

Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of the Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the Principal Committee Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 18 July 2006 at 6.30 pm.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hindley)

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Hayward)

Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Beaven, Mrs Biscoe, Bishop, Bowrah, Mrs Bradley, Cavill, Miss Cavill, Clark, Coles, Croad, Davies, Durdan, Floyd, Garner, Govier, Hall, Henley, C Hill, Mrs Marie Hill, Mrs Marcia Hill, Lees, Leighton, Lisgo, Meikle, Morrell, Phillips, Prior-Sankey, Slattery, Mrs Smith, P Smith, Vail, Wedderkopp, Weston, Mrs Whitmarsh and Williams.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2006 were taken as read and were signed by the Mayor.

2. Apologies

Councillors Bone, C Cluff, Mrs Cluff, Denington, Edwards, House, Mrs Lewin-Harris, Mullins, Murphy, Paul, Stuart-Thorn, Watson and Mrs Wilson.

3. Communications

Councillor Williams referred to a recent visit to the Authority by representatives of H M Treasury and the Department of Communities and Local Government. This was a fact-finding visit by the representatives and Taunton Deane were one of only eight Councils within the country that were to be visited. Councillor Williams commended partner organisations and the Council's Officers for the way in which the programme had been put together and the efficient manner in which this visit had taken place.

4. Vision for Taunton

Council received a presentation from Ian Franklin, Vision Delivery Team Project Director, together with Richard Gould, Chief Executive, Somerset County Cricket Club and Robert Miles, Director of the Brewhouse Theatre regarding the present position of the Vision for Taunton. Progress, to-date, of a number of different aspects of the Vision were reported.

(Councillor Prior-Sankey declared a personal interest in the above item, as a member of both Somerset County Council and South West Regional Assembly.)

5. **Recommendations to Council from the Executive**

(a) **Performance Monitoring Outturn Report on 2005/08, Corporate Strategy 2005/06, Financial Outturn and 2005/06 Performance Indicators**

Reported that the Executive had considered a report which gave an update on the outturn position for the Authority on revenue and capital expenditure. The General Fund Revenue Outturn showed an underspend of £45,000 when compared with the current budget. It was suggested that this underspend be used towards potential additional concessionary travel costs within 2006/07. The current level of take-up of free bus passes for 2006/07 indicated that costs were likely to exceed the amount allocated in the budget.

RESOLVED that the General Fund underspend of £44,764 be earmarked for potential additional concessionary travel costs within 2006/07.

(b) **Virement Request to Council**

Following consideration of an exempt report by the Executive, Council had been recommended to approve various virements between budgets.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The virement of the CCTV budget from Planning, Policy and Transportation Portfolio to the Community Development Portfolio be agreed; and
- (ii) The virement of the Capital budget for the proposed purchase of land at Bishops Hull from the Leisure Portfolio to the Economic Development Portfolio and the use of these monies for the purchasing of land at Bishops Hull or for Vision for Taunton capital purposes be agreed.

(c) **Corporate Services - Support to Corporate Project Teams**

Consideration was given to the making of a Supplementary Estimate from General Fund Reserves of £56,530 to fund temporary additional staffing resources within the Personnel and Financial Services Units. This was necessary to enable support to Corporate projects (ISiS, Housing Stock Transfer, Vision etc) to continue. It was envisaged that these arrangements would be required for a period of 12 months.

RESOLVED that a Supplementary Estimate from General Fund reserves of £56,530 be made to fund these posts for a period of 12 months.

(Councillor Henley declared a personal interest in relation to ISiS as a member of Somerset County Council. Councillor Prior-Sankey declared a personal interest in relation to ISiS and Waste Management as a member of Somerset County Council.)

(d) **Annual Report 2006/07**

The Council were required to produce an annual report (or performance plan) which articulated its proposals for improvement for the coming year including how weaknesses would be addressed, opportunities exploited and better outcomes delivered. The Council were also required to include outturn data and targets for BVPIs progressed against past objectives and statutory statements on workforce matters.

A more accessible Annual Report was published this year and was linked to an appendix of performance indicators and the previously published Corporate Strategy 2006/2009.

The Review Board had scrutinised the Annual Report at its meeting on 8 June 2006 and had recommended that it be approved. A copy of the report had also been sent separately to all Councillors.

RESOLVED that the Annual Report be agreed.

6. **Questions to and Reports of the Leader of the Council and Executive Councillors**

The following reports were made to the Council on the main items of current and future business:

(i) **Leader of the Council (Councillor Williams)**

Councillor Williams' report covered the following topics:

- LGA Annual Conference and its speakers.
- Wellington Retail Survey.
- Economic Developments in Wellington.
- Ballot for Housing Stock Transfer.
- Annual Report of the Council.
- Relocation of the Livestock Market.
- Affordable Housing.
- Vision for Taunton.
- Redevelopment or Relocation of UKHO.
- Elton John Concert.

(ii) **Resources (Councillor Hall)**

Councillor Hall submitted his report which covered the following areas:

- ISiS (Improving Services in Somerset).
- Procurement.
- Corporate Property Services.
- Member Services.
- Financial Services.
- Revenues.
- Personnel.
- Information Systems.

(Councillor Henley declared a personal and prejudicial interest as an employee of the Department of Works and Pensions.)

(iii) **Community Leadership (Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris)** submitted by Councillor Williams in Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris' absence

Councillor Mrs Lewin-Harris' report drew attention to the following:

- Local Strategic Partnership.
- Crime and Disorder Partnership.
- CPA Use of Resources.
- Annual Report.
- Scrutiny.

(iv) **Planning, Policy and Transportation (Councillor Bishop)**

The report from Councillor Bishop dealt with activities taking place in the following areas:

- Regional Spatial Strategy.
- Transportation Issues.
- Talking Tomorrow's Taunton Deane.
- E-Planning Criteria, Changes and Planning Delivery Grant
- Circular 1/2006.

(Councillor Prior-Sankey declared a personal interest in matters relating to Transportation and the Regional Spatial Strategy as a Member of Somerset County Council and the South West Regional Assembly.)

(v) **Environmental Services (Councillor Mrs Bradley)**

The report from Councillor Mrs Bradley drew attention to developments in the following areas:

- Licensing.
- Health and Safety.

- Food Safety.
- Environmental Protection.
- Environmental Health.
- Waste and Recycling Services.

(vi) **Economic Asset Management and Tourism (Councillor Cavill)**

The report from Councillor Cavill covered:

- Asset Management.
- Tourism and TIC.
- Economic Development.
- Community Arts.

(vii) **Leisure, Arts and Culture (Councillor Clark)**

The report from Councillor Clark provided information on the following areas within his portfolio:

- Arts and Culture.
- Park Events.
- Grant Aid.
- Wellington Open Spaces.
- Youth Facilities.
- Use of Public Open Spaces for Events.
- Beechgrove Playing Field.
- Blackbrook Tennis Centre.
- Taunton Green MUGA.
- Tone Leisure Limited Activities.
- Plans for the Future.

(Councillors Prior-Sankey and Williams declared personal interests in any discussion relating to Taunton Flower Show as Members of the Taunton Flower Show.)

(viii) **Housing Services (Councillor Garner)**

Councillor Garner's report focused on two areas within the Housing Portfolio. The first provided the usual update on Housing Stock Options and the second updated Councillors on the position regarding affordable housing.

(ix) **Communications (Councillor Leighton)**

Councillor Leighton submitted her report which drew attention to the following:

- Your Council, Your Views Consultation.
- Information Management.
- Public Relations and Media Relations.

- Marketing.
- Annual Report.

7. **Social Network Payment to the Post Office Limited**

On the motion of Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Cavill, it was RESOLVED that Taunton Deane Borough Council fully support Post Watch in its aims to persuade Government to retain the social network payment as made to the Post Office Limited to support rural Post Offices. This was scheduled to expire in March 2008 and decisions regarding the continuance of this were to be made in the Autumn of this year. The Council strongly urged the Government to consider providing support to ensure that this vital rural community facility could continue. Without support, large numbers of rural Post Offices would be financially disadvantaged and the likelihood was that closure would follow. This would not be good for the community or, in fact, the Government's own strongly promoted sustainability programme.

(Councillors Mrs Allgrove and Bishop declared personal interest in this item as members of TA Postwatch).

(The following Councillors left the meeting at the times indicated - Councillor Bowrah at 7.30 pm and Councillor Mrs Marcia Hill at 9.00 pm.)

(The meeting ended at 9.37 pm.)