

## **Executive – 10 June 2015**

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)  
Councillors Beale, Berry, Habgood, Mrs Herbert, Parrish and  
Mrs Warmington

Officers: Shirlene Adam (Director – Operations), James Barrah (Director – Housing  
and Communities), Tom Gilham (Assistant Director - Property and  
Development), Chris Hall (Assistant Director – Operational Delivery) and  
Richard Bryant (Democratic Services Manager)

Also present: Councillors Coles and Morrell

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm.)

### **28. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the new Members of the Executive to their first meeting.

### **29. Apology**

Councillors Edwards.

### **30. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 11 March 2015, copies of which had been circulated, were taken as read and were signed.

### **31. Public Question Time**

Councillor Morrell enquired when the Forward Strategy for the new Council was due to be published. He also referred to the Key Performance Indicators which had been agreed following the implementation of the Joint Management and Shared Services arrangements with West Somerset Council 18 months ago. When would the information as to whether the benchmarks were being met be available to Councillors?

Councillor Williams undertook to provide Councillor Morrell with a written response.

### **32. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Herbert declared a personal interest as an employee of the Department of Work and Pensions.

### **33. Executive Forward Plan**

Submitted for information the Forward Plan of the Executive over the next few months.

**Resolved** that the Forward Plan be noted.

34. **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**Resolved** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Clause 3 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.

35. **Proposed Relocation of Deane DLO (Direct Labour Organisation) Facilities**

Reference Minute No.12/2015, considered report previously circulated, as to the proposed relocation of the Deane DLO facilities from its current site at Priory Way, Taunton.

A preferred site had now been identified and the support of the Executive was now sought to move to the next stage of the project by way of the following:-

- (a) Obtaining agreement for the preferred site;
- (b) Seeking the necessary funding to progress further due diligence work on the associated business case for land purchase and development; and
- (c) Obtaining permission to enter into commercial negotiations and to progress early legal work necessary in support of the final business case.

The preferred alternative DLO site had been selected from a short-list of six. It had been independently assessed and identified as offering best value for money for the Council.

The site offered for sale exceeded the land required for the DLO requirements. If successfully acquired, this would present a significant opportunity for the Council to meet both our primary and immediate need to relocate the DLO but would also unlock an important employment site recognised within our strategic plans and prioritised for delivery as an investment prospect within Taunton's Growth and Development programme.

Reported that the next steps would be to confirm that the developable land was suitable for construction for its intended use, negotiate contract terms with the vendor, clarify our build specification and identify potential builder and project management resources.

It was anticipated that a further report would be submitted to the Executive later in the year for final approval, making formal recommendations to purchase the preferred site based on a more detailed business case.

**Resolved that:-**

- (a) The site identified as the preferred option be approved;
- (b) The relevant officers be authorised to enter into commercial discussions and to progress the appropriate legal work to facilitate the development of a business case for the Deane DLO relocation, and the additional employment land opportunity; and
- (c) A budget of £55,000 (£22,000 from the Deane DLO reserve and £33,000 from the Growth Fund Reserve (New Homes Bonus)) be approved to meet the costs of progressing the relocation project.

(The meeting ended at 6.58 p.m.)