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COUNCIL MEETING

28 June 2007 – 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Mayor, Councillor Garrod (in the Chair); Councillors Barker, Blyth, Burroughs, Castle, B Coleman, M Coleman, Collins, Cook, Cunniffe, Easter, Field, Hacon, Hewitt, Hodds, Holmes, Jeal, Jermany, Linden, Peck, Pettitt, Plant, Reynolds, Smith, Stone, Taylor, D Thompson, M Thompson, Wainwright, B Walker, C Walker, Watts, Weymouth and Williamson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ames, Howard, Robinson and Shrimplin.

Mr R Packham (Managing Director), Mrs J Ratcliffe (Executive Director – Customers and Resources), Mr C Skinner (Head of Central Services), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services), Mr M Gorringe (Interim Head of Financial Services), Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager) and Mr D Glason (Service Manager – Planning Policy).

Ms L Phillips and Ms M Wheeler attended for item 2 below.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the 17 May 2007 were confirmed.

(Councillor Williamson, in his capacity as Chairman of the Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT; and Councillors B Walker and Weymouth, in their capacity as Members of the Norfolk Health Scrutiny Committee, declared a personal interest in the following item),

2. OLDER PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN GREAT YARMOUTH

Council considered a presentation from Linda Phillips, the Director of Nursing and Governance, and Maggie Wheeler, on the Older People's Mental Health Services in Great Yarmouth.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation on this issue.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members were advised that no questions had been raised by a member of the public.

4. REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION**(a) Development Control Policies “Issues and Options” Development Plan Document**

Council considered the Head of Planning and Development’s report, which set out the Great Yarmouth Development Control Policies “Issues and Options” Development Plan document.

Proposer: Councillor Plant

Seconder: Councillor Coleman

That the Development Control Policies “Issues and Options” Development Plan document be agreed for consultation with the public and stakeholders under Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 between 29 June to 10 August 2007.

CARRIED

(b) Site Specific “Issues and Options” Development Plan Document – Housing, Retail and Employment and Tourism Topic Papers

Council considered the Head of Planning and Development’s report, which set out the recommended Great Yarmouth Site Specific “Issues and Options” Development Plan Document, in the form of three topic papers, namely Housing, Retail and Employment and Tourism.

Proposer: Councillor Plant

Seconder: Councillor Coleman

That the Site Specific “Issues and Options” topic papers be agreed for consultation with the public and stakeholders under Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 between 29 June to 10 August 2007.

CARRIED

(c) Annual Audit And Inspection Letter – Audit Commission

Council was advised that Cabinet, at its meeting on 23 June 2007, received the Audit Commission’s Annual Audit Letter 2005/06, and referred the following action points to Council for approval:-

- Ensure the sustainability of service improvements through close scrutiny of performance;
- Address equality and diversity in service provision to ensure local people are getting equitable access to services;
- Continue to implement the improvement plan resulting from the organisational review;
- Ensure the improvement of key corporate building blocks, such as performance management, procurement and asset management;
- Ensure that the recommendations made in the Appointed Auditors’ Annual Governors’ Report are addressed;
- Address the issues necessary to improve the Council’s use of resources assessment.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor Coleman

That the action points, as identified by the Audit Commission, as detailed above, be approved.

CARRIED

(d) Authorisation of Covert Surveillance

Members were advised that from time to time the Council carries out covert surveillance with the use of hidden cameras, particularly with a view to identifying environmental offenders. The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 requires the use of covert surveillance to be specifically authorised by officers. The Transition Manager was formerly an authorised officer for this purpose and it was now recommended that the Environmental Health Service Unit Manager be designated an authorised officer in his place.

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That the Environmental Health Services Unit Manager be designated as the authorised officer in respect of covert surveillance.

CARRIED

(e) Draft Statement of Accounts 2006/07

Council considered the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/07, as submitted by the Interim Head of Financial Services.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor Coleman

That the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/07 be approved.

CARRIED

(f) Committee Memberships 2007/08

(i) Local Development Framework Working Party

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That Councillor D Thompson replace Councillor Reynolds on the above Working Party.

CARRIED

(g) Appointments to Outside Bodies 2007/08

(i) Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland IDB

With regard to the appointments to the IDB for Burgh Castle, Bradwell, Gorleston, Southtown and Cobholm Island, Council were informed that this IDB had, in fact, been deleted and replaced with an IDB for Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland.

Council on 17 May agreed that Councillors Ames, Blyth and Hodds should be the nominated Members for this IDB. Council was asked to confirm, therefore, the deletion of the six

members to the former IDB for Burgh Castle, Bradwell, Gorleston, Southtown, and Cobholm Island.

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That the six Members nominated to the IDB for Burgh Castle, Bradwell, Gorleston, Southtown and Cobholm Island be deleted and that the appointment of Councillors Ames, Blyth and Hodds, to the IDB for Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland be reaffirmed.

CARRIED

(ii) Norfolk Local Authority Tourism Group

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That Councillor Collins be nominated to serve on the above Group.

CARRIED

(iii) Casino Advisory Panel

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That Councillors B Coleman, Collins and Wainwright be confirmed as the representatives on the above Panel.

CARRIED

(iv) Great Yarmouth Cultural Partnership

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

The Councillors Ames, B Coleman, Collins and Taylor be confirmed as the representatives on the above Partnership.

CARRIED

(v) Great Yarmouth Learning Forum

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That Councillor M Coleman be nominated to serve on the above Forum.

CARRIED

(vi) Marine Parade Project Management Group

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That Councillor Holmes be added as a Member of the above Group.

CARRIED

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor Peck

That the Statement on the system of Internal Control for 2006/07 be approved.

CARRIED

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

(i) Council – 17 May 2007

The Mayor presented the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 May 2007.

With regard to item 3(e) (Appointments to Outside Bodies 2006/07), the Shadow Leader referred to the percentage calculation used for the appointment of Committee memberships, and asked whether this formula could be used with regard to the appointments to outside bodies. The Leader was asked to reconsider the allocations to outside bodies for 2007-6/07.

(ii) Cabinet – 23 May and 20 June 2007

The Leader presented the Minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 23 May and 20 June 2007.

(iii) Audit and Risk Committee – 25 June 2007

The Leader presented the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting of 25 June 2007.

With regard to item 3 (Annual Internal Audit Report 2006/07), the Cabinet Member (Resources) confirmed that the key issues that need to be addressed, as identified by the Chief Internal Auditor, would be addressed within the next six months.

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That the Minutes of Council of 17 May 2007, Cabinet of 23 May and 20 June 2007, and Audit and Risk Committee of 25 June 2007, be received.

CARRIED

6. REPORT OF LEADER ON URGENT KEY DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING WHICH WERE NOT IN THE FORWARD PLAN

Members were advised that there were no urgent decisions to be reported.

7. ADOPTION OF TS FEARLESS 901 TROOP MARINE CADETS

Council was asked to give consideration to the adoption by the Borough Council of the Training Ship Fearless 901 Troop Marine Cadets.

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Garrod

That, in view of the dedication and commitment given to the Borough of Great Yarmouth, by the Training Ship Fearless 901 Troop Marine Cadets, particularly in connection with the Borough's ceremonial events, the Council do adopt the unit.

CARRIED

8. TRANSITION MANAGER

The Leader referred to the imminent retirement of John Hemsworth, Transition Manager (formerly Head of Environment and Health) and Council agreed to record their thanks and appreciation to John Hemsworth for all his work and dedication to duties on behalf of the Borough Council during his term of employment.

9. INTERIM HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Council agreed to record their thanks and appreciation to Mr M Gorringe (Interim Head of Financial Services) for all his work during the period of his short term contract.

10. HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Leader advised Council that Sebastian Duncan had recently taken up his duties as Head of Financial Services.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.