

COUNCIL - 14TH APRIL 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES AND THE EXECUTIVE

Minute/
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STANDARDS COMMITTEE: 9TH FEBRUARY 2011

28/439

PLANNING COMMITTEE SITE INSPECTIONS

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Committee considered a report reviewing current practice for requesting and holding planning site inspections. Appended to the report at Annex A was a copy of the existing Protocol; Annex B set out an amended Protocol for the consideration of the Committee, based upon the outcomes of a review.

The report reviewed the purpose of site inspections and included a comparative analysis of the numbers of site inspections undertaken by other Surrey authorities. It concluded that, during the past municipal year Reigate and Banstead Borough Council had held 37 site inspections, as compared with 10 by one neighbouring authority and less than five by all other Surrey local authorities who responded.

The purpose and relevance of site inspections fell into two main categories: concern about the effect of a development on the character of the area; and aspects of the development which could only be properly understood when viewed from within the site.

The amended Protocol proposed that, where a site inspection had been requested because of concerns about the character of the area, Members should make their own arrangements to view the location at their own convenience because an internal inspection of the site would not be necessary to form a view.

Formal site inspections, accompanied by an officer, would be held only where it was agreed that the implications of an application could not be fully understood without entering the site, with the Chairman retaining the prerogative of declining a request for a formal inspection if, in consultation with officers, it was deemed to be unnecessary.

In cases where a formal site inspection was necessary, the Protocol emphasised the importance of conducting the visit in a business-like manner, restricting its purpose to gathering information and avoiding any lobbying or general discussion of the application.

The revised Protocol had been endorsed by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 27th October 2010. Various issues were discussed by Members following which it was:

RECOMMENDED that the amended protocol on Planning Committee site inspections set out in Appendix B to the circulated report be adopted and incorporated in the Council's constitution with effect from 9th May 2011.

EXECUTIVE: 17TH MARCH 2011

118/520 **ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Executive received a report seeking the adoption of an annual treasury management strategy. The report set out background and relevant statutory powers, summary of the strategies, financial, legal and equalities implications, policy framework considerations, consultation undertaken and options open to the Executive.

The report summarised the strategy in 3 sections: investment, borrowing and cash management. The Executive Member for Finance outlined the major changes that were proposed around investment limits and terms.

An addendum was circulated at the meeting setting out the conclusions and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which had reviewed the draft strategy.

RECOMMENDED that the contents of the report and annexes be adopted.

RESOLVED that the conclusions and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reasons for Recommendation / Decision: To comply with the Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

Alternative Options

The following alternative options were considered and rejected:

- not support the contents of the report; or
- defer the report and ask officers to provide more information / clarification on any specific points.

[Councillor A.J. De Save joined the meeting during the above item]

123/524 **CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY**

A report was received seeking approval to a revised risk management policy and strategy. The report set out relevant statutory powers, background, consultation responses, strategic risks, options open to the Executive, legal, resource and equalities implications, consultation undertaken and policy framework considerations.

The Executive were advised that no fundamental changes had been made to the documents. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had

reviewed the policy and strategy and their comments had been incorporated.

The report included the key strategic risks that the Council would face over the next few years. These would form the basis of a strategic risk register, which would be reported to the Executive later in the year for approval.

RECOMMENDED that the revised Risk Management Strategy, as set out in annex 1 of the report, be approved.

RESOLVED that the:

- (i) consultation responses on the draft Risk Management Strategy from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, together with the comments of the Strategic Management Team and the internal auditors be noted; and
- (ii) strategic risks, as described in paragraph 6 of the report, be agreed.

Reasons for Recommendation / Decisions: The Council needs to review and update its approach to risk management on a regular basis to ensure that it is still 'fit for purpose' and reflects best practice.

Alternative Options

The following alternative option was considered and rejected:

- amend the draft strategy; or
- ask officers to undertake further work on the strategy.

125/526

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

A report was received on the review of the Council's Constitution. The report set out relevant statutory powers, the review of the Constitution, approval of delegations from 2011/12 and a summary of the proposed changes. The report also highlighted where there were significant changes to existing delegations and the reasons for them.

Member role profiles were attached as annexes 1 - 5 of the report for approval. The report outlined the different profiles and set out the options open to the Executive, legal, financial and equalities implications, consultation undertaken and policy framework considerations.

The Executive were reminded that the review of the Constitution was undertaken to align it with the new style Leader and Cabinet model of Executive decision making that the Council was moving to after the local elections in May.

Members were informed that new delegations would include a minute/approval reference. Where delegations were agreed by the Leader for Executive functions, these would be communicated to all Councillors.

There were discussions regarding the wording of some of the roles profiled, with amendments proposed, following which it was

RECOMMENDED that the:

(i) revised Officer Scheme of Delegation, circulated separately to the report, be adopted with effect from 9 May 2011 as part of the Council's Constitution; and

(ii) Member role profiles, attached as annexes 1-5 of the report, be adopted with the following amendment:

- **in the Executive Member role profile, replace 'a strategic work programme both political and statutory' with 'an agreed work programme'.**

Reasons for Recommendations: To ensure that the Constitution of the Council reflects the latest legislative framework and provides the Council with legal and effective decision making processes. Role profiles have been developed to provide support for Members and guidance for member development.

Alternative Options

The following alternative option was considered and rejected:

- reject the significant changes proposed to the scheme of delegation; or
- defer the decision and request further work be undertaken on any aspect of the proposals.

EXECUTIVE: 7TH APRIL 2011

Minutes with Recommendations to follow.

The Recommendations relate to:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2011-12
- The Harlequin Theatre Refurbishment