

## EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub-Committee on Thursday, 1 November 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: R. Barnett, E. Dawson, L. Derbyshire, J. Farmer, J. Goacher and D. Hall

### ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE

*Action*

#### **Planning, Transportation, Regeneration And Renewal Portfolio**

#### ES41 ADDISON SQUARE & SHELLEY ROAD, WIDNES ALLEYGATING ORDER

The Sub-Committee considered a report which required a decision on whether or not to proceed with making a Gating Order for footpaths at Addison Square and Shelley Road, Widnes.

The Gating Order procedure had been adopted by the Executive Board on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2007 and stated that if any objections were received to any Order, following an advertising and notice procedure, it should be referred to the Executive Board Sub-Committee for a decision on whether to proceed or call a public enquiry.

Objections had been received from two local residents, the Open Spaces Society and the Merseyside Local Access Forum. The objections were set out in Appendix 2 of the report along with a response from the Strategic Director, Environment.

It was recognised that legitimate users of these paths could be disadvantaged. However, the recommendation was based on the need to address crime and anti-social

behaviour and the Council would be obliged to keep all Gating Orders under review. If it was felt that the gates were no longer needed, a recommendation to remove them could be considered. In this respect, the Members requested that the gate be reviewed in twelve months time. The cost of erecting the gates would be met by the Local Area Forum.

RESOLVED: That after careful consideration of the report objectives:-

- (1) the Order be made and gates erected;
- (2) the Objectors be notified accordingly; and
- (3) the Gating Order be reviewed in 12 months time.

Strategic Director  
– Environment

ES42 SPECIAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH & COMMUNITY  
TENDERED TRANSPORT CONTRACTS

The Sub-Committee considered a report outlining fifty new Special Education and Health & Community Transport contracts which were recently offered by tender. They had been awarded and certain decisions needed to be reported to the Sub-Committee for information.

Various tendered contracts had been awarded where it had not been possible to award to the lowest bid. In some cases, alternative arrangements had been made wherever possible in relation to the needs of the clients. The report outlined the background to each award decision.

The Sub-Committee was advised that further reports would be presented with the details of the contracts attached as appendices and a summary contained in the main report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Strategic Director  
– Environment

**Corporate Services Portfolio**

ES43 2007/08 HALF YEAR SPENDING

The Sub-Committee considered a report which outlined the overall half year revenue and capital spending position for 2007/08.

The Sub-Committee was advised that in overall terms, as of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007, revenue expenditure was below the budget profile. However, it was highlighted that the budget profile was only a guide to eventual spending. The 2007 Pay Award had not as yet been settled and the Pay and

Grading Review had also not been finalised. Furthermore, spending was historically higher in the latter part of the financial year. In this respect, it was important that budget managers continued to monitor and control spending closely to ensure that overall spending remained in line with budget by the year end.

It was noted that in respect of performance and timescales, there were practical differences between services which had not necessarily been reflected in the report.

In respect of the income for Market Rents and Industrial Estate rents, where a number of large units remained vacant and which continued to be below budget profile, it was agreed that this matter be referred to the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board to be considered as an item for a future review.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted: and
- (2) the Sub-Committee request that the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board consider undertaking a review on the market rents and industrial rents to identify and address the issues relating to income continually being below the budget profile.

Strategic Director  
– Financial  
Services

#### ES44 ICT CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval to improvements to the IT infrastructure in line with the IT Strategy. The individual projects were as follows:-

- Local Area Networking;
- Hardware Replacement; and
- Infrastructure Software, MS Licences & Software Development.

The ICT capital programme was primarily focused upon the replacement and renewal of ageing network and server solutions and the installation of new hardware and software support solutions that were capable of delivering a sustainable technology platform over the next three years. This was essential given the reliance the Council placed on IT for the delivery of front-line services.

It was noted that the authority was always seeking opportunities to work in partnership with other authorities to deliver IT services. It was also noted that next year a storage facility would be available which would automatically archive documents that were not used on a regular basis.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the planned spending profiles detailed in the report be approved and the Strategic Director, Corporate & Policy, in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for IT, be authorised to implement those replacements; and
- (2) the Strategic Director, Corporate & Policy be authorised to place the contract for SAN / NAS data storage solution with Vistorm in a sum not exceeding £70,000.00 and that in accordance with Standing Order 1.6 Procurement Standing Orders 3.1 – 3.7 and 3.9 – 3.10 be waived on this occasion in light of the exceptional circumstances, namely that:
  - (i) compliance with these Standing Orders is not practicable for reasons of urgency which could not reasonably have been anticipated (1.6 (b)); and
  - (ii) because compliance would result in the Council foregoing clear commercial benefits, namely knowledge of the Halton installation and on estimate a saving of £20,000 against the other prices on the market.

Strategic Director  
– Corporate &  
Policy

#### ES45 FORMER KINGSWAY HEALTH CENTRE BUILDING

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval, in principle, to the transfer of the former Kingsway Health Centre to Halton Voluntary Action (HVA) to enable a bid to be made to the Big Lottery Fund.

The reason for seeking the Sub-Committee's in principle, agreement to the transfer was because in September the Big Lottery Fund announced that the Government had asked that it administer £30m worth of 'Community Asset' funding which had been purposely set aside to offer grants for the refurbishment of Local Authority buildings in England, enabling their transfer to third sector

ownership for the use of the whole community. The programme made available capital grants of between £150,000 and £1m. The closing date for the receipt of applications was 15<sup>th</sup> November 2007, which meant a lot of work had to be done quickly.

The aim of the Community Assets fund was community empowerment. It was intended to achieve this by facilitating the transfer of genuine assets from the Local Authority to the third sector for their use as community resources. It was the belief that genuine assets would generate operational, financial and other benefits for third sector organisations without significant liabilities over a long time period.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the granting of a 25 year lease at a peppercorn rent of the former Health Centre building to HVA be approved in principle, subject to:-
  - (i) formal terms being agreed and a detailed business case being presented; and
  - (ii) HVA being successful in the Big Lottery Funding Bid;
- (2) a former policy on asset transfer to the third sector be developed, and following consultation with the Corporate Services Policy & Performance Board, be presented to the Executive Board for consideration; and
- (3) this meeting be the subject of a further report indicating progress, and if necessary seeking detailed authorisation to enter into the lease.

Strategic Director  
– Corporate &  
Policy

**MINUTES ISSUED: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**CALL IN: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub-Committee may be called in no later than 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

*Meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.*