

JOINT CABINET AND EMPLOYMENT & GENERAL COMMITTEE**Tuesday, 21st April, 2015**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors	Blank	Ludlow
	Gilby	McManus
	Higginbottom	Serjeant
	King	Simmons

Non Voting	Hill
Members	Hollingworth

*Matters dealt with under Executive Powers

**25 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elliott, Brown, Gibson, Huckle, Russell and M Stone.

27 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Cabinet and Employment and General Committee of 4 November, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

28 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**RESOLVED –**

That under Regulation 21 (1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the following Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 – Paragraphs 1, 3 and 4, on the grounds that it contained information relating to individuals, financial and business affairs and to consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority and employees of the authority.

29 PLANNING SERVICE STAFFING RESTRUCTURE (J000)

The Development and Growth Manager submitted a report recommending for approval new staffing structures for the Council's Strategic Planning and Key Sites Team and Development Management Team.

The report outlined the key areas of work and the objectives of the Strategic Planning and Key Sites team (formerly Forward Planning). The previous structure of the team was detailed in the report. It was proposed that two new posts, including a Principal Planning Officer and a Community Infrastructure Officer, be created to enable the team to respond to the challenges faced in delivering the Government's growth agenda and the Council's own aspirations for growth and regeneration. This would also allow a greater focus on housing development and an enhancement of the work on the production of the Local Plan and working with Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The challenges facing the Development Management Team in dealing with an increasing number and complexity of planning applications, including pre-application discussions, and in delivering the enforcement function were explained in the report. It was proposed that two new posts, including an Enforcement Technician and an additional Planning Case Officer, be created to react to the increasing volumes of workload.

Consultation with affected staff and their trade unions had been undertaken.

The report outlined the human resources and the financial implications, along with the potential risks and proposed actions to mitigate these. The job descriptions and the person specifications for the new posts were attached as Appendices to the report.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the new staffing structures for the Strategic Planning and Key Sites Team and Development Management Team as described within the report be approved.
- (2) That the new posts of Principal Planning Officer and Community Infrastructure Officer within the Strategic Planning and Key Sites Team be established.
- (3) That the new posts of Planning Case Officer (career grade planner) and Enforcement Technician within the Development Management Team be established.
- (4) That permission be given to backfill any vacancies should any of the new posts be filled by internal candidates.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that the Strategic Planning and Key Sites Team and the Development Management Team were properly structured and resourced to deliver the statutory and local functions in support of sustainable economic and housing growth in the Borough.