

## **THE EXECUTIVE**

**A meeting of the Executive was held on 04 March 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mandela Room, Town Hall, Middlesbrough.**

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor, Ray Mallon (Chair); Councillors D Budd, B Coppinger, B Kerr (Deputy Mayor), R Lowes, Mrs B Thompson and P Thompson.

### **\*\*PRESENT BY INVITATION:**

Councillor M Carr, Councillor J Cole and J.Sinclair, West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust.

### **\*\*PRESENT AS OBSERVERS:**

Councillors W Ferrier, P Purvis and K Walker.

### **\*\*OFFICIALS:**

R Hicks, B Roberts, I Parker, J Richmond, J Shiel, G Rollings, N Sayer and T White.

### **\*\*APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillors J Brunton, P Khan and N Walker.

### **\*\*MINUTES**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 12 February 2008 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **\*\*DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mike Carr and Paul Thompson declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in Item 10.

## **COUNCIL, OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD – MATTERS FOR RECONSIDERATION**

No items.

## **CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

### **REPORT ON MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL'S WASTE SERVICES**

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STREETSCENE**

The Director of Environment submitted a report, which considered the final report of the Environment Scrutiny Panel regarding Middlesbrough Council's Waste Services.

The Environment Scrutiny Panel as part of the agreed scrutiny procedures had its final report on Middlesbrough Council's Waste Services approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Board. The Environment Scrutiny Panel made seven recommendations. The Service Response was attached as Appendix A to the submitted report.

Councillor Cole, Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Panel presented the Panel's report to the Executive.

**ORDERED**

**That the Executive support the action plan attached as Appendix A to the submitted report.**

**REASON**

**The decision was supported by the following reason:**

**Scrutiny had presented a range of recommendations following its investigation. These recommendations were supported by the Environment Department and the Executive.**

**THE GATEWAY PROTECTION PROGRAMME FOR REFUGEES****EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SOCIAL CARE**

The Director of Social Care submitted a report that sought approval for Middlesbrough Council to enter into an agreement with the Home Office to participate in the Gateway Protection Programme.

The Gateway Protection programme was the official name given to the UK's refugee resettlement programme and was funded by Central Government. The programme was well established with over 24 countries who participated. The UK programme was launched in April 2003 and aimed to take up to 500 refugees a year, usually in groups of approximately 60 – 80 people (same nationality).

The Refugees who were taking part in the programme were living in various parts of the world. Refugees often included victims of rape, torture, people who had lost family to violence, women, children or elderly at risk. The Refugees involved had been identified and referred to the Home Office by UNHCR.

A key aim of the Gateway Programme would be to provide sustainable permanent housing to clients with the focus on integration and settlement into the communities in which their accommodation would be located.

In November 2006 an Executive report which outlined details of the scheme and 'in principle' approval to open discussions with the Home Office was given. This was conditional that the scheme would be operated at no cost to the Council and the full support of key partners would be available.

**ORDERED**

**That the participation of Middlesbrough Council in the Gateway Programme be approved.**

**REASON**

**The decision was supported by the following reason:**

**The Gateway Programme was part of the Government's immigration strategy; it was established to bring modest numbers of refugees who urgently needed help to start a new life. Gateway also provided a safe and legal route for permanent protection to those who were in desperate need of refuge.**

**WEST MIDDLESBROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD TRUST NDC DELIVERY  
PLAN 2007/2010****EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**

The Director of Regeneration submitted a report that provided a final Delivery Plan for the NDC Programme to show how remaining NDC resources would be allocated and set priorities of action which would ensure that NDC outcomes were achieved.

The original NDC Delivery Plan produced in November 1999 set out the plan for the regeneration of the West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood and how the £52m funding awarded from the government would be allocated. In April 2007 just under £8m of the original NDC funding was unspent. The NDC grant for the remainder of the programme was outlined in the submitted report.

The final Delivery Plan up until 2010 outlined the remaining priorities for WMNT in terms of both activities and spend in order to achieve the outcomes agreed.

The Improvement Plan for 2007 reflected the need to renegotiate outcomes in key areas to provide a better fit with outcomes and targets set in the Middlesbrough Local Area Agreement.

The Delivery Plan reflected the changes which had taken place and demonstrated some tangible physical achievements which had been made to the area. The key events and programmes for the remaining delivery of the programme were outlined in the submitted report.

As the organisation looked more to the future beyond 2010 it had put in place some key changes which would drive its future direction. The Board set itself four key business objectives which would form the basis of its long term Business Plan which contained more detail about the future plans of the organisation.

#### **ORDERED**

- 1. That the NDC Delivery Plan 2007/2010 and the outline budget for allocation of remaining NDC resources be approved.**
- 2. That the risks to the programme due to uncertainties around land receipts and statutory processes being completed e.g. CPO, lease of land for CWB Health and Community Facility be noted.**

#### **REASON**

**The decisions were supported by the following reason:**

**The production of the Delivery Plan was a requirement of the NDC programme.**

### **ERIMUS HOUSING ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRESS SINCE STOCK TRANSFER**

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION**

The Director of Regeneration submitted a report that presented the Erimus Housing Annual Report and highlighted the progress made by Erimus Housing in meeting the requirements of the Stock Transfer Agreement since November 2004.

As part of the Stock Transfer Agreement completed in November 2004, Erimus Housing was required to report on progress against targets that were incorporated within this Agreement. Work had been ongoing with Erimus which would establish a reporting format that provided comprehensive understanding of the targets being met in relation to the original commitments agreed with the Council.

The Stock Transfer Agreement was based on an Offer Document on works and services, which was to be completed in the first five years of the Agreement. The Annual Report 2006/07 provided details on the progress made against these commitments and summarised the main achievements made by Erimus.

The Offer Document contained 75 commitments which covered eight operational areas and at the end of March 2007, Erimus reported 72 commitments completed, or which remained on target and further progress would be reported to the Council in subsequent annual reports.

Erimus delivered the Homelessness and Housing Advice service on behalf of the Council. The Annual report provided an update on the Housing Agency Agreement.

#### **ORDERED**

- 1) That the 2006/07 Annual Report be accepted as a true reflection of the progress made by Erimus.
- 2) That any areas of work identified for closer monitoring and further discussion be noted including:
  - a) progress on Decent Home Standard;
  - b) items within the Offer Document that are behind schedule;
  - c) renewing the Housing Agency Agreement for a further three years; and
  - d) the asbestos programme and subsequent costs of the work.
- 3) A further report on Erimus progress will be made after the submission of the 2009/10 Annual Report, by which time all the commitments will have been completed.

#### **REASON**

The decisions were supported by the following reason:

The Transfer Contract and Offer Document had been agreed to ensure that all Erimus tenants, both existing and future, could expect an equitable and professional service that met their needs. The Council were required to monitor the service to ensure its compliance with the original agreement which would enable the Council to meet its statutory duties and maintain its excellence status.

### **ISSUES ARISING FROM THE WORK OF THE CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

#### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board submitted a report that presented the Executive with a range of issues that had been considered by the Board at its meeting on the 31 January 2008. Where appropriate, the report also sought the Executive's formal approval to recommendations that had been made by the Board.

Issues that had been considered by the Board included:

- Care Matters: Time for Change – Transition to Adulthood;
- Leaving Care Service Annual Report 2007;
- Connexions Support for Children Looked After;
- Summary of Regulation 33 Reports March – September 2007 and update on rota visits; and
- Update report on children missing from placement.

#### **ORDERED**

- 1) That the implications of Care Matters: Time for Change for the level of support given to young people as they move into adulthood be noted.
- 2) That the issues relating to the provision of suitable housing for young people leaving care be considered in greater detail.

- 3) That the information relating to the Leaving Care Service Annual Report for 2007 be noted.
- 4) That the information relating to the support provided by Connexions to children looked after be noted.
- 5) That the information relating to Regulation 33 reports and the update on rota visits be noted.
- 6) That the information relating to children missing from placement and to endorse the actions taken by officers to develop and implement the Joint Protocol be noted.

### **REASONS**

The decisions were supported by the following reasons:

1. The Care Matters: Time for Change White Paper led to the introduction of the Children and Young Person's Bill, which was currently in the Committee stage in Parliament. This legislation would place additional duties on Middlesbrough Council as a corporate parent. The Council already had a clear statutory responsibility to provide or maintain care leavers in suitable accommodation and Members of the Corporate Parenting Board wished to promote a wider debate on this issue.
2. It was important that elected members were aware of this work in order that they could effectively fulfil their responsibilities as Corporate Parents to children looked after and those receiving Leaving Care Services.
3. The Council was responsible for ensuring that children looked after had the best possible life chances. It was important that elected Members were aware of the support provided by Connexions to children looked after with regard to making a successful progression to adult life.
4. The Council was responsible for ensuring the welfare of all Children Looked After and that their places of residence meet the Minimum Standards for Children's Homes.
5. The Council was responsible for ensuring the welfare of all children looked after by the local authority and that their safety was the paramount consideration at all times.

## **BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: FEEDBACK AND NEXT STAGES ON THE AMALGAMATION OF CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

The Director of Children, Families and Learning submitted a report that provided feedback on the recent consultation, jointly undertaken with the Diocese of Middlesbrough, on draft proposals for the amalgamation of St.David's Roman Catholic School (RC) and the Newlands FCJ schools into a single new Catholic school for Middlesbrough. As part of this amalgamation the report sought approval for the publication of statutory notices to close St.David's RC Technology College and the Newlands FCJ School.

The amalgamation of St.David's RC and the Newlands FCJ Catholic secondary schools formed a key part of Middlesbrough's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme which aimed to rebuild and refurbish all maintained secondary schools and secondary age special schools in the town.

In April 2007 the Diocese of Middlesbrough and Middlesbrough Council had undertaken a period of consultation on three options for the creation of a single secondary school to serve the Catholic community of Middlesbrough and which would utilise the accommodation provided through BSF. Some 60 responses were received, of which 80% agreed that the option of amalgamating St.David's and the Newlands FCJ into a new, single school was the best way forward. With the support shown through consultation, the Diocese of Middlesbrough

successfully applied for exemption from the school competition rules which enabled the publication of proposals for the new school without the need to approach other promoters.

A five-week period of consultation on draft proposals to amalgamate the two schools was undertaken between 14 January and 15 February 2008. Approximately 6,500 consultation documents on the proposals were distributed to stakeholders and supported by a series of meetings held in the schools. A copy of the consultation document was attached as Appendix A to the submitted report.

The submitted report included a breakdown of the responses received and issues raised fell into two broad categories which were, issues that would be for consideration by the new school's governing body; and issues directly related to the proposal for the new school which were the responsibility of the Diocese of Middlesbrough as the proposers, or issues which were linked to the BSF programme.

A statutory process must be followed in order to continue with the school's amalgamation, which would include a further consultation or 'representation' period, before the proposals could be considered for decision and finally implemented.

### **ORDERED**

- 1) That the contents of the report and particularly the feedback received through consultation be noted.**
- 2) That the publication of statutory notices and corresponding formal proposals to close both St. David's RC Technology College and the Newlands FCJ School from September 2009, only as part of, and subject to agreement by the Diocese of Middlesbrough to publish proposals for the establishment of a new Catholic secondary school be approved.**
- 3) That a continued partnership with the Diocese of Middlesbrough to enable plans for a single Catholic secondary school for Middlesbrough to be implemented be endorsed.**

### **REASONS**

**The decisions were supported by the following reasons:**

- 1) Changes to the provision of Catholic secondary education in Middlesbrough were essential to providing effective, efficient and viable secondary education in the town, and integral to the objectives of the BSF programme.**
- 2) The decisions ensured that the Council remained compliant with current legislation, which covered the reorganisations of school provision.**