

## Executive - 22 October 2003

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)  
Councillors Bishop, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Bryant, N Cavill, Edwards, Hall and Mrs Lewin-Harris

Officers: Mrs P James (Chief Executive), Ms S Adam (Head of Finance), Ms J Dickinson (Head of Commercial Services), Mrs J Jackson (Senior Solicitor), Mr C Gunn (Principal Computer Auditor), Mrs N Heal (Public Relations Officer) and Mr G P Dyke (Members Services Manager)

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Croad, Henley, Lisgo, Trollope and Wedderkopp

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm).

### 43. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 24 September 2003 were taken as read and were signed.

### 44. Public Question Time

The Chair (Councillor Williams) confirmed that any questions in relation to Craig Lea should be restricted to the proposed Compulsory Purchase Order and its possible funding. The merits of whether or not the footpath should be re-opened had been discussed in detail by the Planning Committee. This aspect of the issue would not be considered by the Executive.

- a) David Trathen, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Craig Lea, speaking on behalf of 32 properties in the area felt that a C.P.O. to re-open the footpath would not succeed. Any local inquiry would be costly. He asked that no Council Tax payers money be spent on funding any such inquiry.
- b) Jefferson Horsley felt that the decision of the Planning Committee would right a wrong. He asked the Executive to consider carefully if the necessary finance was available. He also drew attention to the need to ensure that the Transport Strategy made sense.

### 45. Proposed Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of Footpath Link at Craig Lea, Taunton

At its meeting on 30 July 2003, the Planning Committee recommended to the Executive that a Compulsory Purchase Order be made under the Town and Country Planning Act to acquire a piece of land at Craig Lea, Taunton to enable the footpath link to be re-established. A request was also made to the Council for a Supplementary Estimate of £5,000 to finance the making of the proposed Order.

Following the initial consideration by the Planning Committee, two further factors arose, on the basis of which the responsible Executive Portfolio Holder had referred the matter back to the Planning Committee for further reconsideration. These issues were the receipt of a further representation from the police and concerns that had arisen over the likely cost.

At its meeting on 1 October 2003, the Planning Committee considered these issues but endorsed the recommendation made to the Executive at the meeting on 30 July 2003. Consideration was therefore given to this recommendation. It was pointed out that if it was decided to agree to the request to make a Compulsory Purchase Order, the cost, estimated at £5,000, could be found from within existing budgets and a Supplementary Estimate would not be required.

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the recommendation of the Planning Committee be agreed and the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order be authorised under Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to acquire the land comprising the former footpath link adjacent to 36 Craig Lea, Taunton to secure a public footpath link between Craig Lea and the adjacent public footpath and to secure the objectives of RPG 10 and PPG 13 Policies STR 1 and 42 of the Somerset and Exmoor National Park Structure Plan Review and Policy H1 of the Taunton Deane Local Plan Revised Deposit which was necessary to achieve the proper planning of the area; and
- (b) the cost of the Compulsory Purchase Procedure be funded from within existing budgets.

46. Local Public Service Agreement - The Cost Effectiveness Target

Reported that the Local Public Service Agreement was an agreement between the Government and the Somerset County Council whereby the County Council undertook to achieve more demanding stretched performance targets than those that would normally be expected in the absence of the LPSA.

These targets covered a wide range of services, including those service areas which would require partnership working between the county and district councils. The Somerset LPSA covered a three year period from April 2003 to March 2006. The LPSA had now been finalised and final targets agreed, including the indicators to be considered for the cost effectiveness target.

Details of the final targets for the Somerset LPSA were submitted, together with details of how Taunton Deane would influence the outcome.

The cost effectiveness target, one of the 12 performance targets in the LPSA, was to ensure continuous improvement in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of local services through annual improvement of at least 2%.

Corporate Management Team had selected measures that summarised the Council's plans to improve service delivery but at the same time covered the breadth of the Council's activities. Details were submitted.

The maximum performance reward grant an Authority could achieve was 2.5% of its net budget. This sum would be payable as a one off grant in 2006/07 and 2007/08 at the end of the LPSA period. Although there was a possibility of securing performance reward grant of up to approximately £290,000 in total, it was recognised that this was very unlikely. It was therefore anticipated that any grant received would be significantly lower.

RESOLVED that the report together with the final targets of the LPSA be noted.

47. Implementing Electronic Government Return 2003 (IEG 3)

As part of the modernisation agenda, the Government had encouraged local government to improve by making services available electronically. The Government had set a target for all local government services to be capable of being delivered electronically by the end of 2005. In support of this, the Government had offered some funding to support Authorities who had robust plans and could demonstrate progress.

For the last two years, the Government had provided £200,000 per year in support of this Council's plans for implementing electronic government. It was hoped that a further £200,000 would be available to Authorities submitting a satisfactory IEG 3 Return.

The draft of this Council's IEG 3 Return was submitted and considered, together with the checklist for Councillors and Chief Executives which the Government required to be circulated.

RESOLVED that the IEG 3 Return as submitted be agreed.

48. Leisure Trust

Submitted report previously circulated which sought approval of both the Memorandum and Articles of Association of Tone Leisure (South West). The report also provided a brief update on progress towards the transfer of the Council's leisure assets to Tone Leisure in January 2004.

The Memorandum of Association of Tone Leisure (South West) set out the objects of the company, its powers and how it might use the income and property of the company. The Articles of Association dealt broadly with the rules of the company and with trustee and member issues. It covered the make-up of the Board, the holding and proceedings of general meetings, the appointment of and roles and responsibilities of trustees and various procedural issues.

A copy of both documents were submitted and discussed in detail. A number of minor issues were raised which required qualification or clarification. Once agreed,

they would be considered by the Shadow Board of the Trust in conjunction with their legal advisers.

Details of general progress made and the outstanding issues that were still to be dealt with were submitted. It was hoped to resolve the outstanding issues before the next meeting of the Executive to allow all of the remaining key documents to be submitted for approval. If this was not possible, a special meeting of the Executive prior to Full Council in December, might be required.

Full Council would be asked in December to approve the first year's grant. The Council would effectively be agreeing part of the 2004/05 budget ahead of full consideration of the total budget proposals. In future years, business planning for the Trust and approval of the Council's budget would be aligned.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the Memorandum of Association be agreed;
- (2) the Articles of Association be agreed; and
- (3) the process of the Project be noted.

(The meeting ended at 7.17 pm).

### **Executive – 4 November 2003**

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman).  
Councillors Bishop, Mrs Bryant, N Cavill, Garner, Hall and  
Mrs Lewin-Harris.

Officers: Mrs P James (Chief Executive), Ms S Adam (Head of Finance),  
Mr R Willoughby-Foster (Forward Plan and Regeneration Manager)  
and Mr A Melhuish (Review Support Officer).

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Cluff, Gill, Hayward, Lees, Morrell, Paul,  
Miss Peppard, Trollope, Watson and Mrs Whitmarsh.

(The meeting commenced at 7.20pm).

49. Apology

Councillor Edwards.

50. Proposed Improvements to Station Road/Priory Bridge Road Junction

Reported that at its meeting on 4 November 2003, the Strategic Planning, Transportation and Economic Development Review Panel had considered a number of options for improving the Station Road/Priory Bridge Road junction in partnership with Somerset County Council. After careful consideration the Review Panel had agreed to recommend the Executive to support Option A+ as the preferred choice together with the virement of £15,000 as a contribution to the overall costs of the scheme.

Noted that if it was decided to agree to the request to make a contribution to the scheme that the cost could be found from within existing budgets by way of a virement as part of the second quarter budget monitoring process.

RESOLVED that Option A+ be endorsed as the way of improving the Station Road/Priory Bridge Road junction and that the contribution required of £15,000 be funded from within existing budgets by way of a virement.

(The meeting finished at 7.25pm.)