

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE - 5 SEPTEMBER 2017

SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL MEETING – 17 OCTOBER 2017

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

Present

Cllr Julia Potts (Chairman)	Cllr Jim Edwards
Cllr Tom Martin (Vice Chairman)	Cllr Jenny Else
Cllr Brian Adams	Cllr Ged Hall
Cllr Andrew Bolton	Cllr Chris Storey
Cllr Kevin Deanus	

Apologies

Cllr Carole King

Also Present

Councillor Peter Isherwood and Councillor John Williamson

47. MINUTES (Agenda item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2017 and of the Special Meetings held on 18 July and 22 August 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Carole King.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Agenda item 3)

There were no declarations of interest raised under this heading.

50. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (Agenda item 4)

The Executive received the following questions in accordance with Procedure Rule 10 and the answers are detailed below each question:

i. from Roger Blishen of Surrey Coalition of Disabled People:

“You will all be aware of The Secretary of State for Health - Jeremy Hunt MP and The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions - Damien Green MP’s joint “Work, Health, And Disability Green Paper”, and the joint “Ministers’ Statement” therein. This Green Paper was created following the results of an Open Consultation.

As you should be aware many Disabled People have to exist on very low incomes and/or have considerable mobility, dexterity, and other associated difficulties in their daily lives. Therefore WBC’s proposals for making Blue Badge Holders’ pay parking charges will dramatically reduce their chances of achieving the paid work both these Cabinet Ministers so clearly espouse and champion, as it will clearly effect their mobility.

WBC's proposals are diametrically opposite to what both of these Senior Cabinet Ministers are striving to achieve, so must be strongly opposed before they create ever more problems for Disabled People both seeking work and going – with some difficulties – about their daily lives. Anyone using a wheelchair in a car park is at personal risk from drivers travelling too fast there looking for spaces rather than noticing wheelchair users. There have been many near misses there. Also there is rarely enough space for wheelchair users to get between parked cars.

I therefore oppose WBC's intention of charging any Disabled Person for Parking in their car parks and ask if you could please advise which Benefits will entitle some Disabled People to be exempt from these proposed parking charges as just advised on the BBC News?"

Reply:

In bringing forward the proposals for charging as part of an extremely challenging budget process the Council has recognised that, whilst the possession of a Blue Badge is not in itself an indication of financial hardship, there would be many Blue Badge holders who have to exist on low incomes or have mobility, dexterity and other difficulties. It was in recognition of this that the free permit scheme for those in receipt of income related benefits or in receipt of a range of mobility benefits was proposed. Following further consultation the report to the Executive proposes extending the criteria to cover a wider range of mobility benefits to ensure those with significantly restricted mobility are not disadvantaged.

ii. from Mrs Angie Welch:

"I use the South Street Car Park in Godalming at least twice a week as I help out at the Godalming Hub on High Street as a volunteer. If parking charges are introduced for blue badge holders what action will be taken to ensure that I would be able to use the payment machines since apart from difficulties accessing the payment machines I am in a wheelchair and find the buttons too high to press? In addition the location of the payment machine is in a relatively dangerous position near the entrance".

Reply:

The Council has recognised that the pay and display machines need to be more accessible and the report recommends modifications to the areas around them to make access easier. Most Waverley residents who need to make use of a wheelchair would be likely to qualify for a free permit so would not need to pay. The Council is however already introducing a range of payment options including pay by phone, credit card, apple pay and contactless payments in addition to cash to make payment easier and the report is also recommending giving an additional hour free for those displaying a Blue Badge in recognition of the extra time it takes for those with disabilities to perform daily tasks.

iii. from Amanda Clegg of Milford:

"How was estimated revenue of £75,000 from introducing parking charges for blue badge holders calculated and has this figure been revised due to decision to increase eligibility for permits and costs of modifications to payment machines? In

particular was there any deterrence factor arising from charging being introduced or was it assumed that all existing blue badge holders would continue to park in Waverley car parks after charges were introduced”.

Reply:

The estimate was based on the number of disabled parking bays provided in Waverley car parks and the average occupancy rates less an allowance for behavioural change. The estimated revenue figure has been revised in the light of the proposed changes to the scheme and is now £50,000 per annum. The cost of making the pay and display machines more accessible and to provide additional signage is a one off amount of £16,000.

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

There were no matters falling within this category.

PART II - MATTERS OF REPORT

The background papers relating to the following items are as set out in the reports included in the original agenda papers.

51. BLUE BADGE PARKING CHARGES - CONSULTATION FEEDBACK (Agenda item 5)

RESOLVED that

1. standard parking charges for Blue Badge Holders will apply in all Waverley-owned car parks, in conjunction with the free permit scheme referred to in paragraph 3 of the report;
2. the kerbs nearest to pay and display machines be modified to provide improved access, additional signage be provided close to disabled bays with details of the pay-by-phone service, and further alternative payment options will continue to be explored;
3. an hour of free parking be introduced when purchasing a ticket for Blue Badge Holders; and
4. criteria for the free permit scheme for Blue Badge Holders will include the lower and higher rate of Attendance Allowance in addition to the higher rate of Personal Independence Payment and the higher rate of Disability Living Allowance, and any income-related benefit.

[Reason: to identify the key themes arising from the consultation feedback and agreeing how these should be addressed]

52. BUDGET MANAGEMENT REPORT (Agenda item 6)

RESOLVED that

1. the latest position against the budget in 2017/18 be noted;

2. a further supplementary estimate be approved for the cost of two planning inquiries, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report;
3. discretionary 20% business rates relief be awarded to Catalyst until 2019/20, as detailed in paragraph 12(i);
4. discretionary 20% business rates relief be awarded to the Maltings venue and Farnham Museum rated sites until 2019/20, as detailed in paragraph 12(ii);
5. carry forwards as detailed in paragraph 16 be approved; and
6. virements be approved, as detailed in paragraphs 23 to 26 and 34 of the report.

[Reason: to review the budget and make any variations as necessary]

53. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY TO DATE IN 2017/18 AND 2016/17 PERFORMANCE (Agenda item 7)

RESOLVED that the investment activity and performance in 2016/17 and to date in 2017/18 be noted, and the current approach be endorsed.

[Reason: to summarise the Council's treasury management investment activity]

54. FUNDING TO VOLUNTARY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS - SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS 2018/19 TO 2020/21 (Agenda item 8)

RESOLVED that

1. the review process and timetable be confirmed;
2. utilising Waverley's forthcoming SLA process to assess how best to allocate the Council's remaining Waverley Voluntary Commissioning Partnership funding; £42,770 within the currently funded organisations be approved;
3. the establishment of an Executive Panel to review the Service Level Agreements and propose allocations be approved;
4. a review of the Service Level Agreements and their outcomes to ensure they are in line with the Council's emerging future strategy be approved; and
5. delegated authority be given to the Head of Community Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Grants to agree the final service specification for each organisation's Service Level Agreement.

[Reason: to seek approval for the continued funding to the voluntary sector organisations through the SLA process, as well as the review process]

55. LEASE EXTENSION: FLAT 1 FORBURYS, 5 WEYDON LANE, FARNHAM
(Agenda item 9)

RESOLVED that approval be given to the extension of the lease for Flat 1 Forburys, 5 Weydon Lane, Farnham for a further 90 years.

[Reason: to consider the property-related matter]

56. OUTSTANDING DEBTS - WRITE-OFF FOR DECISION (Agenda item 10)

RESOLVED that, under Financial Regulation D203, the debts put forward for write-off as listed in the (Exempt) Annexe to the report be approved.

[Reason: to obtain approval to write off irrecoverable debts]

The meeting commenced at 6.45 pm and concluded at 7.04 pm

Chairman