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RECORD OF DECISIONS

Decisions made in the week commencing 11 July 2011

Issue 219

For information relating to the Record of Decisions or to request a copy in another format or language please contact: Teresa Buckley (01803) 207013 Email: democratic.services@torbay.gov.uk

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Adoption Activity Statement of Purpose

Decision Taker

The Mayor at the Council meeting held on 13 July 2011.

Decision

That it be agreed that the Statement of Purpose, set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted Report, covers the required information and accurately reflects the services provided.

Reason for Decision

Schedule 1 of the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations lists information to be included in the Statement of Purpose. The Statement of Purpose needs to be agreed and reviewed annually.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday 27 July 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Statement of Purpose has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003 and it is reviewed annually. The Statement provides information about the aims and objectives of Torbay Council in relation to the adoption service, the staffing, structure and services provided. The Mayor supported the recommendation of the Council as set out in his decision above.

Alternative options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

There were no alternative options.

Is this a Key Decision? (Give reference number if applicable)

No

Does the call-in procedure apply? (If no, please give reason)

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

Proposal to Close Chestnut Primary School

Decision Taker

The Mayor at the Council meeting held on 13 July 2011.

Decision

- (i) That the Council cease to maintain Chestnut Primary school from 31 August 2011;
- (ii) that the Executive Head for Children, Schools and Families be authorised to proceed with closing Chestnut Primary School with effect from 31 August 2011; and
- (iii) that the land be retained for educational and community uses where possible.

Reason for Decision

To enable the Council to fulfil its duty with regard to school place planning and to ensure that funds are used for the direct educational benefit of pupils as far as possible.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday 27 July 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Council has a statutory duty to keep under review the adequacy of provision of school places and a specific duty to reduce unfilled surplus capacity in schools. The submitted report set out details of a proposal to close Chestnut Primary School to reduce the number of surplus places within the Brixham area. By closing Chestnut Primary School and removing the number of surplus places would minimise the detrimental effects that may be posed for all schools across Brixham when faced with numbers of surplus places in primary schools. The Mayor supported the recommendation of the Council as set out in his decision above.

Alternative options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were set out in the submitted report and not discussed at the meeting.

Is this a Key Decision? (Give reference number if applicable)

Yes – Reference Number X14/2011

Does the call-in procedure apply? (If no, please give reason)

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillor Ellery declared a personal interest as his grandchildren attend a nearby primary school (St Margaret Clitherow Primary School).

Published

Reducing Teenage Conceptions Strategy – Refreshed 2010

Decision Taker

The Mayor at the Council meeting held on 13 July 2011.

Decision

That the Reducing Teenage Conceptions Strategy Refreshed December 2010 set out at Appendix 1 to the submitted report be approved.

Reason for Decision

To continue to focus on the National Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Unit's 'Deep Dive' recommendations for an effective approach to reducing teenage conception rates.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday 27 July 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Reducing the number of young women under 18 who become pregnant in Torbay has been identified as a priority within the Council, Torbay Care Trust and partner organisations. The submitted report set out details of a refresh of the Reducing Teenage Conceptions Strategy which continued to focus on the four priority areas outlined in the original strategy which include:

- 1. Young people focused contraceptive/sexual health services: Trusted by teenagers and well known by professionals working with them.
- 2. Strong Delivery of Sex and Relationships Education (SRE)/Personal Social Health Education (PSHE) by schools.
- 3. Targeted work with 'at risk' groups of young people; in particular Looked After Children and Care Leavers.
- 4. Work with parents and carers.

The Mayor supported the recommendation of the Council as set out in his decision above.

Alternative options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were set out in the submitted report and not discussed at the meeting.

Is this a Key Decision? (Give reference number if applicable)

No

Does the call-in procedure apply? (If no, please give reason)

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None

Published

Granting of Long Leases to Sports Clubs

Decision Taker

The Mayor at the Council meeting held on 13 July 2011.

Decision

That the Executive Head of Commercial Services be authorised, in consultation with the Chief Executive of the Torbay Development Agency, to grant leases for up to 40 years to sports clubs on acceptable terms with each case being considered on its merits.

Reason for Decision

To enable the Council to grant leases to Clubs so that they have the confidence that if they need a longer term lease to assist with grant applications, then the Council would be supportive.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday 27 July 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The submitted report set out proposals to enable the Council to grant long term leases to sports clubs. Longer term leases would enable and encourage sports clubs to develop longer term strategies for the provision of sports facilities and allow clubs to apply for grants to improve their facilities. The Mayor supported the recommendation of the Council as set out in his decision above.

Alternative options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were set out in submitted report and not discussed at the meeting.

Is this a Key Decision? (Give reference number if applicable)

No

Does the call-in procedure apply? (If no, please give reason)

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

The following Councillors declared personal interests as they were members of various sports clubs:

Councillor Addis – Babbacombe Bowling Club and Plainmoor Pool Councillor Darling – Babbacombe Corinthian Sailing Club and Paignton Canoe Club Councillor Faulkner (A) – Torquay Golf Club Councillor Pountney – Chairman of Torquay United Football in the Community Sports and Education Trust

Councillors Baldrey, Cowell and Excell declared personal interests as they were the Council's representatives on Torbay Sports Council.

Councillor Tyerman declared a personal interest as he was the Council's appointed Director on Torbay Economic Development Company Ltd.

Published

Options for Future Delivery of Tourism, Marketing and Events Support

Decision Taker

The Mayor at the Council meeting held on 13 July 2011.

Decision

That Torbay Development Agency be instructed, as part of its strategic economic development function, to identify the strategic delivery options (assuming the retention of the Riviera International Conference Centre) and report back to Full Council within four months.

The high level options identified to date include:

- Consolidation of English Riviera Tourism Company (ERTC), Riviera International Conference Centre (RICC) Ltd and Residents & Visitor Services (R&VS) Events Team functions into a single entity or a combination thereof.
- Establishment of a new Company controlled by Torbay Council, or seek a Private Sector Partnership (PSP) via a formal procurement, or transfer ERTC and certain RICC Ltd operations to direct council ownership and control.
- Maintain status quo but establish more stringent processes that promote greater efficiency and co-ordination.

Reason for Decision

To undertake an options appraisal for reconfiguring the Council's investment in tourism, marketing and events management in order to identify further efficiencies and to ensure that its investment into the tourism economy is providing an appropriate return to Torbay.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday 27 July 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The submitted report set out details for an options appraisal to be undertaken to identify an improved delivery model that generates a sustained increase in visitor numbers and bed nights (both tourism and business related). The options appraisal would also examine the potential to promote higher profile events and ensure that event planning is comprehensive and co-ordinated. The Mayor supported the recommendation of the Council as set out in his decision above.

Alternative options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were set out in the submitted report.

Councillor Darling proposed an amendment which was rejected by the Council – full details are provided in the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 July 2011.

Is this a Key Decision? (Give reference number if applicable)

No

Does the call-in procedure apply? (If no, please give reason)

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillors Faulkner (A), Thomas (D) and Tyerman declared personal interests as they were the Council's appointed Directors on Torbay Economic Development Company Ltd.

Councillors Richards and Stringer declared personal interests as they were the Council's nominated members on the English Riviera Tourism Company.

Councillor Excell declared a personal interest as he was the Council's nominee on the Riviera International Conference Centre Board of Directors.

Published

Repairs to the Banjo and Eastern Section of Princess Parade

Decision Taker

The Mayor at the Council meeting held on 13 July 2011.

Decision

- (i) That the Street Scene and Place Group Services Manager be authorised to incur investigative and design costs of up to £100,000, from the Council's reserves to:
 - a) assess the full extent of the repairs needed to the eastern section of Princess Parade and the 'banjo';
 - b) outline some repair solutions which maximise the Council's investment; and
 - c) to better assess the likely risks, cost and timescales involved in carrying out such works prior to procurement;
- (ii) that concurrent with the above, the Torbay Development Agency be authorised to invite proposals from the private sector to help fund the repair or replacement of the existing structures. This invitation will exclude development between the Pavilion and Theatre but might include enabling development adjacent to Palk Street and on the site of the MDL Car Park. Such proposals are not to delay the implementation of any repairs; and
- (iii) That a further report be presented to a future Council meeting on final instructions to proceed.

Reason for Decision

To provide a solution to the repairing liability at the 'banjo' and the eastern section of Princess Parade, Torquay, which enables the closed sections to be re-opened as soon as possible.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday 27 July 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The eastern section of Princess Parade and the 'banjo' have been closed to the public since 2006. This is a prime section of Torquay's waterside and the continued closure has provoked widespread criticism. The submitted report sought to carry out surveys and preliminary design work and highlighted a number of issues that would need to be addressed before proceeding with a repair. The report also sought to identify a strategy that represented best value, taking into account the likely expenditure, the opportunity cost and the anticipated life expectancy and importance of the area to tourism. The Mayor supported the recommendation of the Council as set out in his decision above.

Alternative options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were set out in the submitted report.

Is this a Key Decision? (Give reference number if applicable)

No

Does the call-in procedure apply? (If no, please give reason)

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillor Tyerman declared a personal interest as he was the Council's appointed Director on Torbay Economic Development Company Ltd.

Published

Solar Photovoltaic on Public Buildings Project

Decision Taker

The Mayor at the adjourned Council meeting held on 14 July 2011.

Decision

That an additional one-off use of reserves for revenue budget allocation of £165k in 2011/12 for the Solar Photovoltaic on Public Buildings Project programme development costs (professional fees etc), in order to bring the project to the procurement stage, be approved.

Reason for Decision

To enable the project to be progressed.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on Wednesday 27 July 2011 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Council considered a report on a proposal to install Solar Photovoltaic Panels on a maximum of 45 Torbay Council owned and school buildings at its adjourned meeting held on 14 July 2011. The Council agreed the following recommendations and the Mayor was therefore required to make a formal decision in respect of (ii) below:

- that a revision to the 2011/12 Capital Plan by inclusion of the Solar Photovoltaic on Public Buildings Project to a maximum sum of £1.8m funded from prudential borrowing, be approved. The principle and interest repayment to be financed from revenue income generated from the project over 25 years;
- (ii) that the Mayor be recommended to approve an additional one-off use of reserves for revenue budget allocation of £165k in 2011/12 for the Solar Photovoltaic on Public Buildings Project programme development costs (professional fees etc) in order to bring the project to the procurement stage;
- (iii) that the Commissioner of Place and Environment, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor and Executive lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy be given delegated authority to approve the final business plan; and
- (iv) that surplus revenue be re-invested in projects identified through the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy for Torbay 2008-2013 and Carbon Management Plan, to be agreed through the Councils Annual Budget process.

The Mayor supported the recommendation of the Council as set out in his decision above.

Alternative options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options were set out in the submitted report and not discussed at the meeting.

Is this a Key Decision? (Give reference number if applicable)

Yes – Reference Number X12/2011

Does the call-in procedure apply? (If no, please give reason)

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

Councillor Parrott declared a personal interest as a Governor of Ellacombe Primary School.

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