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CABINET

18 March 2009 – 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor B Coleman (in the Chair); Councillors Ames, Peck, Plant, Shrimplin and Stone.

Councillors Castle, Walker and Williamson attended by invitation.

Mr R Packham (Managing Director), Mr P Hardy (Executive Director – Economy and Environment), Mrs J Ratcliffe (Executive Director – Customers and Resources), Mr D Gilbert (Director of Community Housing), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services), Mr T Howard (Head of Regeneration and Environment) and Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer).

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the 18 February 2009 were confirmed.

2. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, ADVISORY GROUPS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEES

(a) Section 106 Funds

On reference from the Scrutiny Committee of 23 February, Cabinet was recommended to agree the following:-

- (i) That the Head of Regeneration and Environment and Head of Planning and Development be responsible for identifying schemes for applying Amenity Funds in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and relevant Local Members.
- (ii) That the Head of Community Services and the Head of Planning and Development be jointly responsible for identifying schemes for applying Affordable Housing Funds in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.
- (iii) That appropriate arrangements be made for the Cabinet Member (Resources) to monitor the application of all Section 106 Funds received through periodic reports to the Asset Management Group.
- (iv) That the approval process for the schemes identified through recommendations (ii) and (iii) above be through the existing arrangements established by the Asset Management Group for all the Capital Projects.

RESOLVED:

That recommendations (i) – (iv) above be approved, subject to the addition of the words “and Parish Councils” being added to recommendation (i).

3. FORWARD PLAN – 1 MARCH TO 30 JUNE 2009

Cabinet received the Forward Plan for the period 1 March to 30 June 2009.

4. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY IN GREAT YARMOUTH

Cabinet considered the Executive Director (Economy and Environment)’s report with regard to the Planning and Transportation Strategy in Great Yarmouth.

The Executive Director reported on the proposals to form a Joint Member Group with Norfolk County Council to keep under review development and implications of the Great Yarmouth Transport Strategy and to provide Strategy oversight and co-ordination of all matters of joint interest in:-

- The Third River Bridge, Trunk Road Improvements and other major transportation projects.
- Transportation Strategy in relation to the LDF, including the 1st East Area Action Plan and other major developments.
- Parking Policy and Strategy.
- A joint approach to “streetscene” services and major maintenance works.
- Traffic management, signage and minor capital works issues.
- Public transport, walking and cycling.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to agree that a Group comprising four County Councillors and three Borough Councillors with a political balance be agreed to keep under review the Planning and Transportation Strategy in Great Yarmouth, such Group to meet quarterly with meetings planned to cover identified issues in depth following an agreed programme.

5. GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH SERVICES – PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

Cabinet was advised that this item had been withdrawn and would be considered at the next meeting.

6. 2008/09 BUDGET MONITORING

Cabinet considered the Head of Financial Services’ report which presented a General Fund Revenue Budget Performance Review and Capital Programme as at 31 January for

combined periods ending December 2008 and ten months from 1 April 2008 to the end of January 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Financial Services' report be noted.

7. **PROPOSED RENT DECREASE 2009/10**

Cabinet considered the Director of Community Housing's report which identified the implications for Great Yarmouth Community Housing of the announcement by the Minister for Housing and Planning on 6 March 2009 to reduce the national guideline rent increase figure for 2009/10 from 6.2% to 3.1%.

Cabinet was asked to recommend to Council to endorse the reduction in rent levels as described in the Housing and Planning Minister's announcement of 6 March in line with the revised national guideline rent increase figure of 3.1% instead of the previously agreed 6.2%. Members were also asked to authorise the Director of Community Housing to respond to the revised Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) determination, when published. It was also recommended that recovery of administration costs be sought from DCLG when responding to the revised HRAS determination.

RESOLVED:

(i) That Council be recommended to agree the reduction in rent levels as set out in the ministerial announcement and to authorise the Director of Community Housing to respond to the revised HRAS determination.

(ii) That this issue be considered at a special meeting of Council to be held on Thursday, 26 March 2009 at 5.00 pm.

8. **ISSUES DETERMINED BY THE CABINET UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

(a) **Wheeled Bin Policy Review**

(b) **Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12(a) of the said Act.

(c) **Golden Mile Redevelopment Initiative – Progress Report**

9. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12(a) of the said Act.

10. THE BEACON PARK INNOVATION CENTRE

The Executive Director (Economy and Environment) and the Head of Regeneration and Environment reported on the present position with regard to discussions with Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services in connection with the Beacon Park Innovation Centre.

(Confidential Minute on this item).

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6.55 pm.