



THE EXECUTIVE

Meeting: Wednesday, 7 February 2007 at 6.15 pm

Present: Councillor Lomax (Chair)

Councillors Faulkner, Harrison, Mrs Kirk, Pritchard and Wells.

Councillors Norton, Wharmby and J Wilkinson also attended the meeting.

07/64 MINUTES
(Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 13 December 2006 be approved.

07/65 REFUSE COLLECTION / RECYCLING TWIN BIN SCHEME
(Agenda Item 9)

In May 2006 a pilot Twin Bin, Alternate Week, refuse collection scheme (Binnovation) was launched in the Glossopdale area to about 13,000 properties. The pilot scheme has generally been considered a success with recycling rates in the area being increased from about 10% to about 35% of all waste collected.

The DCC are in the process of establishing a Civic Amenity site / Waste Transfer Station / In-Vessel Composter at a site at Waterswallows, Buxton. The provision of this site is fundamental to the future direction of waste collection and recycling activities in the Borough. This proposal has already received planning approval and the county council has appointed a contractor to construct and operate the site.

The construction of the proposed Civic Amenity Site / Waste Transfer Station / In-Vessel Composter at Waterswallows, Buxton will dictate the extent and the timing of any expansion of Binnovation. Current progress indicates that the facility will not be ready until late 2007, possibly not until early 2008.

An expansion to the Twin Bin scheme and the inclusion of kitchen waste in the compostable element depends on the availability of the Waterswallows facility. Expansion of the scheme without this facility will be difficult with long waste transfers to Chesterfield and no Civic Amenity site readily available for residents in the south of the Borough.

When the Waterswallows facility is operational there are a number of options the Council can consider for the future development of the Refuse Collection and Recycling Service:-



- Option 1** - Return to Status Quo. ie No Twin Bin scheme. Operate kerbside box scheme only and return to weekly residual waste collection.
Option 2 – Continue with Glossopdale only on Twin Bin scheme.
Option 3 – Expansion of the scheme to the rest of the Borough in one stage over eight weeks.
Option 4 – Expansion of the scheme to the rest of the Borough in two stages over six months.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council expand the twin bin, alternate week, refuse collection scheme to the rest of the Borough in one stage and that option 3 be implemented.
2. That the Executive place on record its thanks to the Glossop Councillors, Managers and front line staff in Environmental Services and Customer Services for their efforts in making the pilot scheme a success.

07/66 'IMPROVING HIGH PEAK': CORPORATE PLAN 2007 - 2012
(Agenda Item 4)

The Council's Performance Improvement Framework requires an annual review of the Corporate Plan in order to determine the on-going relevance of the priorities for action. This year the review has been 'light touch' as it is anticipated that a more comprehensive review will take place during 2007/08, after the elections.

Consultation has been undertaken with both Business Teams and Borough residents, via the Citizens Panel, in order to help determine the content of the draft Plan and to understand customer spending priorities in relation to the Council Tax.

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the following amendments be made to Aim Three:

That a monthly target of 30% of domestic waste being recycled by March 2008 be set, and that this year we expand 'Binnovation' our twin bin refuse collection service to other areas of the Borough.
2. That subject to (1) above the revised Corporate Plan be recommended to the Council.

07/67 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2007-08 TO 2009-10
(Agenda Item 5)

The Council's budget has been constructed in line with the policy framework contained in the Corporate Plan with 2007-08 being year one of a three year



detailed budget. This builds on the previous three-year financial plan covering 2006-07 to 2008-09, agreed by Council in February 2006.

The Executive has continued with the aims and objectives agreed by the Council which have formed the basis of their previous financial strategy.

This year's business planning and budget setting process is characterised by a 'light touch' approach, agreed previously with the Executive. This assumes that corporate aims and objectives remain unchanged from last year, and therefore that budgets should also be largely unchanged, except for inflationary rate rises and other changes in the external business environment.

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the Executive recommend to the Council a Band D Council Tax for 2007-08 of £162.77, a rise of 3.2%.
2. That the Executive recommend to Council the following budgets:
 - General Fund for 2007-08 to 2009-10 (Appendices 1a, 1b, 2)
 - Housing Revenue Account (Appendix 4)
 - Capital for 2007-08 to 2009-10 as set out in the Capital Program (Appendix 3)
3. That Business Managers be instructed to prepare three-year business plans for 2007-08 to 2009-10 on the basis of the revenue and capital budgets in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.
4. That the Chief Executive and the Corporate Management Team are instructed to deliver the budget savings in Appendix 1b.
5. That the Executive recommend to Council the following rents and charges, with effect from April 2007:
 - Rents of Council dwellings rise in line with Government determination by an average of 4.95% (52 weeks)
 - Rents for garages be increased by 4.95% to £4.82 per week
 - That sheltered housing service charges be increased in line with government directive by 4.1% to a maximum of £5.55 per week (52 weeks) or £6.02 per week (48 weeks)
 - That the charge for the 'carelink' mobile warden service be increased by 2.5%.
 - That fuel charges be increased by 14.4%.

07/68

2006-07 MONTH 9 (DECEMBER) FINANCIAL MONITOR
(Agenda Item 6)

Performance is measured against the budgets for general fund and capital expenditure previously adopted by the council, which reflect the council's business plans. Current budgets for 2006-07 include working assumptions which also underpin the financial plans for 2007-08 to 2009-10.



The summary headlines are as follows:

Area	Headline
General Fund	Improved position; likely contribution to reserves remains at £48,000 as explained in Section 5 below.
Savings Programme	Savings of £479,000 have been achieved against a target £540,000 (89%).
Capital Programme	Forecast spend of £5.5m (a further reduction on previous reports).
Debt collection	Good performance to date, in line with performance in previous year.
Creditor payments (BVPI8)	Current cumulative performance is 91.04% (target for year end is 93%)
Investment performance	Within agreed limits; investment income on target
Reserves and balances	No issues

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

07/69 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS REPORT 2007/08**
(Agenda Item 7)

The report outlines the Council's prudential indicators for 2007/08 – 2009/10 and sets out the expected treasury operations for this period. It fulfils three key reports required by the Local Government Act 2003:

- The reporting of the prudential indicators as required by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
- The treasury strategy in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.
- The investment strategy (in accordance with the DCLG investment guidance).

RESOLVED:

1. That the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2007/08 to 2009/10 contained within the report be adopted.
2. That the Treasury Management Strategy 2007/08, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
3. That the Investment Strategy 2007/08 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy, and the detailed criteria included in Appendix A to the strategy be approved.



07/70 **COMMUNITY FUND AND POLICY**
(Agenda Item 8)

The Community Fund has been subject to a comprehensive review of the way in which the fund has operated over recent years, which has involved a survey of grant applicants and recipients and discussions with a range of grant recipients and other voluntary groups. The review has been overseen by the Joint Community Grants Select Sub-committee who have met on four occasions over the period of the review. The draft Strategy and Policy was then considered and recommended for approval by the Joint Community Grants Select Sub-Committee to Corporate Select for public consultation.

Corporate Select considered the draft on 13 November 2006 and agreed the recommendations from the Sub-Committee, together with an additional recommendation that Buxton Festival Fringe be included in the list of organisations that would be considered for a three year management agreement.

The draft Strategy and Policy proceeded to public consultation in mid December 2006 through publication on the Council's website and a public meeting hosted by High Peak CVS, who invited all their members to comment on the draft.

A revised Appendix 1 (Grant recipients from the Community Fund 2006/07) had been circulated.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Community Strategy and Policy as detailed in the appendix to the report be approved.
2. That the organisations listed in Appendix 1 (as amended) of the Strategy and Policy be informed of their status and offered the appropriate agreement, subject to the receipt and satisfactory review of documentation required by the agreements.
3. That Buxton Festival Fringe be included in the list of organisations being offered a three year management agreement and funding (£500 per year).
4. That Business Managers include within the appropriate service budgets, the level of funding identified within Appendix 1 of the Policy for 2007/08 and that the funding be transferred from the Community Grant budget.
5. That negotiations on the individual agreements be delegated to the Executive Members for Corporate Services and Community and Social Development.



07/71 BUXTON TOWN CENTRE PARKING REVIEW AND STRATEGY
(Agenda Item 10)

In January 2005 following a suggestion by the Buxton Partnership (now Buxton Vision) a meeting was held to discuss parking issues in Buxton. Attendees included High Peak Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Danubius Hotels, Workman & Partners (Spring Gardens Managers) and the University of Derby. It was agreed that consultants needed to be engaged to undertake a review and develop a Strategy. A brief was drawn up, 6 companies were invited to tender and Colin Buchanan and Partners were engaged to undertake the work.

Colin Buchanan and Partners commenced work in September 2005 and produced a draft final report in March 2006. A summary of this report and the recommendations (see Appendix 1) were then subject to consultation with the Buxton Vision Group and the Buxton Area Forum. A final report was produced in September 2006.

The Summary and Recommendations at Appendix 1 set out the overview, comments on the baseline analyses in relation to existing demand and projections of future supply and demand. From this it developed a strategy for dealing with the key issues of:-

- How should 'on-street' parking be controlled, managed and priced to balance the interests of those who visit the town centre as well as those who live in or adjacent to it?
- What measures are required to ensure that the existing 'off-street' capacity is used efficiently and supports the viability and vitality of the town centre?
- What additional parking capacity is required to support the town centre and how should it be provided?

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report produced by Colin Buchanan and Partners Limited be noted.
2. That the Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

07/72 CAR PARKING IN NEW MILLS
(Agenda Item 11)

The Regeneration Select Committee considered an initial report on car parking in New Mills at its meeting on 3 October 2006. It was resolved that the following be recommended for inclusion in the report to the Executive.

1. New Mills Town Hall car park to have a new ticket machine installed.



2. Further consideration be given to reducing the free period down to 1 hour (Councillors Ashton and Atkins abstained from voting on this matter).
3. Robust negotiations take place with Network Rail about the lease for Torr Top car park and a possible 12 month rolling contract.
4. Review/increase charges and look at a scale of charges.
5. Increase season ticket charges.
6. More strict off-street enforcement and monitoring, possibly involving New Mills Town Council.
7. Consider charging for Saturdays and Sunday.

The need to retain the existing public car park provision in New Mills is seen as of fundamental importance to the economic viability of the town itself. This was reflected by the views of both the New Mills Town Council and the members of the Regeneration Select Committee. Therefore the option of the Council not renewing the lease on Torr Top Car Park from SPACIA was not considered realistic and the expectation is that this will be re negotiated upon its termination in March 2007.

However the provision of public car parking in New Mills currently operates at a deficit of around £11,000. A primary aim of any new policy will be to ensure this deficit is reduced and that the car park will 'break even'.

This report was considered by the Regeneration Select Committee at its meeting held on 16 January 2007 who supported the recommendations detailed in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That a car park ticket machine be installed at New Mills Town Hall.
2. That the free period for parking be reduced from 2 hours to 1 hour.
3. That subject to the statutory consultation and the amendment to the Off-Street Car Parking Order the following charges be introduced at the New Mills Car parks:

Up to 1 hour	Free (a ticket must however be obtained and displayed)
Up to 2 hours	50p
Up to 4 hours	£1.50
Over 4 hours	£2.00
4. That the cost of a season ticket be increased to £75 per quarter.
5. That the enforcement continues to be carried out by the Borough Council but that this be reviewed after 6 months of the new charges being introduced.
6. That charges be introduced for parking all day on Saturday (currently only up to 1.00 pm) but that parking continues to be free on Sunday.



07/73 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**
(Agenda Item 13)

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item because there may be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

07/74 **WRITE OFFS – IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS**
(Agenda Item 14)

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council Tax detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved for write-off as irrecoverable.
2. That the National Non Domestic Rates as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report be approved for write-off as irrecoverable.

The meeting concluded at 7.10 pm

CHAIR