

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Executive

Executive – 18 October 2006

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)
Councillors Bishop, Mrs Bradley, Clark, Hall, Leighton and Mrs Lewin-Harris

Officers: Mrs P James (Chief Executive), Ms J Wishlade (Strategic Director), Mr S Kendall (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager), Mr P Carter (Financial Services Manager), Mr A Higon (Scrutiny Officer and Mr G P Dyke (Member Services Manager)

Also Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hindley) and Councillor Stuart-Thorn. Mr J Dewdney (Standards Committee member)

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.)

79. Apologies

Councillors Cavill and Garner.

80. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 September and 20 September were taken as read and were signed.

81. Extension of the Young Enterprise Programme in Taunton Deane

Considered report, previously circulated regarding the possibility of an extension to the Young Enterprise programme in Taunton Deane.

This scheme was currently aimed at secondary schools and it was now proposed that it be extended to include primary schools within the Deane. The Economic Development Unit was keen to expand and extend the positive experience that students gained from entering this scheme. Efforts would be concentrated on younger children and enterprise would be promoted in particular in schools which fell in the catchment areas of North and East Taunton and North Wellington.

It was anticipated that discussions would take place with the Regional Office of Young Enterprise with a view to their developing a local programme based around their newly developed "Primary Programme". Young Enterprise programmes were based on the principle of learning by doing and brought trained volunteers from the business community into the classroom to work with the teacher and pupils. There would also be benefits in the curriculum areas of citizenship and personal development.

It was proposed to offer 20 Taunton Deane primary schools the chance to participate in the first year, 24 in the second year and 28 in the third. The Council would contract with Young Enterprise South West to deliver a

Programme for the period January 2007 to March 2010. The cost would be £5,000 per annum which would be funded from the Economic Development budgets.

This proposal had also been considered by the SPTED Review Panel and it had supported it and requested that where possible schools within North and East Taunton and North Wellington be given first option to join the scheme.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the proposal to deliver a Young Enterprise Primary Programme in schools across the Borough be agreed;
- (b) Young Enterprise be asked to concentrate efforts on recruiting primary schools to the Programme in the areas of North and East Taunton and North Wellington;
- (c) The Programme be funded at a cost of £5,000 for each of the three years 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09.⁸².

82. Museum of Somerset

Reported that Somerset County Council were leading the project to re-develop the Museum of Somerset into a vibrant visitor attraction which would significantly boost the local economy. A major funding bid of £4.8m was being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and support of partners needed to be demonstrated so that the project had the best possible chance of approval.

The vision for the Museum for Somerset was that it would unlock and interpret Somerset's rich history and heritage in an innovative and sustainable way for the benefit of Somerset people of all ages as well as for visitors to the county. The project would also support the Vision for Taunton as it would provide a focus for renewal and regeneration in the town and develop a central visitor attraction in the cultural quarter.

The objectives of the project were to:

- Increase the profile of Taunton Castle as a historic structure by telling the story of the building itself
- Improve the physical access to the building and to comply with DDA legislation
- Create public spaces for events etc
- Create display spaces to provide access to the museum collections
- To provide an experience which inspires renewed pride in Somerset and concern for its future
- To create secure temporary exhibition space to attract regional and national touring exhibitions
- To increase revenue streams through marketing, sales, visitor refreshment facilities etc.
- To greatly increase visitor numbers
- To remove current uses of the building that are inappropriate to the historic structure

- To provide increased public access to the Castle site by opening up and interpreting more of the Castle grounds including the remains of the Castle keep

The total cost of the project was £6.43m. The bid to the Heritage Lottery represented £4.8m of this, the remainder of £1.63m to be found from partner match funding. To date £55,550 had been raised, not taking into account any contribution from TDBC. Somerset County Council was underwriting the remainder at this stage. In order for the bid to HLF to succeed it was essential that key partner organisations were seen to demonstrate their support. It was felt that a capital contribution of £20,000 from this Authority would greatly assist with the success of the HLF bid and with demonstrating our support for the project. Given the restricted amount of capital reserves available this would need to be financed from General Fund reserves.

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to demonstrate its support for the Museum for Somerset project and agree a capital contribution of £20,000 towards the project. Finance for this would be sourced from a Supplementary Estimate from General Fund reserves.

83. Pension Changes and the implications for Taunton Deane

RESOLVED that in view of the recent Government decision to delay determination of this issue this report be deferred in order to allow further detailed consultation with UNISON and the Staff Side.

84. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the item numbered 8 on the agenda as it contained exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12a to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public

85. Wellington Cemetery – Task and Finish Review

As part of the Council's revised way of working in relation to Overview and Scrutiny a Task and Finish Review had been undertaken in relation to the Wellington Cemetery. The Review Group, which comprised representatives from both this Council and the Wellington Town Council and supported by appropriate officers had looked into concerns raised by the Town Council in the light of the knowledge that the cemetery had approximately 10 years of burial space remaining.

The aims of the Group had been to fully investigate the options available for dealing with the problem of space running out for burials in

the cemetery and to recommend solutions which might alleviate the problem.

Details were submitted of the evidence taken during the review together with a summary of the Group's findings. The recommendations it made following the review were submitted in detail.

Whilst being supportive of the general aspirations of the Group, the Executive felt it was necessary to investigate further the implications, particularly the financial ones, of the recommendations before this matter was taken further.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group be supported in principle;
- (ii) CMT and the appropriate officers examine the best way forward after undertaking further research into the detail of the recommendations, particularly the financial implications.

(The meeting ended at 7p.m.)