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CABINET

25 June 2008 – 5.00 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), Mrs J Ratcliffe (Executive Director – Customers and Resources), Mr P Hardy (Executive Director – Economy and Environment), Mr C Skinner (Head of Central Services), Mr T Howard (Head of Regeneration and Environment), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services), Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer) and Ms J Butcher (Regeneration Manager).

1. MINUTES

The minutes of 21 May 2008 were confirmed.

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

(a) The Greater Yarmouth Tourist Authority

On reference from the Scrutiny Committee of 2 June 2008, Cabinet was asked to consider the following recommendations agreed by Scrutiny Committee as part of its review into the Greater Yarmouth Tourist Authority:-

- (i) In future, Cabinet receive a written annual report from the Greater Yarmouth Tourist Authority, including commentary on its main activities, the seasons' performance and long term trends and issues.
- (ii) Consideration be given to the concept of a tourism based "Business Improvement District" broadly along the lines of the Town Centre Business Improvement District.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations as detailed in (i) and (ii) above be agreed.

3. FORWARD PLAN – 1 JUNE TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

Cabinet received the Forward Plan for the period 1 June to 30 September 2008.

4. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/08

Cabinet considered the Head of Financial Services' report on the Statement of Accounts for 2007/08. The Head of Financial Services reported that the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require that the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 should be submitted to full Council for approval by the 30 June 2008. Members were advised that the Statement of Accounts 2007/08 is a detailed financial document which serves to summarise the financial performance of the Council for the year. The Statement of Accounts consists of:-

- An explanatory forward which provides and understandable guide to readers of the accounts on the most significant matters contained within the statements. It also assists in providing an interpretation of the accounting statement themselves.
- Statement of Accounting Policies which explains the basis for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of transactions and other events in the accounts.
- Statement of responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts which sets out the respective responsibilities of the Council and the Section 151 Officer for the accounts.
- The Core Financial Statements.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to approve the Statement of Accounts 2007/08, noting that the statements will then be subject to audit.

5. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Cabinet considered the Head of Financial Services' report on the Annual Governance Statement. The Head of Financial Services reported that the report provides background on the Annual Governance Statement requirement for the financial year 2007/08, and a draft Annual Governance Statement for review by the Committee.

The Head of Financial Services reported that the Council is required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement instead of a Statement of Internal Control with effect from 2007/08. The purpose of the Statement is to report on the authority's governance arrangements and is therefore wider ranging and more holistic. It is to be published with the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 in place of the Statement on Internal Control, having subsumed the Statement of Internal Control as a result of the changes.

The Head of Financial Services reported that the Annual Governance Statement should be an open and honest self-assessment of the Council's performance across all of its activities, with a clear statement of the actions being taken or required to address areas of concern, and should include the following:-

- An acknowledgement of responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of governance (incorporating the system of internal control).
- A description of the key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the governance arrangements.
- A brief description of the process that has been applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance arrangements.

- An outline of the actions taken, or proposed, to deal with significant governance issues, including an agreed action plan.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2007/08.

6. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION – AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Cabinet considered the Monitoring Officer's report on proposed amendments and revisions to the Council's Constitution. Members were advised that amendments were required to take account of recent changes to the Member Code of Conduct Regime. Complaints that a Borough or Parish Councillor has breached the Code are now considered by The Standards Committee, rather than by The Standards Board for England. Furthermore, three matters were accidentally omitted from the updated Constitution document, namely the power for a single Cabinet Member to authorise compulsory purchase orders; the terms of reference of the Audit and Risk Committee; and the additional delegations enjoyed by the Director of Community Housing.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to approve the amendments and revisions to the Council's Constitution as detailed above.

7. LARGE CASINO LICENCE

Cabinet considered the Head of Central Services' report with regard to the Large Casino Licence. The Head of Central Services reminded Cabinet that the Great Yarmouth Casino Stakeholder Advisory Panel had been established in 2006 to assist with the Large Casino Licensing process. Since the Panel last met in March 2007, not only has the Large Casino for Great Yarmouth been approved, but the regulations and guidance for conducting the licensing process had been published. The terms of reference and membership of the Panel ought now to be reconsidered in the light of these documents.

Members were advised that the first thing the Council must do, before starting the formal licensing process, is to amend its Statement of Gambling Policy so as to incorporate the criteria it will apply in determining the successful applicant. Once this has been completed, an invitation to apply for the licence can be published. It is hoped to begin this process straightaway, with a view to having the amended policy in place by early 2009. It will then be possible to invite applications for the licence. The amended policy will include a more detailed timetable for the licensing process.

The Head of Central Services also reported that the Code of Practice issued by the Department of Culture, Media and Sports had stated that Councils may wish to pay particular regard to the following matters when determining applications for the licence:-

- That provision that is made for protecting children and other vulnerable people from harm or exploitation.
- That provision that is made for preventing gambling from being a source of, or being associated with, crime or disorder.
- That provision that is made for ensuring that gambling is conducted fairly and openly.

- The likely affects on employment and regeneration.
- The design and location of the proposed development.
- The range and nature of non-gambling facilities.
- The financial and other contributions the applicant propose to make to the Council's area.

RESOLVED:

That Council be recommended to agree the following:-

- (i) That the membership of the Great Yarmouth Casino Stakeholder Advisory Panel should comprise the Leader (Chairman), Cabinet Member (Regeneration and Tourism) and Shadow Leader, the Manager of the CAB, and representatives from the Police, the Town Centre Partnership and the Tourist Authority and should be increased to include representatives from the faith community and from organisations representing children and vulnerable people.
- (ii) The panel to have the power to co-opt additional members, in consultation with the Head of Central Services.
- (iii) The remit of the panel be to help in the formulation of the amendment to the Statement of Gambling Policy. (It is possible that the panel will have further duties as part of the licensing process and this will be determined as part of the policy amendment process.)

8. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

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

9. ISSUES DETERMINED BY THE CABINET UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONSTITUTION

- (a) Golden Mile Opportunity Report

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm.