

MINUTES OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON

30 July 2009

7.30pm-7.50pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Simon Carter (Chairman)

Andrew Johnson

Chris Millington
Mark Wilkinson

Russell Perrin

APOLOGIES

Manny Doku

Eddie Johnson

SUBSTITUTES

John Strachan substitute for Manny Doku
Clive Souter substitute for Eddie Johnson

22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Chris Millington declared a personal interest in agenda item 12(c) (Theatre Development Working Group Minutes) as he sometimes performed in productions at the Playhouse.

23. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

24. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

25. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

26. **NON-CONTENTIOUS BUSINESS**

RESOLVED that no items be taken as non-contentious.

27. **COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Work Plan be noted;
- (b) a report on sponsorship be added to the work plan for submission to a future meeting.

28. **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS**

The Committee received a report of the main issues concerning the introduction of the forthcoming International Financial Reporting Standards.

CIPFA was expected to issue the final complete Code of Practice in early December 2009.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

29. **DISPOSAL OF RESIDENTIAL LAND**

The Committee received a report proposing the sale of residential land adjacent to 78 Fir Park.

RESOLVED that approval be given for the disposal of the land subject to formal contract, for the reasons outlined in the report.

30. **DEBT WRITE-OFFS**

The Committee received a report proposing the write-off of irrecoverable debts and the reversal of previous write-offs which had since been recovered.

It was noted that the write-off amounts were shown as gross figures, but only a percentage of the costs were to Harlow Council (as a majority of the costs were borne by other Essex precepting authorities).

RESOLVED that

- (a) irrecoverable Council Tax amounting to £47,314.37 be written off and previous write-offs of £2,833.10 be reversed, as set out in Appendix 1;

- (b) irrecoverable Non-Domestic Rates amounting to £196,212.78 as set out in Appendix 2 be written off;
- (c) the actual amount of debt for Harlow Council, as opposed to the gross figure, be shown in future 'write off' reports;
- (d) further details of the Non-Domestic Rate debt in line 1 of Appendix 2 of the report be circulated to members of this Committee.

31. **SMALL BUSINESS ACCORD**

This item was withdrawn from the meeting.

32. **WORKING PARTY MINUTES**

(a) Joint Venture Partnership Project Group

Members noted that the last meeting had been held in March 2009 and that meetings should be held with Kier Harlow on a regular basis.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2009 be noted;
- (b) Officers be requested to provide an update on the next meeting of the Kier Harlow Strategic Partnership Board.

(b) Budget & Performance Monitoring Working Party

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2009 and 15 July 2009 be noted.

(c) Theatre Development Working Group

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2009 be noted.

33. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

34. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE