

HEYWOOD TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

5th January 2009

PRESENT: Councillor McCarthy (in the Chair); Councillors Beswick, Brophy-Lee, Emmott, Lambert, Robinson, Rush and Wardle.

OFFICERS:

P. McNulty (Heywood Township Manager), D. Forrester (Head of Highways & Engineering Service), D. Beagin (Strategic Housing Service), J. Rowbottom (Finance Services), M. Ripley (Environmental Management Service), A. Glover (Planning & Regulation Service), J. Butterworth (Impact Partnership), A. Hamied (Regeneration Service), S. Birtles (Learners & Young People Service) I. Bentley (Performance & Development Service) and M. Whitehead (Legal & Democratic Services).

Also in attendance: V. Devonport (Chief Executive, Heywood NDC), Inspector Butterworth (Greater Manchester Police), C. McAteer and P. Kilkenny (Link4Life), J. Purcell (Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale PCT), Councillors Wera Hobhouse and William Hobhouse.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Bruce.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

63. In accordance with the Code of Conduct for Councillors and Co-opted Voting Members, Councillor Emmott declared a personal interest in item 9, "Environmental Improvements Programme Update – Estates managed by Rochdale Boroughwide Housing in the Heywood Township", and took no part in its consideration.

OPEN FORUM

64. The following issues were raised during the Open Forum session;

(a) Double Yellow Lines at Emmott Close

A resident of Emmott Close requested information regarding the implementation of double yellow lines along Emmott Close which she believed the Council had agreed to do five years ago.

The Township Manager reported that the Council had allocated money to a scheme five years ago but following the decision of Boots to close this site, monies had been switched to other projects. However, a Draft Order would be advertised shortly. It was proposed to implement the scheme alongside schemes on Mary Street and Taylor Street. All properties on Emmott Close would be written to with details.

(b) Collop Gate Farm

A resident of Lenten Grove requested an update on the progress the Council is making in preventing the dumping of waste material on land at Collop Gate Farm. Councillor Wardle reported that the Council had issued an Enforcement Notice on the owners of the land who subsequently had appealed against this Notice. The appeal would be heard at the Town Hall, Rochdale on 27th January 2009 and residents were encouraged to attend to air their views.

(c) Charges for Car Parking – Hospitals

In response to a resident's request regarding the charging policy at the local hospitals for car parking, the issue would be raised with the Chief Executive of the Pennine Acute Trust.

(d) **Queens Park Bridge/Penny Bridge**

A resident requested information on the progress of works and the structural safety of Penny Bridge.

The Township Manager reported that a copy of an email he had received would be circulated to all Councillors outlining the first phase of bridge repairs that would be carried out through to May 2009. It was further added that the Environmental Management Service had been informed by the Bridges Section that Penny Bridge was safe to be open again.

MINUTES

65. The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2008.

In respect to Minute 50 (c), Charges for Collection of Bulky Household Waste, it was reported that the Cabinet had rescinded its previous decision and that no charge would now be made.

In respect of Minute 50 (i) it was reported that the recent vote in the Congestion Charge Referendum had resulted in a “No” vote.

In respect to Minute 50 (h), Parking on Dunbar Grove, a letter had been dispatched to the Guinness Trust but, to date, a response had not been forthcoming. This would be pursued.

In respect to Minute 54, Township Health and Wellbeing Partnerships, it was reported that this item had been called in by two Members of Council and would be considered at a special meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 12th January 2009.

DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2008 be approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM – 10TH NOVEMBER 2008

66. **DECIDED – That the proceedings of the Open Forum at the meeting of the Township Committee held on 10th November 2008 be noted.**

HEYWOOD TOWNSHIP PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

67. **DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Heywood Township Planning Sub-Committee on 21st October and 18th November 2008 be approved.**

HEYWOOD TOWNSHIP VISION & COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE

68. **DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Heywood Township Vision & Commission Sub-Committee held on 18th November 2008 be approved.**

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY VACANCIES – LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

69. The Committee considered a report of the Head of Schools Service (HT.1/09) which outlined the current Local Authority School Governor vacancies as listed in Appendix B to the report and requested that the Township Committee make the appropriate appointments.

DECIDED – That the following appointments be made:

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Appointment</u>
Harwood Park Primary School	Deferred
Heap Bridge Village Primary School	Councillor McCarthy
St. Joseph’s R.C. Primary School	Mr. N. Maher
St. Luke’s C.E. Primary School	Councillor Rush.

Eligible for
Call-in

No

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2008 - PART OF FOOTPATH RUNNING ACROSS LAND BETWEEN PILSWORTH ROAD, HARESHILL ROAD AND GLOUCESTER AVENUE, HEYWOOD

70. The Committee considered a report of the Borough Solicitor (HT.2/08) which reported that no objections had been received in respect of the Borough of Rochdale (part of HeyFp73 running across land between Pilsworth Road, Hareshill Road and Gloucester Avenue, Heywood) Public Path Diversion Order 2008 and requesting its confirmation.

The Environment & Sustainability Portfolio Holder advised that, on signing such Orders under delegated powers, she was not aware of Township considerations being referred to within the papers. The Township Manager undertook to seek a procedural change to ensure such reference.

DECIDED – That the above mentioned Order be confirmed without modification.

No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME UPDATE – ROCHDALE BOROUGH-WIDE HOUSING IN THE HEYWOOD TOWNSHIP

71. The Committee considered a report of the Head of Strategic Housing Services (HT.3/08) which outlined the governance arrangements and progress made to date in relation to environmental improvements within estates managed by Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) in the Heywood Township.

DECIDED – That the progress to date on the environmental improvement schemes across RBH managed estates be noted.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAY PATHFINDER 2008/10

72. The Committee considered a report of the Head of Learners & Young People Service (HT.4/08) which updated the Township Committee on the implementation of the Play Pathfinder.

DECIDED – That the report be deferred to the next meeting of the Heywood Township Vision & Commission Sub-Committee which would be requested to agree the priorities for the development of four play areas for 8 to 13 year olds in the Heywood Township.

No

No

CORPORATE EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

73. The Township Committee were consulted on a report of the Head of Finance Service (CAB.141/08) which outlined the new Corporate Efficiency Statement and described its role in the Council's budget setting process, together with Minute 128 of the meeting of the Cabinet on 15th December 2008 which had given an initial consideration to the matter. The report had been referred for consultation.

Members requested clarification on the new savings 2009/10 as listed as the Blue Badge Scheme, reduction on water usage and other impact savings to be achieved. And queried whether increased income targets would be achieved.

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2009/10 TO 2011/12 UPDATE – INCLUDING FORMULA GRANTS SCHOOL FUNDING

No

74. The Township Committee were consulted on a joint report of the Executive Director (Resources) and the Head of Finance Service (CAB.142/08) which had updated the Cabinet on the 15th December 2008 on the prospects for the 2009/10 Revenue Budget following consultations on proposals approved by the Cabinet in October 2008 and the publication of the Formula Grant consultation paper and schools funding arrangements, together with Minute 129 of the meeting of the Cabinet which had referred the report for consultative purposes.

A Member commented that a review requested by this Township Committee on charges for Car Boot Sales had not been reflected in the budget.

Members expressed concerns at the proposals to withdraw the Township Capital Allocation for 2009/10.

**DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted;
(2) Cabinet be requested to reconsider the withdrawal of the Township Capital Allocation 2009/10 and to explore further funding options with a view to reinstating the £400,000 allocation to the Townships.**

No

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT DRAFT BUDGET 2009/10

75. The Committee were consulted on a joint report of the Executive Director (Resources) and Head of Strategic Housing Services (CAB.145/08) which had presented a proposed Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2009/10 together with Minute 133 of the Cabinet meeting held on 15th December 2008 which had agreed a rent increase of 6.28% for 2009/10 and increases in other charges as detailed in an Appendix to the report, as a basis for consultation.

A Member expressed concern at setting the 2009/10 actual rent increase at 6.28% and the implications this would have on low income families, and further commented on the projected increase in income from United Utilities and how this would be achieved.

DECIDED – That (1) the comments of Members be forwarded to the Cabinet;

(2) the report be noted.

No

CAR PARKING INCOME PROJECTION CHARGES REVIEW 2009/10

76. The Committee were consulted on a report of the Head of Highways & Engineering Service (CAB.143/08) which had informed the Cabinet at its meeting on 15th December 2008 of the current position on Pay & Display parking income and outlining options on charging variations in 2009/10, together with Minute 130 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15th December 2008 which had agreed there should be no increase in Pay & Display charges for 2009/10 and had asked for reports on the financial implications of this decision and on efficiencies to be gained from the NCP contract, these matters being referred for consultation.

No

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

AREA BASED GRANT 2009/10 – 2010/11

77. The Committee were consulted on a report of the Head of Regeneration Service (CAB.146/08) which had updated the Cabinet at its meeting on 15th December 2008 on the Area Based Grant and made recommendations on how the grant should be allocated for 2009/10 and 2010/11, together with Minute 134 of the Cabinet held on 15th December 2008 determining such allocation, the matter being considered by this Committee for consultative purposes.

In response to a Member's query regarding the proposed mechanism to allocate the Area Based Grant for 2009/10 to 2010/11 it was reported that a further report would be submitted which would identify areas of needs on a Ward and Township basis.

Members reiterated their previous concerns regarding the representation of the Borough's Township Committee's on the Local Strategic Partnership.

DECIDED – That the report be noted.

No

CORPORATE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (LAND AND BUILDINGS) REVISED DRAFT

78. The Committee were consulted on a report of the Strategic Property Director Impact Partnership (HT.5/08) which presented a draft of the Corporate Asset Management Plan (Land and Buildings) for consultation.

DECIDED – That (1) the Township supports;

(i) the reasons to hold land and building assets;

(ii) the objectives for its land and building assets;

(iii) the proposals for managing its land and building assets in principle as a basis to develop the proposals further;

- (iv) the Land and Buildings Asset Management Plan being proposed to Council for adoption;**
(2) the significant investment required to improve the management of assets across the Authority be noted.

No

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