

EXECUTIVE

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Executive at a meeting held on Monday 19 November 2007 at 1.00 pm in the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson (Chair)
Councillors Alex Bentley
Jason Fazackarley
Terry Hall
Leo Madden
Hugh Mason
Paula Riches
Eleanor Scott

Also in Attendance

Councillor Jim Patey (non-voting member of the Executive)
Councillor Lee Hunt (in accordance with Standing Order 60)

162 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Councillor Mike Hancock CBE MP submitted his apologies for absence.

163 Declarations of Members' Interests in accordance with Standing Order 14 (AI 1)

Councillor Terry Hall declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 (Adolescent Health Programme). Councillor Hall advised that her son is a mental health nurse.

Councillor Eleanor Scott declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 8 (Adolescent Health Programme). Councillor Scott is a non-executive director of the Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Councillor Hugh Mason declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 (Concessionary Fares Scheme). Councillor Mason indicated that he was in receipt of a concessionary fares allowance.

164 Records of Decisions – Executive Meetings Held on 28 September 2007 and 12 October 2007 Respectively (AI 3)

(TAKE IN RECORDS OF DECISIONS)

DECISION:

That the records of decisions taken by the Executive at their meetings

held on 28 September 2007 and 12 October 2007 respectively be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

165 Continental Ferry Port – New Passenger Terminal (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

DECISION:

PM

RECOMMENDED to the City Council that the Port Manager be authorised to appoint a Master Planner to produce a master plan for the Continental Ferry Port using either the Port Framework Consultants or through a separate EC procurement process.

166 Review of Achievement of LPSA2 Targets (AI 5)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Members were advised of a correction to the Performance Reward Grant (PRG) figure likely to be achieved by the City Council in respect of target number 8 Improving Benefit Processing. The expected PRG was £354,600 (not £177,300 as shown). The effect of this change would be to amend figures and content elsewhere in the report, which the Executive were asked to bear in mind.

DECISION:

HStgy

1. **That the Executive notes performance towards the LPSA targets, and in particular the concerns in relation to targets 2 (violent crime), 5 (attendance), 6 (young people not in education, employment or training – NEET), 7 (teenage pregnancy), 12 (affordable homes) and 13 (volunteering);**
2. **That individual portfolio holders liaise with the relevant lead officers on progress towards specific targets, with an update on the LPSA as a whole being presented in six months time.**

167 Direction of Travel Self Assessment 2007 (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Members were advised that the Policy and Review (Performance) Panel had received a similar report of their meeting on 15 November 2007. At that meeting the 'Performance Panel had indicated that a scrutiny review was currently being carried out into emergency planning, the outcome of which could potentially require an amendment to the submission. The 'Performance Panel had also suggested that the Economic Development and Regeneration team may wish to make further enquiries in relation to the companies that had invested in the office accommodation premises mentioned in Section 4.3 of the report.

The Executive asked that prior to the final submission to the Audit Commission, officers from within the Risk Management and Emergency Planning teams be consulted.

DECISION:

- CX**
- 1. That the PCC self assessment for the 2007 CPA Direction of Travel be approved as “improving adequately”;**
 - 2. That the Chief Executive be delegated authority to make any required further amendments to the document, prior to the final submission of the document to the Audit Commission.**

168 Corporate Procurement Strategy 2007-2009 (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The Head of Procurement advised that a similar report had been considered by the Policy and Review (Performance) Panel at its meeting on 15 November 2007. The ‘Performance Panel had endorsed the report and encouraged all directorates within the City Council to support the strategy and implement the action plan.

DECISION:

- 1. That the report be noted**
- 2. That the principles outlined within the report, i.e. in accordance with the requirements contained within the National Procurement Strategy, be supported.**

169 Adolescent Health Programme: Update on progress to date and plans for 2008 (AI 8)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Members were advised that the second year of a two-year pilot scheme was just about to commence but that, of the four national “teenage health demonstration sites” selected by the Department of Health, Portsmouth was considered to be the leading authority amongst them. The Executive were assured that officers were investigating all possible ways of securing funding that would allow the programme to be mainstreamed.

DECISION:

1. **That the Executive Member for Health and Social Care acknowledge the significant achievements made by the Adolescent Health Programme to date and congratulate the partnership which has delivered new services to young people across the city;**
2. **That the Executive Member for Health and Social Care endorses the model of service delivery to young people in office, support to the prioritisation of resulting outcomes for young people and their families;**
3. **That the development plans for the second year programme be endorsed and approved;**
4. **That the mainstreaming challenges faced by the programme and the efforts undertaken by officers to identify the resources that are required to mainstream the core elements of this work be noted.**

170 Portsmouth's Parenting Support Strategy: Parents make *the* difference (AI 9)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Members noted the particular difficulties encountered by foster parents referred to in the report. They also urged officers to ensure that communications with parents used simple, clear language at all times.

The Strategic Director for Education, Children and Families reported that progress being made by the looked-after children in the City Council's care was encouraging when compared against national targets for looked-after children.

DECISION:

SD for
CFL

That the "Parenting Support Strategy: Parents make *the* Difference" be approved.

171 Connexions Transition (AI 10)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Members were advised that there were a number of issues relating to leases for premises currently occupied by Connexions staff although there was considerable support for retention of the current central Portsmouth Connexions location, immediately adjacent to the Portsmouth and Southsea Railway Station. Break clauses for the Oasis Centre and Cosham premises leases were, however, recommended to be exercised although this was to

be with effect from 2009 (not 2008 as originally anticipated) to allow more time to identify potentially suitable, alternative premises.

In response to questions, members were advised that details of the profile of the 'typical' user contacting the Cosham office had been investigated and that this had led to the suggestion that other locations in the north of the city to deliver Connexions services from should be explored. Members were further advised that subject to a decision being notified to them prior to the end of this month, the South Central Connexions Partnership would pay any costs incurred as a result of exercising the break clauses for existing leases relating to current Connexions locations.

DECISION:

1. **That the Portsmouth Connexions staff transfer to the Community Learning Section of the CFL Directorate, with Portsmouth staff working for Motiv8 and the Looked After Children team (LAC) continuing in their present roles. (9.1.1; 9.1.2)**
- SD for CFL/
City
Solicitor 2. **That the break clause in the lease for the Oasis Centre be exercised in July 2009 so that, subject to securing an appropriate alternative location, the Connexions team can be relocated in a PCC owned property from August 2009.**
3. **That the Connexions Go For It Centre at Portsmouth and Southsea railway station continues to operate. (9.2.2)**
- SD for CFL 4. **That options continue to be explored for the Cosham Go For It Centre with outcomes for the most appropriate location in the north of the city to be reported to a future meeting. (9.2.3)**
- SD for CFL 5. **That in partnership with Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight, officers explore options for the delivery of the Connexions data system and report outcomes to the Executive at a future meeting. (9.3)**
6. **That the current Connexions brand is replaced with *Portsmouth Connexions* from April 2008. (9.4)**
- SD for CFL 7. **That Portsmouth actively pursues alternative arrangements to provide the training currently provided by Connexions. (9.6.1)**
- SD for CFL 8. **That PCC strongly encourages the Connexions Personal Advisers (PAs), currently studying for their NVQ, to continue their qualification post April 2008. (9.6.2)**

9. That in partnership with Hampshire, Southampton and IOW, officers explore the option of South Central Connexions Partnership (SCCP) continuing to deliver its information and publication service. (9.7)

SD for
CFL

10. That a further report is submitted to a future meeting on progress of the outstanding issues in paragraph 9 of the report and the structure and operation of the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS);

(the above resolutions are) SUBJECT TO

City
Solicitor

(i) The City Solicitor being satisfied as to the title and liabilities of the leases held by South Central Connexions Partnership set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

City
Solicitor

(ii) The City Solicitor receiving satisfactory external legal advice regarding the eligibility for TUPE of all SCCP HQ staff as referred to in paragraph 9.5.1 of the report;

HFS

(iii) The Head of Financial Services being satisfied that there is sufficient budgetary provision for the City Council to undertake the recommendations above and to meet any shortfall arising from a TUPE transfer in respect of those staff referred to in paragraph 9.5.1 or pensions shortfall referred to in paragraph 9.8.1 of the report;

SD for
CFL

(iv) An update on progress being brought back to the earliest possible meeting of the Executive, any such report to include officers' findings in respect of (i), (ii) and (iii) immediately above.

172 Parking Standards – City Council resolution 180/06 – waivers for various properties (AI 11)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

DECISION:

RECOMMENDED that the City Council endorse the waiving of the City Council resolution of 10 October 2006 (minute 180/06) in respect of the disposals referred to in the various reports.

173 Concessionary Fares Scheme (AI 12)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Members were advised that clarification was currently being sought but it had now become apparent that the cost claimed by the Bus Operators for the past financial year (2006/2007) could potentially increase by an extra £0.3m to £0.4m.

Councillor Lee Hunt, in attendance and in accordance with Standing Order 60 indicated his concerns in relation to the financial implications of the Concessionary Fares Scheme, particularly if the take-up were to increase in the next financial year. He urged the Executive to make urgent representations to the Government regarding the cost implications of the concessionary fares scheme. He asked that the Executive defer the report for further work to be undertaken regarding the cost implications and for a full report to be taken to the City Council.

Members of the Executive indicated their concern in relation to the possible cost implications of the Concessionary Fares Scheme but emphasised that funding for travel allowances was a national problem and one that had arisen from government policy, not from decisions taken by the City Council. Executive Members also expressed their disappointment and frustration at being unable to insist upon the bus companies having to prove their claimed cost calculations. They urged officers to seek to ensure that the Bus Operators adopted a consistent approach to the recording of claimed travel journeys so that the subsequent claims were transparent and open to scrutiny.

DECISION:

- 1. The City Council welcomes the extension of the Free Bus Pass Scheme countrywide, provided that this extension is fully funded by the Government;**
- 2. The City Council urgently raises with Central Government through the LGA and MPs, as appropriate, the serious financial implications for Travel Concession Authorities of the bus operators' claims for extra funding in 2007/08 and ongoing;**
- 3. The City Council provide the statutory minimum scheme, which does not allow free travel before 9.30 am on weekdays as set out by the Government, to ensure full funding for the scheme;**
- 4. That a decision be made in December 2007 with regard to the recommendation that the value of Travel Tokens offered as an alternative to the Free Bus Pass be increased from the existing £37 to £40 per annum for eligible disabled people, but be withdrawn for all others (This to be in consultation with the Portsmouth Pensioners and the Portsmouth Disability Forum, such consultation to begin once this recommendation is approved;)**

Head of
T & SM

5. That furthermore, if the recommendation that tokens are withdrawn for non-disabled residents is approved, post consultation in December, then it is recognised that a system of appeal will be established for residents who feel unable to access Public Transport. The cost of this process will be borne by the Traffic and Transportation portfolio from existing cash limits;
6. That it be approved that residents who are registered Blind and currently able to use their pass at all times, fall in line with the times as set out in the Government Statutory minimum scheme but are compensated with an issue of tokens at the increased value of £40 in addition to the full fare Nationwide pass;
7. That Parking Vouchers continue to be offered as an option;
8. That (i) any delay from the date of December 2007 in making the decision with regard to withdrawing tokens for non disabled residents and the negative impact this will have on the timetable as set out by Central Government;

(ii) the consequence of missing this deadline being that the new smart card passes will not be able to be delivered to eligible residents before 1 April 2008 (as required by the Government) and

(iii) furthermore, that a result of the delay and the potential rush to issue passes once the parameters of the scheme are agreed will increase administration costs to be borne by Portsmouth City Council,

all be noted.

Head of
T & SM

9. That the Head of Transport and Street Management be instructed to consult with the Bus Companies to ensure transparency regarding any future claims that they make.

174 Northern Road Bridge (AI 13)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

DECISION:

Head of
T & SM

1. That approval be given for the Head of Transport and Street Management to seek Programme Entry for the replacement of Northern Road Bridge.

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|-------------------|---|
| Head of
T & SM | 2. A project manager is appointed to manage the project adopting the Council's Project Management process supplemented by any additional process required by the Department for Transport. |
| Head of
T & SM | 3. A CDM Co-ordinator is appointed in accordance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. |
| Head of
T & SM | 4. A Project Board is established in accordance with the current project management methodology. |
| | 5. £200k is identified from the integrated transport block of the Local Transport Plan to fund the option appraisal and business case for the scheme to achieve Programme Entry. |
| | 6. The future funding requirements and risks falling to the Council are noted. |
| Head of
T & SM | 7. Further Reports be brought to the Executive at Conditional Approval and Full Approval Stages. |
| | 8. The on-going inspection costs for the bridge of approximately £50,000 per annum are met through the integrated transport block of the Local Transport Plan. |

175 Policy on the Emergency Provision of Sandbags – Pluvial Flooding (AI 14)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

DECISION:

Head of T & SM	That approval is given for the emergency provision of sandbags to residents and businesses in Portsmouth as detailed in the proposed policy.
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176 Debt Rescheduling (AI 15)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

DECISION:

1. **The action taken by the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and Services under delegated powers to reschedule the Council's debt be noted;**
2. **The lower limit for the maturity structure of the Council's fixed rate debt maturing in between 5 and 10 years be revised to 0%.**

177 Update on projects referred to in the KPMG report (AI 16)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The Chief Executive briefly updated on the status of projects referred to within the KPMG report considered at the Executive Meeting on 28 September 2007 (and as outlined in the appendix to the report.) He advised that the status of each would change during the lifetime of the project but confirmed that he would ensure that the Executive received regular reports to update on progress being made. The Chief Executive also apologised to the Executive for the absence of the report referred to as item 18 on the agenda, which in turn required a slight amendment to the recommendation before the Executive.

DECISION:

That progress made in respect of each of the 14 projects outlined in Appendix 1 of the KPMG report be noted.

178 Budget and Performance Monitoring 2007/08 – To End September 2007 (AI 17)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

DECISION:

RECOMMENDED to the City Council

- 1. That the contents of the report be noted, in particular the likely impact on future years budgets and savings targets arising from lower than anticipated surpluses from the Continental Ferry Port and the possible shortfall in trades of landfill Allowances in both the current and future years and the potential additional in year and ongoing costs of the Concessionary Fares Travel Scheme;**
- 2. That the actions being taken by officers and the policy direction provided by the Administration as outlined in Section 7 of the report be endorsed.**

179 Proposed changes to Project Management following the KPMG Report (AI 18)

The Chief Executive advised that it had not been possible to conclude the intended report and that this item therefore stood deferred to a future meeting.

DECISION:

That the intended report be submitted to a future meeting.

180 Land at Fort Cumberland Road, Southsea (AI 19 & 20)

The Leader of the Council advised that in light of representations that he had received, requesting that further work on the report was required the Executive had agreed that the report should be deferred without debate.

The meeting closed at 2.10 pm.

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Chair
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson
Leader of the Council

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