

TRADING BOARD

3 August 2016

Present :- Councillor Rosalind Scott (Chairman)
Councillors Kevin Bentley, Lesley Scott-Boutell and
Martyn Warnes

Substitute Members:- Councillor Buston for Councillor Davidson
Councillor J. Maclean for Councillor Barber

Also Present: - Councillor Cory

126. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

127. Have Your Say

Kim Naish attended and addressed the Board pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5). He worked as a private hire driver. Private hire drivers made an important contribution to the borough's economy. He had recently changed his car, which had to be examined by the Council. He had been advised that the earliest date at which this could be done was 6 September 2016. This was an unacceptable level of service. It would effectively prevent him from working for a month, and would also seriously inconvenience his customers. He was aware of other drivers who had faced similar delays.

Gareth Mitchell, Head of Commercial Services, indicated that although this matter fell outside the immediate remit of the Trading Board he would raise the matter urgently with colleagues.

128. Commercial Business Development – Operational Businesses

The Board considered a report from the Commercial Manager and the Commercial Transition Manager, providing an update on the operational businesses.

Members of the Board noted the teething problems that had arisen on the new grounds maintenance contract. It was confirmed that the new contract was flexible and was based on need, rather than task or job based. It had always been anticipated that the handover to the new contractor would be challenging. However, the Council was actively monitoring the situation and it was anticipated that all work would be up to date by the end of August. No additional costs would be incurred by the Council as a result.

In respect of the Events Management, it was anticipated that the Colchester Events Company and the new Events Policy would be launched together in the autumn. Members emphasised the need to ensure that the service was properly promoted and highlighted that members, if properly briefed, could act as ambassadors for the service.

The progress on the creation of the SEAX Building Control Service was noted. Members explored issues around the recruitment and retention of Building Control staff and how the transfer into the new service was viewed. The Commercial Manager explained that levels of enthusiasm for the new service varied. Not all appreciated the advantages and opportunities that the new service offered. The new contract for all staff would be rolled out shortly, and there would be a need to ensure that the advantages it offered, such as training and development, were clearly explained. There was some anecdotal evidence that some private sector Approved Inspectors would also welcome the opportunity to join the new service. It was suggested that the new service should look at the possibility of delivering a training service which it could sell externally, but it was felt that this was likely to be unsustainable given the likely size of the service.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

129. Work Programme

The Board considered a report from the Assistant Chief Executive setting out a draft work programme for the 2016-17 municipal year.

Members of the Board suggested that it would be useful for the Annual Report 2016-17 to be scheduled initially for the meeting in January 2017, so that the Board could be involved in the initial drafting. It was also suggested that the Board look at the savings and commercial opportunities arising from the Essex Waste Partnership, such as collaborative approaches to collections and the commercial aspects of trade waste. This would be separate from the current work being undertaken by the Portfolio Holder for Waste and Sustainability on waste and recycling in Colchester.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme 2016-17 be agreed subject to:-

- (a) The Annual Report 2016-17 be added to Work Programme for the meeting on 25 January 2017 in addition to the meeting on 22 March 2017;
- (b) The addition of an item relating to the commercial opportunities arising from the Essex Waste Partnership.

The Board resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

130. Minutes – Not for Publication Extract

RESOLVED that the not for publication extract of the minutes of the meeting on 23 March 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

The Board resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

131. Public Sector Reform Commercial Opportunities

This minute is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information.)

The Board resolved under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

132. Commercial Business Development – Operational Business Performance and Income report

This minute is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the authority holding that information.)