

BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET ON 15 MARCH 2006

DATE OF PUBLICATION: MONDAY 20 MARCH 2006

DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY 27 MARCH 2006 AT 5 P.M.

NOTES:

- (1) A COPY OF THE CABINET AGENDA HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY ISSUE PLEASE CONTACT, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER OR OFFICER NAMED IN THE RIGHT HAND COLUMN.**
- (2) MINUTE 122, BEING A STARRED MINUTE, WILL BE REFERRED TO FULL COUNCIL ON 24 APRIL 2006**

MEETING OF THE CABINET

15 March 2006

Present:

Councillor Joyce Dobson (Leader of the Council), in the Chair
Councillors Horace Battram, Mike Brookes, Bob Cory, Richard Leggott and Mary Wright

Officers:

Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Sure Start Programme Manager, Housing Manager, Principal Private Sector Housing Officer, Head of Corporate Resources and Finance, Civics/Member Services Officer, Communications Manager and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Also attending: Miss Viktoria Maksimowa, on work experience from Boston College.

117 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

118 EXTENSION OF EVALUATION SERVICES FOR SURE START BOSTON

<u>DECISION</u>	Cllr Cory
1. That the existing contract with Partners in Change be extended.	MP
2. That evaluation projects be carried out to investigate:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether the establishment of Sure Start programmes has affected referrals to Social Services	

- **Whether activities within the SureStart programme have affected healthy eating and obesity**
- **Whether the SureStart programmes have effectively engaged “hard to reach” groups**
- **Whether SureStart programmes have affected children’s readiness to learn and socialise when they get to nursery and school.**
- **How partnerships working together have affected the outcomes for children and families.**

REASON FOR DECISION

The Sure Start Programme Manager introduced the report, which requested that Cabinet approve an extension to the existing contract for Evaluation Services with Partners in Change to provide services during 2006/07.

Evaluation has to be carried out as a condition of receiving the Sure Start grant and the present evaluators, Partners in Change, have conducted research according to specification meeting timetables and reporting timescales. In addition they have had built up a good working relationship with parents, who had provided positive feedback regarding their approach.

Sure Start programmes across Lincolnshire have agreed to pool their evaluation budgets. This will provide an opportunity for joint evaluation programmes and findings. In addition, pooling resources will result in better value for money and better strength of evidence.

Councillor Cory congratulated and thanked the Sure Start Programme Manager and her team for their excellent work

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

To go through a new tendering process.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

None.

(In accordance with the Constitution the Mayor agreed that the following item (Minute 119) be regarded as urgent due to the need to comply with the response deadline)

119 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING POLICY FRAMEWORK

<p><u>DECISION</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Private Sector Housing Policy Framework be adopted with effect from 6 April 20062. That the Policy Development Committee be thanked at their next meeting for their valuable contribution.	<p>Cllr Battram AF</p>
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REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Battram introduced the report, which set out the Council's policy for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licensing, Housing Health and Safety Rating and Enforcement, Decent Homes Grants and Disabled Facility Grants.

The Private Sector Housing Policy framework had been developed to ensure that the Council met its statutory duties as a Local Housing Authority under the Housing Act 2004 and to deliver a number of key objectives determined necessary by the Council through its adoption of the Housing Strategy 2005-2009.

The Framework consisted of four separate policies: HMO Licensing, Housing Health and Safety Rating and Enforcement, Decent Home Grants and Disabled Facility Grants.

Mandatory licensing will apply to those premises that meet the definition of a HMO, are three storeys or more (including basements) and are occupied by five people or more. A HMO licence can only be granted to an individual, not an organisation, the cost of licensing will be borne by the landlord, who must be considered by the Council to be 'fit and proper'.

Housing Health and Safety Rating Enforcement policy had undergone its first change in 25 years and now encompassed a new framework that assessed up to 29 separate hazards. The policy also makes provision for a range of new enforcement powers, which will take effect from 3 July 2006.

Decent Home Grants will replace the Private Sector Housing and Disabled Facilities Grant Policy adopted in 2003. The policy introduces increased resource assistance of up to £10,000 to make properties 'decent' for vulnerable people. It also introduces a relocation grant to enable, under certain circumstances, vulnerable people to move into a decent home should they wish to do so.

Disabled Facility Grants will introduce only minor changes to the policy adopted by the Council in 2004. The policy will enable the Council to be more flexible as will maximise and make best use of resources.

There will be no financial pressure in implementing these policies but there will be a benefit, due to the revenue from HMO Licensing and charging for notices.

The Policy Development Committee were thanked for their valuable contribution and helpful and supportive debate.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Not to adopt the Policy Framework and accept the risks that this poses to the Council and residents of the Borough.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

None.

120 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

DECISION

That a grant of £150 is made to Miss Laura Hallett to assist her in accessing her weekly dance training sessions in Scunthorpe.

AF

REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Cory introduced the report by saying it was the Council's duty to assist the young people of Boston in achieving their goals, adding that it made a pleasant change to be considering a development grant to assist a dancer.

Laura Hallett is a ballroom and Latin dancer from Boston who has reached a very high standard and in doing so represents Boston and Lincolnshire at high profile events. In addition to her achievements she is deeply involved with promoting dance and has appeared in both the local paper and National television programmes

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

That nil grant is made to the applicant.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(WHERE APPROPRIATE)

None.

(In accordance with the Constitution the Mayor agreed that the following item (Minute 121) be regarded as urgent due to the new rate having to take effect from 06 April 2006)

121 MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

DECISION

That the mortgage interest rate of 11.375% for the financial year 2006/07 be approved.

Cllr Leggott

AC

REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Leggott introduced the report which was to inform Members of the Council's annual mortgage interest rate for the forthcoming financial year 2006/07.

Section 16 of the Housing Act 1985 specifies that local authorities are to set the interest rate on mortgages arranged since 1985 on an annual basis. Authorities are required to charge whichever is the higher of the Standard National Rate which is set by the Secretary of State, or the applicable local average rate, based on the Authority's own borrowing costs and a small percentage for administration.

The mortgage interest rate for 2006/07 will be 11.375% as it is the higher of the Standard National Rate and the Local Average Rate.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

None

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
(WHERE APPROPRIATE)

None.

DECISION

THAT IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

1. That a full review of the Service to the Community Awards scheme be carried out and proposals submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet, with a view to being introduced for 2007.
2.
 - i) That the Christmas Reception in its current format be discontinued.
 - ii) That the event revert to the ownership of the Mayor of the day and be funded from the Mayor's Allowance, should it be held.
3.
 - i) That the arrangements for Mayor's Sunday be retained.
 - ii) That the cost associated with the event be split on a 50 / 50 basis between the Mayor's Allowance and the Civic budgets.
4. That the existing arrangements for the Mayfair Proclamation, the Civic Dinner and the Buoys and Beacons Inspection be retained with no amendments.
5. That the Council's current policy on the use of the Coat of Arms be reaffirmed, and that delegated powers be given to the Chief Executive to respond to all future requests.
6.
 - i) That the order of Civic Processions be revised to allow partners to walk with Members behind the Mace, with all Members walking in a strict order of seniority.
 - ii) That children should not be permitted to join Civic Processions.
7. That the seating arrangements for services in church be revised to allow Members and partners to sit together, to take account of recommendation 6 relating to the order of Civic Processions.
8. That the current list of flag flying days be reaffirmed, including the flying of national flags on national days as a departure from the guidance, subject to the addition of flying the Union flag on Europe Day.

Cllr Dobson

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| <p>9. That the existing arrangements for the showing of the Civic Regalia, allocation of places for Royal Garden Parties and for attendance at the funerals of serving and past Members be retained with no amendments.</p> <p>10. That the Mayoral Guidelines relating to the Mayoralty, the Deputy Mayor and General Issues be reaffirmed, subject to the amendment of point 7 in the Mayoralty section should the recommended arrangements for Mayor's Sunday be adopted.</p> <p>11. That the current selection method for office of Mayor be amended to take account of a Members total number of years service, including broken service.</p> <p>12. That the draft role / job description for the position of Mayor be agreed.</p> <p>13.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i) That Officers be requested to produce detailed rules and guidelines on extending the eligibility of use of the Mayoral car to include Cabinet Members, and Officers when accompanying Cabinet Members, for submission to a future meeting.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii) That the following caveats be attached should the widened use of the vehicle be agreed:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">That the requirements of the Mayoralty would always take precedence</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">That use of the vehicle must be demonstrable as the most economic means of transport available.</p> | |
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REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Dobson introduced the report by explaining that the Senior Management Forum were tasked with carrying out a review of civic events by means of a Task and Finish Group, to which Members were invited.

The remit of the Task and Finish Group was to review all current civic events, upon commencing the review it was discovered that Civic and Mayoral Protocols had not been reviewed since 1996 and so a decision was taken to include these protocols within the remit of the review.

Members welcomed the review and discussed the recommendations of the report in detail. Members particularly supported the recommendation that partners be allowed to walk with them behind the Mace at Civic Processions,

stating that partners were very important to Members in assisting them in carrying out their public life and good for their valuable contribution to be recognised.

Concerning the current list of flag flying days, Members felt that the removal of the flying of national flags on national days would not aid community cohesion. It was agreed that the Scottish and Welsh national flags should be flown on national days, as well as the St. George's flag on St. George's day, as a departure from the Guidance received from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

The recommendation to amend the current selection process for the office of Mayor to take account of a Members total years service, including broken service was also welcomed by Members, who felt that the office of Mayor should be a reward for past and present service.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

That the recommendations be not agreed
 That alternative options be put forward to Cabinet for consideration.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Leggott declared a personal interest with respect to the discussions on Mayoral events on the grounds that he is the Mayor Elect. He left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on the Christmas Reception and Mayor's Sunday.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE (WHERE APPROPRIATE)
 None.

(In accordance with the Constitution the Mayor agreed that the following item (Minute 123) be regarded as urgent due to the need to comply with the response deadline)

123 IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT RETURN 2006 (IEG6)

<p><u>DECISION</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the process of development and content of the IEG statement be noted 2. That the submission of the statement within the required timescale be approved once the final content is agreed by the Member e-Champion and the Director of Resources. 	<p>Cllr Battram AM</p>
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3. That the utilisation by the Council of the £18,600 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister additional Local Government On-Line Capital Grant for 2005/06 in successfully achieving 100% Best Value Performance Indicator 157 (100% availability of e-services) be noted.
4. That confirmation of Cabinet's support of the statement and the e-Government ethos be communicated to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
5. That a report be provided to Cabinet to provide feedback on the submission of IEG6 and indications as to the way forward in the future.

REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Brookes introduced the report by asking that Members consider the content of the IEG6 and approve the submission of the statement once the final content had been agreed by himself as Member e-Champion and the Director of Resources.

The Head of Corporate Resources and Finance informed Members that work was currently underway to collate updated data for the statement and it was anticipated that this would be completed within the required timeframe.

The statement has to be submitted electronically via the esd-Toolkit by mid-day on Monday 10 April 2006 and will be published on the Council's web site once successfully submitted.

Councillor Brookes thanked and congratulated the Head of Corporate Resources and Finance and her team on all their hard work.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The submission of the statement is obligatory.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

None.

124 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

DECISION

1. That the contents of the report be noted
2. That nominations for the positions be put forward to full Council on the recommendation of Group Leaders at the Annual General Meeting in May 2006.

Cllr Leggott

AC

REASON FOR DECISION

Councillor Dobson introduced the report, which was to ensure that a current register is kept of Members appointments to external organisations, together with their roles and responsibilities.

The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer informed Members that it was important to ensure that they did not incur personal liability when acting as a trustee or director on external organisations to which they had been appointed by Council and that a full list of external representations be kept and maintained.

Holding a written register of external organisations, terms of reference and insurance arrangements would help to minimise any liability that the Council or Members may be exposed to. A further benefit would be to help minimise the risk that Members may inadvertently fail to record their interest on the register of Members interests due to not being aware of their position.

OTHER OPTIONS OR ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

To maintain the current position.

RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

RECORD OF ANY DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE (WHERE APPROPRIATE)

None.

(The meeting ended at 10.45 a.m.)

Signed by the Chief Executive

Dated: 20 March 2006

These decisions will come into force (and may then be implemented) on the expiry of five clear working days after the date of this notice UNLESS the decision is subjected to the call-in procedure or is a starred minute requiring Full Council approval.