

EXECUTIVE

TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2009

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday, 20 January 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a decision, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group no later than 4pm on the second working day after this meeting – that is, Thursday 22 January 2009.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Fiona Young (tel. extn. 1027).

5. PROPOSED BIG WHEEL IN NORTH STREET GARDENS

RESOLVED: (i) That an agreement not be entered into with WTA to site the observation wheel in North Street Gardens.

(ii) That the Executive reasserts its previous position that attractions of this sort are welcome in the City but need to be sited sensitively and without either prejudicing existing amenity provision or threatening the City's visual heritage.

REASON: This location is not considered suitable for the development, due to the potential damage to the historic environment, the limited size of the site and concerns about flooding and accessibility.

(iii) That Officers be requested to consider, as part of the City Centre Local Development Framework build process, what guidance might be offered to developers who request acceptable options for siting substantial structures of this type and / or other major leisure / visitor attractions.

REASON: To ensure a fair and consistent approach.

(iv) That Officers facilitate meetings to progress a new permanent visitor attraction to the City.

REASON: So that potential attractions that may benefit the City can be properly considered and consulted on.

6. COMMUNITY STADIUM - UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED: (i) That the progress made on the Community Stadium Project to date be noted.

(ii) That the approach set out in paragraphs 7 to 20 of the report, and the outline project structure, be agreed so that it can be referred to the Partnership Group at its next meeting, in February 2009.

(iii) That the Council be represented on the Project Board by the Executive Member for City Strategy.

REASON: To enable the partnership to work effectively and to drive the project forward.

**7. REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY (RSS) 2009
UPDATE - RESPONSE TO SPATIAL OPTIONS
CONSULTATION**

RESOLVED: That the proposed response to the Spatial Options consultation set out in the report and summarised in Annex B be approved for submission to the Regional Assembly by the end of January.

REASON: The response reflects Members' view, and that of other authorities across the region, that the RSS should not be reviewed at this early stage.

8. AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES

RESOLVED: (i) That the outcomes of the Developer meetings and the Affordable Housing Workshop be noted.

(ii) That Officers be supported in using the comments received in the Developer meetings and the Affordable Housing Workshop, along with comments received during the Issues and Options stage of the Core Strategy, to inform the Preferred Options Policy to be taken forward through the LDF, as agreed by the Executive in December 2007.

(iii) That the affordable housing initiatives currently being prioritised by Housing and Adult Social Services following the discussions with house builders and from the affordably housing workshops, as well as new initiatives which will develop alongside the new Housing Strategy to be published in 2009, be noted.

REASON: In accordance with the previous recommendations of the Executive and the Executive Member for City Strategy and to ensure that potential new initiatives are fully explored.

9. REVIEW OF PUBLIC BUS SERVICES IN YORK

RESOLVED: (i) That the options presented in the various sections of the report be noted.

(ii) That, in relation to **Commercial Bus Services**, continued efforts should be made to improve passenger waiting facilities and bus priority measures across the City, with effort focused on commercial routes, and that current investment levels in these areas should be sustained.

(iii) That **subsidised services** be retained, to run to September 2011, that the lowest tenders be accepted for continuation of existing services, as tabled, but that consideration of the proposals to discontinue subsidised bus services (shown in table 5, paragraph 87) be deferred until the Council's budget position is clear and alternative travel options have been clarified and, to that end, that Officers be requested to report further on the shared taxi / taxi bus options mentioned in the report.

(iv) That approval be given in principle to undertake a trial utilising a new **Dial & Ride** vehicle to deliver peak commuter journeys for a rural village.

(v) That the inclusion in the LTP capital programme of one new, fit for purpose minibus, to be used for both Dial & Ride and rural, peak time scheduled services, be agreed.

(vi) That Officers be instructed to investigate the possibility of re-negotiating a new service level agreement with the current provider, York Wheels.

(vii) That approval be given to increase the Dial & Ride fares from £2.50 to £3.50 for a day ticket and from £1.25 to £1.75 for a single ticket and to devolve future fare increases to the Officer in Consultation process.

(viii) That the production of a further Officer report, on the partnership working, cost and potential options involved for the upgrade of **Park & Ride** one-bus ticket machines to make them ITSO smartcard compatible, be supported.

(ix) That, in the interests of speeding up boarding times both in town and at site, Officers be asked to report further on the options for extending the use of off-bus ticketing facilities.

(x) That, in relation to **Concessionary Travel**, approval be given to retain the current operating hours for

bus pass acceptance and to withdraw any alternative to the bus pass for the over 60s, but to increase the value of tokens to £50 for eligible disabled people.

(xi) That Officers be requested to investigate further and report on the costs and advantages of replacing the anonymous token system with an auditable stored value taxi card system from 2010/11 and on the system for the under 60s disabled, which allows them to purchase additional tokens.

(xii) That, in the light of the above decisions, Officers be instructed to consider ways of optimising the issue of transport tokens including, where economical, home delivery and bulk collection by nursing homes.

(xiii) That Officers be instructed to investigate the options available to the Council for the launch of an 'all operator' **Yozone** 16-19 product and to produce a subsequent report outlining the implications.

(xiv) That Officers be requested to investigate the feasibility of remotely accessing **Public Transport Information** data within the Metro 'COSA Trackbuilder, to improve Traveline telephone and internet data quality.

(xv) That approval be given to tender the travel information telephone service and retain the existing local telephone number (01904 551400).

(xvi) That approval be given, with the agreement from bus operators, to purchase a licence for the Real Time Passenger Information 'Bus Operator Reports' product and run alongside on-street bus monitoring for one year before fully transferring to this stream of information.

(xvii) That, in respect of **air quality**, approval be given to raise the minimum standard of engine rating on all tendered local bus services to EURO III from 2011.

REASON: In order to continue to develop bus travel, in partnership with the bus industry, to ensure that bus patronage in the City continues to rise.

10. SHARED SERVICE - BUSINESS CASE

RESOLVED: (i) That approval be given to proceed with the implementation of the wholly owned company as the appropriate long term organisational structure for the shared service (Option 1), in accordance with the details set out in the report and the attached Business Case.

REASON: To enable the implementation of the appropriate long

term structure for the shared service (Part II of the strategic plan).

(ii) That the appointment of the Executive Member for Corporate Services and the nominated Officers to the Board of Directors of the shared service company be agreed.

REASON: To ensure appropriate governance and accountability for the shared service company.

(iv) That the shared service be authorised to carry out functions relating to housing benefit and council tax benefit, using Section 70 of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 and the Contracting Out (Functions of Local Authorities: Income-Related Benefits) Order 2002.

REASON: To ensure that staff employed by the shared service company can properly undertake future investigations into benefit related fraud.

(v) That the Council be authorised to enter into a Premises Licence with the shared service company for the future use of office accommodation.

REASON: To enable the Council to provide fully serviced accommodation to the shared service company.

(vi) That the Council be authorised to enter into an agreement for an overdraft facility with the shared service company.

REASON: To ensure that the shared service company has adequate funds to cover its working capital requirements.

(vii) That Officers report to a future Executive meeting on the staffing issues that remain to be determined.

REASON: To ensure that these matters are satisfactorily addressed.

11. SECOND PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITOR FOR 2008/09

RESOLVED: (i) That the performance issues identified in the report be noted.

REASON: So that corrective action on these issues can be addressed by Corporate Management Team and directorates.

- (ii) That approval be given to fund the following supplementary estimate requests from the contingency fund:
- a) £72k for court costs fees for child protection cases, as set out in paragraph 26 and Annex 2 to the report.
 - b) £70k for legal fees, as set out in Annex 2
 - c) £40k for fostering costs, with an update report on the full costs of fostering, the importance of which is appreciated, to be brought to a future meeting.
- (iii) That the remaining supplementary estimate requests in Annex 2, amounting to £84k, not be approved.

REASON: In accordance with the Executive's Constitutional powers to make decisions on the level and granting of supplementary estimates.

- (iv) That the request of the Executive Member for City Strategy to use the capital element of the additional Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (£135k) to fund structural maintenance currently charged to revenue, as set out in paragraph 59, be agreed.

REASON: In accordance with budgetary and performance monitoring procedures.

12. CAPITAL PROGRAMME - MONITOR TWO

- RESOLVED: (i) That the 2008/09 revised budget of £60.537m, as set out in the report at paragraph 6 and Table 2, be approved.
- (ii) That the net slippage of £20.8m for the Administrative Accommodation project to 2011/12 and future years, net slippage of £1.474m for the rest of the capital programme, and adjustments of -£624k in 2008/09, £804k in 2009/10 and £662k in 2010/11 be approved.
- (iii) That the re-stated three-year capital programme for 2008/09-2010/11, as set out in paragraph 35, Table 12 and detailed in Annex A be approved.
- (iv) That the capital receipt projections for 2008/09-2010/11, as summarised in Table 13, be noted.
- (v) That Council be recommended to approve the funding of the shortfall on the Disabled Facilities Grant (£120k) and retention costs at Acomb Library (£6k) from

capital receipts.

REASON: To enable the effective management and monitoring of the Council's capital programme.

13. FINAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - DEMENTIA REVIEW

- RESOLVED: (i) That the contents of the Health Scrutiny Committee's final report be noted with thanks.
- (ii) That the recommendations set out in the final report be approved.
- (iii) That the following actions arising from the report be agreed:
- a) That all agencies involved in the care of older people be requested to sign up to the DoH document 'Your care, your dignity, our promise'.
 - b) That the final report be forwarded to the Joint Integration Commissioning Group to inform the discussions on future commissioning strategy for those suffering from dementia.

REASON: In order to respond appropriately to the findings of this scrutiny review.

14. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

- RESOLVED: That approval be given to:
- a) Sign up the IDeA Member Development Charter;
 - b) Implement the outline Member Development Scheme, as set out in paragraphs 21-40 of the report;
 - c) Delegate to the Member Development Working Group responsibility to decide a Member Development Programme, appropriate training and development activities and budget.

REASON: In order to improve Member Development at the Council.

15. URGENT BUSINESS - THE BARBICAN AUDITORIUM

- RESOLVED: (i) That the contents of the report be noted and the work to be undertaken by Officers approved.
- (ii) That a further report be requested for early March, when Officers will be able to provide a more detailed analysis of the long-term and interim options described in this report.
- (iii) That the requirement of £120k revenue funding for 2009/10 be included in the current budget setting

process.

REASON: To deal with the immediate issues arising from termination of the agreement with ALL and to enable Members to consider long term options for the Barbican Auditorium.

