
MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	6 OCTOBER 2009
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), AYRE, MOORE, MORLEY, REID AND RUNCIMAN
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR STEVE GALLOWAY

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

90. REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which invited them to discuss and recommend to Full Council the revised Financial Regulations, consideration of which had been deferred from the Executive meeting on 21 July pending further refinements.

The virement tables in the revised Regulations had now been amended to ensure that all Officer decisions that might affect the Council's policy framework were referred to Full Council. Otherwise, the Regulations, attached as Annex A to the report, were the same as those presented in July.

The revised Regulations were intended to be more flexible and concise, maintaining the key principles of the current regulations, whilst reflecting the more devolved decision making system adopted by the Council. The current Procurement Regulations had been separated into a devolved set of regulations and re-named the Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs). The Financial Regulations and CPRs were underpinned by a set of supplementary guidance documents, as listed in paragraph 7 of the report. Key changes to the regulations were detailed in paragraph 8. The revised CPRs were still in draft format and would be presented to Executive in November.

The Chair confirmed that it was vital that there continued to be public accountability for accounting changes. Consultation with members would be required and for a record of this to be retained for any subsequent challenges or scrutiny.

Having noted the comments of the Shadow Executive on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That Council approve the changes to the revised Financial Regulations as set out in Annex A of the report.

REASON: To gain approval that the revised Financial Regulations are appropriate in improving and maintaining the integrity of the council's financial arrangements and the concerns of the Shadow Executive are met.

91. SWIMMING FACILITIES

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which had been prepared in response to a motion approved by Council on 9 July 2009 and addressed a range of issues in relation to swimming facilities in York

The Council's current swimming facilities strategy had been confirmed in October 2007, following an analysis of supply and demand for swimming facilities in York. Since then; Yearsley pool had been extensively refurbished and modernised, a new community swimming pool had been constructed at Oaklands (due to open in early December), free swimming had been introduced for the under 16s and over 60s, and the University Pool Steering Group had drawn up plans for a 25m competition standard pool on the new University campus, to be delivered in partnership with the Council.

With regard to the specific points in the Council motion, it was reported that:

- The work of the Steering Group was complete and implementation of its final report now rested with the University;
- A completion date of 2011 for the University pool was contingent upon the business plan delivering financial balance;
- The £4m funding gap for the pool remained, and the University and the Council had begun a review to evaluate potential funding arrangements;
- The provision of a competition standard pool in the city centre was not a realistic option, as there was no site available, it was not affordable and it would compete directly with the pool that the University were required to build under the s106 planning agreement.
- A city centre pool could more realistically be seen as a longer term option, to provide the additional swimming capacity needed beyond 2015.

Having noted the comments of the Shadow Executive on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That Council note the Executive's decision to:

- a) Continue its commitment to the partnership with the University of York to deliver a publicly accessible competition-standard pool on the new campus;

- b) Ask Officers to continue to work with the University to develop a funding plan for the University pool and sports facilities;
- c) Continue to plan for a future city centre pool beyond 2015 by developing an affordable delivery model.

REASON: To meet the City's identified need for swimming facilities.

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.20 pm].