

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE – 2 NOVEMBER 2010

SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2010

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

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| * Cllr Robert Knowles (Chairman) | * Cllr Stephen O’Grady |
| * Cllr Mike Band (Vice-Chairman) | * Cllr Stefan Reynolds |
| * Cllr Mrs Carole King | * Cllr Roger Steel |
| * Cllr Bryn Morgan | * Cllr Adam Taylor-Smith |
| * Cllr David Munro | * Cllr Keith Webster |
- * Present

85. MINUTES (Agenda Item 2)

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on 5 October 2010 were confirmed and signed.

86. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (Agenda Item 4)

There were no interests raised under this heading.

87. QUESTIONS (Agenda Item 5)

The Executive received the following question from Mrs Sandars of Farnham in accordance with Procedure Rule 10:-

“The Chancellor’s Spending Statement to Parliament on 20 October set out radical changes affecting social housing. We know that Housing Benefit and other benefits are to be capped and that Local Authority budgets are to be cut by almost 28% over the next four years and we were told yesterday that the Capital Budget for housing would be slashed and rents increased to 80% of market rates. A spokesman for the National Housing Federation said after that statement that ‘the outcome will be more people sleeping on floors’.

“Please would the Chairman tell me, firstly, how Waverley’s ability to provide homes for those on the Council’s waiting list will be affected by government measures – does he expect more on less names to be added to that list; does he expect more or less affordable home to be provided by the Council and, secondly, what new initiatives will the Council be looking for to mitigate the dreadful problems for those of our fellow citizens in Waverley who so need social/affordable housing?”

The Leader responded initially, followed by the response by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, as follows:-

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to put some of the problems that our tenants in this Council have suffered during the 13 years of labour misrule. Many of the dreadful problems you refer to in the question

are a direct result of Labour chancellor Gordon Brown who, even in the good years, ran a budget which in every year was in deficit. You will be aware that the Labour Government took half of our tenants' rents and sent that money to other parts of the country, often into labour marginal seats. This was deliberately taking money from the least well off in our borough. To a large extent, the position that both the country and this borough finds itself in is due to that labour government. In terms of the debt to GDP, Malta, Austria, Canada, Singapore, Estonia, Lithuania and many others rank in a better position than the terrible situation we found ourselves in May. However, as always, this administration have been talking to ministers, lobbying on behalf of our tenants and Cllr Webster will give you news of our plans for the future."

"Thank you for your question. We in this Council understand that the primary concern of the Coalition Government must be to rectify the parlous state of the national finances which it inherited and we regret that some sacrifices might be required to achieve this. 'The Coalition Government is quite right to be concerned about the spiralling cost of housing benefits, particularly in some urban areas. We support their efforts to reduce the unsustainable national debt and to change our social culture from one of extreme dependency.

The Government recognises the importance of a balanced supply of housing – private, affordable and intermediate, as do we. Affordable housing is one of this Council's top priorities and one of its toughest, and in this period of uncertainty, we are working successfully with our partners to deliver new housing developments.

We have recently been successful in securing government funding for the development at the Rowland House site in Cranleigh and the Marshalls site in Farnham, and we are developing an excellent proposal for the housing at Station Road in Godalming. The Council has also formed its new wholly-owned company – Waverley Initiatives Ltd – with the purpose of developing new housing on land owned by the Borough.

As Portfolio Holder for Housing, I am proud to take this opportunity of mentioning the excellent achievements of our housing service for our tenants, despite sending more than half of our tenants' rents to the Treasury. We have top performance in reducing our re-let times, the high level of insulation in our properties, 97% satisfaction with repairs, 99.98% gas safety checks successfully carried out, our successful crackdown on antisocial behaviour etc etc, plus a choice-based letting service for those on the housing register and a range of new housing in our towns and villages for local people in housing need. But as the King said to the Prime Minister during the War, 'KBO' - 'Keep Battling On' - we must and we will."

Part I - Recommendations to the Council

Part II – Matters Reported in Detail for the Information of the Council

There were no matters falling within these categories.

Part III – Brief Summaries of Other Matters Dealt With

88. FORWARD PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 6; Appendix A)

RESOLVED that the forward programme of key decisions for Waverley Borough Council be adopted.

89. BUDGET MONITORING (Agenda Item 7; Appendix B)

RESOLVED that

1. the position as at 30 September 2010 be noted and that no immediate action was required at this stage; and
2. the budget continue to be monitored closely during the remainder of 2010-11.

90. COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW (Agenda Item 8; Appendix C)

RESOLVED that the highlights from the Comprehensive Spending Review be noted and the approach being taken to identify savings as part of the 2011/12 Budget process be endorsed.

91. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT 2010/2011 (Agenda Item 9, Appendix D)

RESOLVED that the Quarter 2 Treasury Management Performance for 2010/11 be noted and the approach to managing investment activity be endorsed.

92. REVIEW OF PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (Agenda Item 10; Appendix E)

RESOLVED that

1. the update and the current position regarding the targeted 2010/11 Star Chamber Savings be noted; and
2. the replacement, with immediate effect, of the Meadrow and Windrush Close toilets be agreed, conditional on formal agreements to allow public access to toilets at nearby public houses.

93. SURREY TRANSPORT PLAN DRAFT RESPONSE (Agenda Item 11; Appendix F)

The Executive debated the Local Transport Plan consultation and raised a number of issues to be included in the response, as follows:-

- The need for an HGV/Freight Strategy

- Hot spots of congestion in the borough at peak times, including Hickleys Corner, the A3, Milford Roundabout and Petworth Road in Witley
- Air quality issues
- Deterioration of train service and the lack of ongoing public transport such as buses
- Importance of maintaining the road network
- Impact of major developments inside the borough and cross-boundary.

RESOLVED that the response to the Local Transport Plan consultation be agreed, setting out the most important transport issues that impacted on Waverley's communities and that the Leader be given delegated authority to approve the response, including the range of points on both general and specific local issues raised by members and listed above.

94. REVIEW OF THE LOCAL INFORMATION REQUIRMENTS FOR THE VALIDATION OF PLANNING AND OTHER APPLICATIONS (Agenda Item 12; Appendix G)

RESOLVED that the revised list of requirements as the Local List for the Council be agreed (to replace the existing Local List agreed in 2008) and that the revised list be placed on the Council's website by 31 December 2010 to be in use from 1 January 2011.

95. ACTION TAKEN SINCE LAST MEETING (Agenda Item 17)

The Executive noted the actions taken by the Chief Executive after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman since the last meeting relating to an easement of access to The Common in Cranleigh and the acceptance of a quotation for professional indemnity insurance for the directors of Waverley Initiatives Ltd.

The meeting commenced at 6.45 p.m. and concluded at 7.29 p.m.

Chairman