

EXECUTIVE

MINUTES

TUESDAY 9 JULY 2019
GIPPING ROOM, GRAFTON HOUSE
6.00 PM

Present: D Ellesmere (Leader), B Rudkin (Deputy Leader), S Barber, M Cook, C Jones, N MacDonald, S Meudec, P Smart and I Fisher

18. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Ross.

19. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 be signed as a true record.

20. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

It was RESOLVED:

that the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda.

21. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

22. E/19/09 Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

22.1 Councillor Jones introduced the report, explaining that as well as setting out the strategy for improving Ipswich's Public Realm the document identified a list of potential projects. The Council had allocated £3 million to these projects and work to plan the rejuvenation of Arras Square was already underway following the public support for that scheme during the very successful consultation.

22.2 Councillor Jones thanked officers for their work in preparing the document and for running an engaging consultation.

It was RESOLVED:

- a) **that Option 1, as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report, be approved and that the draft Ipswich Town Centre and Waterfront Public Realm Strategy Supplementary Planning Document be approved for referral to Full Council for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document.**

Reason: To support the implementation of adopted Local Plan policies and the enhancement of the public realm of the project area.

- b) **that the Planning and Development Operations Manager be authorised to make minor changes to the wording or layout of the documents referred to in resolution a), up to and during the time of publication on the IBC website, provided that the changes do not materially change the meaning of the adopted document.**

Reason: In order to ensure a fully accessible and attractively formatted document is available for use by the general public.

23. E/19/10 Urban Characterisation Study Supplementary Planning Documents

23.1 Councillor Jones introduced the report, explaining that, if approved, the three Supplementary Planning Documents would mean that the whole Borough of Ipswich was described either through a Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan or through an Urban Characterisation Study, which Councillor Jones commented would be a great achievement. Councillor Jones explained that the documents would be of great value to developers and also interesting to residents.

23.2 Councillor Rudkin commented that the Urban Characterisation Studies were very interesting for residents and suggested that once adopted they be publicised.

It was RESOLVED:

- c) **that Option 1, as described in paragraph 4.1 of the report, be approved and that the three Urban Characterisation Study Supplementary Planning Documents be approved for adoption and referred to Full Council for formal adoption.**

Reason: To support the implementation of adopted Local Plan policies.

- d) **that the Planning and Development Operations Manager be authorised to make minor changes to the wording or layout of the documents referred to in resolution a), up to and during the time of publication on the IBC**

website, provided that the changes do not materially change the meaning of the adopted document.

Reason: The Planning Policy team are working on the preparation of a new Local Plan and site allocations. The eventual adoption of the Local Plan may influence specific wording or policy numbers referred to in the adopted documents and therefore alterations to the document could be improved in wording and layout terms without impacting on meaning. This recommendation will provide the Planning and Development Operations Manager with the ability to undertake any such changes.

24. E/19/11 Draft Suffolk Coast European Sites Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document for Public Consultation

24.1 Councillor Jones introduced the report, noting that the draft Supplementary Planning Document had been jointly produced by Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid-Suffolk District and East Suffolk Councils. It was proposed to consult on the draft document, including consulting on the proposed tariff which would equate to £121.89 per new dwelling in Ipswich. Councillor Jones explained that this tariff would save developers from significant amounts of exploratory work and so represented good value.

It was RESOLVED:

e) that Option 1, paragraph 4.1 of the report, be approved for public consultation on the draft Suffolk Coast European Sites Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document for at least six weeks starting in July 2019.

Reason: To formalise the status of the Strategy and ensure that new residential development adequately mitigates for its potential effects on European designated sites.

f) that the Planning and Development Operations Manager be authorised to make minor changes to the wording or layout of the draft Supplementary Planning Document up to the start of the consultation period, provided that the changes do not materially alter the meaning of the consultation documents.

Reason: Prior to the start of the consultation period, officers may identify areas where the document could be improved in wording and layout without affecting its meaning. This recommendation will provide the Planning and Development Operations Manager with the ability to undertake any such changes.

25. E/19/12 Seeds for Change Fund

25.1 Councillor Ellesmere introduced the report, explaining that following the death of Tavis Spencer-Aitkens Ipswich Borough Council had agreed to make funding available to try to deal with some of the root causes of gang violence. A reference group called Race for Change had been set up to spend the money

allocated to the Priory Heath Ward but this had taken time and so an underspend had accrued. It was likely that there would also be underspends from the other 2 areas to which funding had been allocated and so it was proposed to pool this money and use it as seedcorn funding for community groups to set up new projects across Ipswich. Councillor Ellesmere explained that it was hoped to make the application process simple in order to encourage bids from those who might otherwise be put off from applying.

- 25.2 Councillor Fisher queried whether a further report would be brought to Executive to agree the governance arrangements for the fund, and suggested that the availability of the fund be restricted to those areas which did not already have specific Council funding. Councillor Fisher also asked what the maximum grant was proposed to be and whether any of the fund would be sent on Council officer time.
- 25.3 The Chief Operating Officer, Helen Pluck, explained that the governance principles were outlined in the report, and suggested that the Councillors involved would depend on the nature of bids received, for example, if a small project only affected one Ward, then it would probably be determined by the Ward Councillors, whilst a larger project might be determined by the relevant Portfolio Holder. Councillors' roles within the process would be notified to them. The Chief Operating Officer noted that the governance principles said that projects would not be funded if they could be fully funded elsewhere or were already operating. In line with the ambition to attract a wide range of bids, no maximum grant had yet been set. The Chief Operating Officer confirmed that the fund was not intended to be spent on officer time.

It was RESOLVED:

that the creation of the Seeds For Change Fund, as outlined in the report, be approved and that the Chief Operating Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holders for Public Protection and Communities, be authorised to set up and manage the fund.

Reason: To provide funding for projects that will make a difference to young people living in Ipswich.

26. E/19/13 Proposal to Declare a Climate Emergency and Commit to Action to Achieve Carbon Neutrality

- 26.1 Councillor P Smart introduced the report, explaining that 'Climate Emergencies' had been declared by a number of Councils to show their concern over the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's findings which recognise the adverse global impact of the changing climate. Councillor Smart explained that the decision to make the declaration was being brought to Executive to enable it to be taken quickly and to allow for action to be agreed.
- 26.2 Councillor Smart commented that declaring a 'Climate Emergency' would only be the beginning of a large amount of work to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. A cross party working group would be created to draft a Climate Change

Strategy and Action Plan. Councillor Smart explained some of the projects which the Council had already undertaken to reduce its carbon footprint and noted that the report proposed £100,000 per annum of capital expenditure to fund the plan, as well as £50,000 to fund officer support in developing the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

- 26.3 In accordance with Standing Orders Part 3 Section 3 Paragraph 3.5, the following questions were asked:

Question 1 – Councillor Holmes

‘Why has the Executive not put forward this proposal as a declaration for the full Council which is the position taken by the other councils, including Suffolk County Council, mentioned in the Report, which have declared climate emergencies?’

- 26.4 Councillor Smart explained that it had been felt that the proposal needed action at the earliest opportunity and so rather than waiting for a debate at the next meeting of Council a report had been brought to Executive. Councillor Smart commented that the benefit of the report being considered by Executive was that resources could be allocated and stated that Ipswich was no less committed than other Councils.

Question 2 – Councillor Holmes

Can the Executive confirm that any Action Plan under this proposed Strategy will contain robust performance and monitoring procedures thereby avoiding the failures evident in other related strategies, for example in modal shift in transport or the Clean Air Strategy, which although promising change have achieved no measurable improvement or even seen declines in standards?

- 26.5 Councillor Smart confirmed that Performance and Monitoring would be an important part of the Action Plan.

Question 3 – Councillor Holmes

Given this Council’s commitment to building more social housing over the proposed plan period, should not the Executive now change its policy on construction standards and insist such housing is built to a zero or net zero carbon specification?

- 26.6 Councillor Smart noted that a similar question had been answered at the previous Executive meeting. Councillor Smart confirmed that the Council built homes to Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes but that it couldn’t force other builders to do so. Councillor Smart commented that all options, such as this proposal, could be considered as part of the process of agreeing the Action Plan but noted that there would have to be some trade-offs about what was included in the Action Plan.
- 26.7 Councillor Fisher asked whether the target of Carbon Neutrality by 2030 covered the Council’s Wholly Owned Companies. Councillor Fisher commented that a number of the initiatives implemented elsewhere listed in paragraph 2.8 of the report had been suggested by Councillors previously and that the

- changes to garden waste collections did not help the Council to achieve its carbon neutral aspirations. Councillor Fisher also expressed concern that the declaration was being made at Executive rather than at Council.
- 26.8 Councillor Ellesmere explained that the target of Carbon Neutrality by 2030 covered the Council's operations. Councillor Smart commented that it was important that only the Council's operations and not those of, for example, Ipswich Buses Ltd, were included as this would mean that progress would be comparable with other district and borough authorities.
- 26.9 Councillor Smart noted that the changes to garden waste collections meant that Ipswich had the same arrangements as other councils in Suffolk, except that in Ipswich brown bins were collected for free. Councillor Smart noted that the cost of maintaining the previous arrangements were prohibitively high.
- 26.10 Councillor Fisher suggested that the new Upper Orwell Street (North) car park, discussed elsewhere on the agenda, be restricted to electric vehicles. Councillor Ellesmere explained that the car park was being opened to enable the development of a new school and that if it were to be restricted to electric vehicles the wider development would be unviable, but confirmed that there would be a suitable number of charging points in the car park. Councillor Ellesmere noted that the Council had more than doubled the number of public charging points in Ipswich when it had opened Crown Car Park and that it was the largest provider of electric vehicle charging points in Ipswich by a significant margin. Councillor Ellesmere commented that the provision of electric vehicle charging points needed to increase broadly in line with the number of electric vehicles on the roads.
- 26.11 Councillor Rudkin commented that the availability of the Upper Orwell Street (North) car park to petrol, diesel and LPG cars was important to ensure road safety near the new school, which she hoped would encourage people to travel there more sustainably.
- 26.12 Councillor Jones said that it was important that the Council was calling on the government to make resources available to help achieve climate neutrality, commenting that there needed to be huge investment in public transport and cycling infrastructure to break many people's dependency on their cars.
- 26.13 Councillor Ellesmere commented that the Council had a good record on reducing its Carbon footprint and said that this report would allow for further significant improvements.

It was RESOLVED:

- g) that Ipswich Borough Council declare a Climate Emergency and that the Council starts working towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030.**

Reason: To confirm its continued commitment to achieving a reduction in carbon emissions and delivering the aims of the Building A Better Ipswich 2017 Corporate Plan.

- h) **that Executive calls on the UK Government to provide guidance and the powers and resources to make carbon neutrality possible.**

Reason: The government has a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and support local authorities commitments to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

- i) **that a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan be developed, with a cross party working group and the necessary officer support to assist with investigative work, drafting the plan and the delivery of early projects. This plan was to be presented to Executive in June 2020.**

Reason: To engage with all local stakeholders to formulate and agree a robust Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan that achieves carbon neutrality by 2030.

- j) **that financial provision of £50k be made in the 2019/20 financial year for the necessary officer support to develop a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.**

Reason: To enable the costs for 2019/20 to be met.

- k) **that financial provision of £100k per annum of Capital Expenditure be made within the Medium Term Financial Plan in respect of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, commencing in the 2020/21 financial year.**

Reason: To facilitate effective budget planning.

27. E/19/14 Reserved Matters for Wholly Owned Companies

27.1 Councillor Ellesmere explained that Adam Leeder had resigned from the boards of Handford Homes, IPSERV Limited and IPSERV Direct Services Limited as a result of a change in personal circumstances. It was therefore proposed to appoint Jane Riley to the Handford Homes board and Lucy Trenchard to the IPSERV and IPSERV Direct Services boards.

It was RESOLVED:

- a) **that Jane Riley be appointed to the Board of Handford Homes Limited with immediate effect;**
b) **that Lucy Trenchard be appointed to the Board of IPSERV Limited and IPSERV Direct Services Limited with immediate effect.**

Reason: Good Governance arrangements for the Council owned companies.

28. E/19/15 Upper Orwell Street (North) Car Park - Appointment of Contractor

28.1 Councillor Barber introduced the report, noting that the car park had been discussed earlier in the meeting. Councillor Barber explained that five tenders

had been received and that it was proposed to award the contract to one of those contractors at a price which was within the allocated capital budget of £360,940.

It was RESOLVED:

that the tender submitted by the contractor listed as CM1 in exempt Appendix 2 to the report be accepted and that the Head of Development, in consultation with the Operations Manager for Legal Services, be authorised to enter into a contract with the recommended contractor, as set out in this report.

Reason: The tender submitted by the recommended civils contractor was the most economically advantageous to the Council in accordance with the criteria set out in the tender documents.

29. Exclusion of Public

It was RESOLVED:

that the public (including the Press) be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items under Regulation 21 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 as it was likely that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

30. **Unconfirmed Exempt Minutes of Previous Meeting**
31. **E/19/15 Upper Orwell Street (North) Car Park - Appointment of Contractor - Exempt Appendix**
32. **E/19/16 Disposal of land at Sproughton Enterprise Park, North West Ipswich**
33. **E/19/17 Potential Award of Contracts to IPSERV Direct Services under Regulation 12 of the Public Procurement Regulations**
34. **E/19/18 General Development Agreement - Housebuilding**
35. **E/19/19 Business Plans of Wholly Owned Companies**

The meeting closed at 6.52 pm

Chair