD) for public consultation.

The document provides guidance on the interpretation of the Exeter Local Plan Policy H5, relating to the development of houses in multiple occupation and the future provision of student accommodation. Members were updated on the background including the Article 4 Direction and the existing policy framework. A copy of the planning document was circulated as an appendix to the report. A map was also circulated showing the area where the proportion of houses exempt from Council Tax already exceeds 20% and the five zones which would be subject to further restrictions if they reached the level of 20%.

The public consultation will take place from 2 April to 14 May and information will be available on the City Council's web site, as well as planned media coverage and a targeted campaign to a range of interested parties. A further report will be made to Members of the Planning Member Working Group and Executive after the consultation has been completed.

Members broadly welcomed the consultation. A Member agreed that growth in the student population was essential as a contribution to the local economy, but restrictions on the location of student housing were needed to maintain a balanced community. It was highlighted that there were other options for students including renting accommodation on campus.

RESOLVED that the draft Supplementary Planning Document circulated as an appendix with the report be published for public consultation.

(Report circulated)

32 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS, PRINCE CHARLES ROAD, EXETER**

The report of the Acting Head of Estates Services asked Members to consider an application from Vodafone to upgrade their existing telecoms site at Prince Charles Road, sharing with the telecommunications group O2. This move forms part of a national agreement to enable Vodapfone and 02 to share their mobile assets and consolidate the number of base stations held throughout the UK. A location plan and photograph were circulated with the report.

RESOLVED that the surrender of the existing lease and the grant of a new lease to Vodafone for the proposed telecommunications apparatus in Prince Charles Road, Exeter be approved.

(Report circulated)

33 **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SUPPORT**

Cllr Martin declared a personal interest as a member of the Co-operative Party.

The report of the Head of Economy and Tourism was submitted, which provided an update on the performance of the pilot project launched in April 2010 to promote and offer business support for new and existing social enterprises in Exeter. The report also sought Member approval for a second year of funding to continue the

service providing one-to-one advice workshops with a specific focus on supporting further new start-ups.

The Director Economy and Development referred to a summary of performance, which included the number of existing enterprises, start-ups, planned start-ups and a forecast of the likely job output. It was noted that the Community Enterprise Unit was in the process of being wound down and a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) would be created called 'Fruit Tree for Business'. Fruit Tree for Business would be the LLP providing the support in 2011/12. Members were keen to receive more information on the performance of the organisation and details of the tangible benefits of the service. The Director referred to a number of projects supported in Exeter and confirmed that a more detailed report, the Social Return on Investment would be made to a future meeting.

Scrutiny Committee – Economy considered the report at their meeting of 10 March 2011 and their comments and support were noted.

RESOLVED that £25,000 be released from the 2010/11 Economy and Tourism budget to fund a second year of service delivery to continue the promotion of job creation through support and further development of social enterprises in the city.

(Report circulated)

34

PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING POLICY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGES **2011-12**

The report of the Head of Environmental Health Services detailed the changes in financial assistance awarded to private sector households in 2010/11. The report also set out the proposed changes to the types and levels of financial assistance that would be available in 2011/12, in light of the removal of the entire private sector renewal allocation and the Regional Single Housing Pot. The Director Community and Environment stated that the City Council had an important duty to continue to support and improve the private sector housing stock in Exeter.

A Member was disappointed at this change, concerned that it would have a negative impact on the quality of private sector housing. She informed other Members that she had written to the City's local Members of Parliament, highlighting the issue and seeking their support in addressing the funding problem.

Scrutiny Committee – Community considered the report at their meeting of 8 March 2011 and their comments and support were noted.

RESOLVED that Executive approve:-

- (1) the financial assistance tools, as set out in the circulated report, and their respective budget allocation; and
- (2) authorise the Head of Environmental Health Services, subject to prior consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Involvement, to re-allocate uncommitted parts of the respective budget allocation between financial assistance tools, in order to meet need.

(Report circulated)

35

LORD MAYORALTY

Councillor Mrs S R Brock was nominated as Lord Mayor Elect and Councillor K Mitchell as Deputy Lord Mayor Elect for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

RECOMMENDED to Council that Councillor Mrs S R Brock be nominated as Lord Mayor Elect and Councillor Mitchell as Deputy Lord Mayor Elect for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

36

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The schedule of appointments to outside bodies was circulated.

RESOLVED that the following appointment be renewed:

- (1) Councillor Newby be re-appointed to the Council of the Devon County Agricultural Association.

(Schedule circulated)

37

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of Part I, Schedule 12A of the Act.

38

CESSATION OF PLAY AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The report of the Head of Leisure and Museums was submitted, setting out the formal arrangements for the ending of the sport and play services.

Scrutiny Committee – Community considered the report at their meeting on 8 March 2011 and their comments were noted.

RESOLVED that Executive approve:-

- (1) the deletion of the posts of Lead Play Ranger (CE12242), Support Ranger (CE12243) and Support Ranger (CE12244) from the establishment of the Council, and the employment of the holders of those posts be terminated on the grounds of redundancy on 31 March 2011, with compensation being paid to the holders of the posts in accordance with the discretion exercised by the Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Early Termination) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006; and
- (2) the deletion of the posts of Sports Development Manager (CE12124), Sports Development Officer (CE12138), Play Development Manager (CE12122) and Play Development Officer (CE12126) from the establishment of the Council, and the employment of the holders of those posts be terminated on the grounds of redundancy on 31 July 2011, with compensation being paid to the holders of the posts in accordance with the discretion exercised by the Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Early Termination) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

(Report circulated to Members)

THE FUTURE OF EXETER ARCHAEOLOGY (THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD UNIT)

The report of the Head of Exeter Archaeology set out the economic challenges faced by Exeter Archaeology and the Archaeological Field Unit and outlined the options for the future of the Service. The Director Economy and Development praised Tim Gent who had made an excellent effort to improve the financial situation of the Unit, but a combination of the down turn in construction, a high level of competition, and uncompetitive charging rates no longer made the continuation of the Unit a viable option. Members discussed the options, and felt that a staged closure would enable the service to deal responsibly with both the current work and the archive.

Scrutiny Committee – Economy considered the report at their meeting of 10 March 2011 and their comments were noted.

Members were unanimous in their appreciation of the contribution made by Exeter Archaeology's committed team, which had helped safeguard Exeter's history and create a legacy for future generations.

RESOLVED that Executive approve:-

- (1) with regret, the instigation of a staged closure of the Exeter Archaeological Field Unit, with the retention of a skeleton staff until the beginning of April 2012; and
- (2) a further report be made in 12 months time, to Scrutiny Committee - Economy outlining the measures to be taken to manage the Exeter Archaeological Field Unit's archive following the closure of the Service.

(Report circulated to Members)

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.40 pm)

Chair

The decisions indicated will normally come into force 5 working days after publication of the Statement of Decisions unless called in by a Scrutiny Committee. Where the matter in question is urgent, the decision will come into force immediately. Decisions regarding the policy framework or corporate objectives or otherwise outside the remit of the Executive will be considered by Council on 12 April 2011.