

Executive – 25 August 2004

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

Officers: Miss S Adam (Head of Finance), Mrs A Templeton (Business
Development Manager) and Mr A Melhuish (Review Support Officer).

Also Present: Councillor Henley.

(The meeting commenced at 6.20pm.)

42. Apologies

Councillors Mrs Bradley and Garner.

43. Public Question Time

Mr Harris asked the following questions:-

- (1) “Why was the Council continuing to treat Mr Robins unfairly by not allowing him to enter the Deane House, despite receiving an apology from him? Why had the Council not replied to Mr Robins letter of 29 July 2004 concerning his ban?”
- (2) “Could Councillor Williams explain why there was a requirement that the meter cupboard door at 47 South Street, Taunton be top hung?”

Councillor Williams replied that although a form of apology had been received from Mr Robins, conditions were attached to it. Councillor Williams pointed out that Mr Robins was banned from the building as he had behaved in an unacceptable manner and that all attempts by the Council to move this situation forward had not been met with any support from Mr Robins. He further replied that there had been considerable correspondence regarding the top hung door on the electrical cupboard at 47 South Street, Taunton. This matter would not be resolved until Mr Robins co-operated fully with officers to allow access to the property so that a full inspection can be carried out.

Councillor Henley as a member of the public asked the following questions:-

- (1) Housing Stock Options Transfer
“Could Councillor Williams advise him why tenants were only being given the option to a yes vote regarding the housing stock transfer? why was the Council selling each property for £6,000?, what were the campaign costs and why were tenants not being allowed to consider all four options?”

Councillor Williams replied that the option being put to tenants concerning a yes vote was as a result of extensive work carried out by the Councils advisors Pricewaterhouse Coopers who had concluded that a whole stock transfer was the only option that provided resources for the short, medium and long term investment in the stock. The selling price of each property had been calculated to reflect an external validation survey that had been carried out that predicted that the Council would not have sufficient resources to maintain the housing stock the level required by the Decent Homes Standard after 2010. The costs associated with the housing stock transfer would be in the region of £400,000 and had been included in the Council's budget.

(2) Green Box Recycling Scheme

“Could Councillor Edwards advise him why boxes in his area had not been emptied and when the scheme would be extended throughout Taunton Deane?”

Councillor Edwards replied that some properties had not received a collection on their allocated day. Following this an extra team visited the area to collect any boxes that had been left out and residents were sent a letter advising them that a further collection would take place and details of the normal collection day. He confirmed that the scheme would be introduced in the autumn once any problems had been resolved. He also read out a letter from the Minister for the Environment which praised the Council for meeting its recycling target of 18% for 2003/2004.

(3) Open Space at Lillebonne Close, Wellington

“Could Councillor Mrs Bradley advise why residents and Councillors had not been informed of proposals to site a shelter on “The Mound” area at Lillebonne Close?”

Mr P Drohan and Mrs Hellings, residents of Lillebonne Close also asked a number of questions regarding “The Mound” area in particular the fact that football posts had been erected without any consultation with local residents concerning their location. They also expressed their concerns regarding the lack of consultation concerning the proposed siting of the shelter.

Councillor Williams replied that this was a proposal that was being carried out by the Councils Parks Department and Housing Section and that he would investigate this matter and provide a full response to Mr Drohan and Mrs Hellings in writing.

44. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 21 July 2004 were taken as read and were signed.

45. Review of the Corporate Strategy 2004/2007

Submitted report previously circulated regarding the Corporate Strategy.

The Corporate Strategy was reviewed on an annual basis and informed the content of the Heads of Service and Team Plans. It was also used to determine the allocation of resources across the Council through the Medium Term Financial Plan and service budgets.

The Corporate Strategy was published in June 2004 together with the Performance Plan. Through a series of workshops and meetings with the Senior Management Team, Corporate Management Team and the Review Board the objectives and outcomes of the Corporate Strategy's ETCHED Action Plan were determined for each year to 2007/2008. The ETCHED Action Plan was submitted for the information of the Executive.

Noted that delivering the Vision for Taunton remained the Council's highest priority, followed by working with partners to tackle transport issues, tackling anti-social behaviour and housing.

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended that the Corporate Strategy ETCHED Action Plan 2004/2007 be agreed.

(The meeting ended at 7.11pm.)