

# **EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive Board held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 14 March 2007**

### **Present:**

Councillors:

Miss S M Randall Johnson (Chairman)

P A Diviani  
Miss J M Elson  
S Hughes  
S C Luxton  
A T Moulding  
J B Nicholson  
Mrs P A Stott  
A J Wilkinson

### **Also Present**

Councillors:

Miss V Ash	J A Knight
G P Chamberlain	Mrs A E Liverton
T A Cope	G H Liverton
J E D Falby	Ms S M Merritt
C F A Gibbings	R Mudge
A R Giles	Mrs F I Newth
M J L Green	Mrs H E Parr

### **Apology**

Councillor R G Franklin (Vice Chairman)

The meeting started at 5.30 pm and ended at 7.50 pm.

### **\*158 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 7 February 2007 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

### **\*159 Leisure East Devon (LED) ICT Transfer**

The Leader agreed for this item to be considered as urgent to enable Members to decide as soon as possible on where savings within the ICT Service could be made now that final costs savings from the transfer to LED had been calculated. This item was considered in Part B of the agenda for reasons given at Minute 161.

### **\*160 British Telecom – new charge**

The Leader agreed for this item to be considered as urgent to enable Members to decide on possible action in respect of a recent announcement by British Telecom (BT) that a quarterly charge of £4.50 would be made to customers not paying their accounts by direct debit with effect from 1 May 2007. The Portfolio Holder – Communications raised this issue as relevant for Council involvement because of the significant impact it would have on the community, particularly those on a limited income and who did not have a bank account. Councillors wanted the current arrangements to continue whereby BT customers could pay their telephone accounts in the local post offices or on line.

### **RESOLVED**

that representations be made to British Telecom (BT) on behalf of the Council asking BT to re-consider its proposal to make a £4.50 quarterly charge to customers not paying their accounts by direct debit and allow alternative means of payment to continue, including at local post offices and on line, without financial penalty.

\*161 **Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Board be confirmed, including the urgent item agreed at Minute 159 above (Para 2 Schedule 12A – information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual) and that this report and those included on the agenda as relating to exempt information be dealt with under Part B of the agenda.

\*162 **Forward Plan**

The contents of the Forward Plan for the period 1 March to 30 June 2007 were noted.

\*163 **Matters referred to the Executive Board**

There were no matters referred to the Executive Board by the Scrutiny or Corporate Overview Committees or the Council.

\*164 **Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 14 February 2007 were noted.

**RESOLVED** (1) that the following decisions be noted:

Minute 49 that the Portfolio Holder – Communications and the Head of ICT be invited to the next meeting to explain why ICT resources had not been allocated to the three finance actions detailed in the report to the Committee,

Minute 51(1) that the action taken after the Council's computer system was infected by a virus be considered at the meeting on 21 March together with the performance detailed in the resolution to minute 49,

Minute 51(2) that scrutiny of progress made with regard to the Play Strategy Action Plan be included in the Forward Plan,

Minute 51(3) that the Chairman of the Devon Primary Care Trust be invited to a meeting after May 3 to update Members on the progress made in running the new Trust.

(2) that the following recommendations be approved,

Minute 48 that more detailed information be provided to the Scrutiny Committee with regard to Performance Indicator BV204 'Planning appeals allowed'.

**\*164 Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee (cont)..**

- Minute 50 (1) that the suggested actions and any indicative budget implications of the Anti Social Behaviour Task and Finish Forum, as contained in their end report, which the exclusion of recommendation 3.6, be approved,
- Minute 51(1) that a Profit and Loss Account be produced for the sports grounds not handed over to Leisure East Devon, for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee,
- Minute 51(2) that a Service Planning and Budget Task and Finish Forum be included in the annual calendar of meetings,
- Minute 54(1) that members of the Scrutiny Committee be provided with a copy of the Poltimore House Trust feasibility study as soon as practical after publication,
- Minute 54(2) that the Scrutiny Committee be provided with the Poltimore House Trust Management Plan and Business Plan to scrutinise before the end of 2007.
- (3) that the following be forwarded to Council and recommended for approval
- Minute 50 (2) that the Council introduce an achievement award scheme for young people,

**\*165 Minutes of the meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board**

Members noted the minutes of a meeting of the above Partnership Board held on 23 February 2007. These were taken into account during consideration of agenda item 15 – Recommendations of the Recycling and Refuse Project Team.

**\*166 East Devon Local Development Scheme: revised timetable – key decision**

Members considered the report of the Policy and Conservation Manager setting out a revised programme for the East Devon Local Development Scheme which would be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval, as required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Members were advised that the Government now recognised that the Local Development Framework procedures were too complex and bureaucratic and was therefore committed to simplifying and streamlining the process. The Regional Spatial Strategy Examination in Public would commence in April and the outcome would have major implications for the district. It was appropriate to commence work on the Council's Core Strategy, issues and options but to not take decisions on preferred options until the Secretary of State's proposed changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy were published. Town and Parish Councils would be actively encouraged to take part in the visioning process to give a clear steer on how they saw their community developing in the period to 2026.

Concern was raised that a significant number of sheltered housing schemes were being developed in Exmouth but Section 106 agreements did not allow the Council to require the developer to make a contribution to health or social services.

\*166 **East Devon Local Development Scheme: revised timetable – key decision (cont)..**

The Corporate Director advised that the Government was proposing to introduce a Planning Gain Supplement - 70% of which would be returned to the local planning authority to make appropriate contributions towards infrastructure costs.

**RESOLVED** that the Head of Planning and Countryside Services, in consultation with the Environment Portfolio Holder, be given delegated authority to make any minor amendments to the programme for the revised Local Development Scheme, if required, to meet any concerns of the Government Office for the South West or the Planning Inspectorate and the revised and updated Local Development Scheme then be submitted to the Secretary of State.

\*167 **East Devon Local Development Framework: Draft Statement of Community Involvement– key decision**

Members considered the report of the Policy and Conservation Manager setting out the background to the requirement for the Council to produce a Statement of Community Involvement as part of the East Devon Local Development Framework. The Council was required to publish the first draft of the Statement for public consultation.

**RESOLVED** that the draft Statement of Community Involvement be approved for public consultation.

168 **Adoption of Treasury Management Strategy for 2007/08**

Members considered the report of the Financial Services Manager setting out the Council's annual Treasury Management Strategy as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services. The Council was required to formally adopt the Strategy and set prudential indicators relating to all Treasury activities that the authority would undertake in the forthcoming financial year. The indicators had been referred to the Board at its meeting in February and approved at the following Council meeting.

The Council had adopted a prudent approach and would continue to maximise interest receipts and comply with the minimisation of exposure to risk. It was proposed that the majority of the authority's surplus cash funds would be dealt with by a Fund Manager. The authority would continue to manage day to day cash flow. Members noted the proposed longer term and short term borrowing limits.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2007/08 be adopted.

\*169 **Revenue and Capital Monitoring report 2006/07 – Month Ten**

Members considered the report of the Financial Services Manager in respect of the Council's overall financial position at Month Ten. The budget variations had been identified within the month together with an assessment of how these variations would continue until the end of the financial year and the subsequent effect on the Council's overall reserves and balances. Members noted the Council's improved position in respect of the General Fund, the reasons given and how these savings would be used in 2007/08. The Council had agreed, as part of the budget process, on how the savings made on the 2006/07 General Fund budget would be used in 2007/08. The savings would allow the Council to create an Invest to Save Fund and the Portfolio Holder Resources suggested that this could be used to achieve procurement efficiencies.

\*169 **Revenue and Capital Monitoring report 2006/07 – month ten (cont)..**

The Portfolio Holder – Resources thanked Officers for achieving the savings which showed that the Council's services were run in a prudent and efficient way. He acknowledged the effective work of the Fees and Charges Task and Finish Forum which had helped the Council to maximise its income streams. The monthly reporting of the budget position had kept Members informed and involved in the financial monitoring process.

**RESOLVED** that the variances identified as part of the Revenue and Capital Monitoring process for Month Ten of 2006/07 be noted, including the effect on the Council's Reserves and Balances.

\*170 **Performance Monitoring report – January 2007**

Members considered the report of the Policy Manager setting out performance information for January 2007. Members noted the Performance Indicators (PIs) which showed variation in January and those showing up as areas of concern.

The report included the six additions to the set of PIs used for monthly monitoring and advised that in some cases it was not practical to produce these figures. Members noted that in respect of HIP HSSA (percentage of unfit private sector homes made fit), discussion had been held with the Audit Commission and it may no longer be a necessary requirement to report this information as a performance indicator. Reasons were given for not being able to present BV 166a (score against a checklist of good practice in Environmental Health) on a monthly basis in a meaningful way. It was reported that systems were currently being developed which would enable PIs BV 82a and b (recycling and composting collection rates – to be collected (and reported to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)) on a more frequent basis.

Members again discussed BV 204 (number of planning appeals allowed) which remained an area of concern. The actual target was questioned and it was suggested that this could be unrealistically high.

The Portfolio Holder – Communities drew Members' attention to improvement to BV 83 (length of stay in temporary accommodation). She advised that reducing homelessness had been a long term strategy. A full time housing office had now been opened within Exmouth Town Hall to give support and guidance and this was effectively helping to reduce homelessness by addressing problems at an early stage.

The Leader thanked the Officers for the useful detail in the report.

**RESOLVED** that the performance and proposed remedial action against key performance indicators for January 2007 be noted.

\*171 **Quarterly monitoring of the Corporate Strategy – third quarter 2006/07**

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director – Central Services giving details of progress on implementing the four priorities of the Corporate Strategy during the third quarter of 2006/07. Corporate Directors had prepared short progress reports highlighting achievements and setting out the remedial action to overcome any delays in meeting targets. This was to assist the Executive Board in monitoring performance and gave Members a strategic overview of progress. An end of year report would be referred to the Executive Board meeting in June which would give a detailed analysis of all parts of the strategy. Members would be asked to consider what should be included within the Strategy for the following year and this information would feed into the reprioritisation exercise to be carried out in the summer.

**RESOLVED** that the progress in implementing the four priorities of the Corporate Strategy during the third quarter of 2006/07 be noted.

**\*172 Recycling and Refuse Project Team - recommendations**

Members considered the report of the Head of Street Scene Services setting out the recommendations and decisions of the Project Team. These included the recommendations of the most recent meeting of the Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board (minute 165 above).

The valuable and effective work of the Project Team/Partnership Board was acknowledged. It was felt that they were addressing the issues and moving forward.

Members noted that the trial would involve the use of 180 litre wheeled bins as standard with the intention of the smaller bin size being a key driver in encouraging the public to recycle. The Corporate Director – Environment confirmed that recycling of card and plastic would be included within the trial.

Members welcomed the decision not to include a micro chip in the wheelie bin. Exmouth Ward Members advised that this had been incorrectly reported in the press and at no time would monies raised through a micro chip system be transferred to Exmouth Town Council.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that, when the wheelie bins are in place, no side waste be collected, except in exceptional circumstances,
- (2) that mixed hereditaments (business properties with domestic accommodation above which have one shared entrance) be issued with a standard 180 litre wheeled bin but where it is not possible to have this size bin due to storage and/or access problems, contingencies be devised through the development of the contract,
- (3) that refuse collections be only made from East Devon District Council bins with householders who currently own their own bins being recommended to use them for storage,
- (4) that the current assisted collections arrangements continue to be used at present with the Head of Street Scene Services investigating the relevant criteria for assisted collections, subject to this criteria not being onerous, such as requiring the presentation of a doctor's certificate as evidence,
- (5) that a reasonable charge be made for the collection of Schedule 2 waste (for example holiday homes, universities, schools, charity shops, village halls - this is not commercial waste but waste for which the local authority may make a reasonable charge to collect),
- (6) that Axminster, Beer, Kilmington, Seaton and Uplyme areas be used to trial the introduction of wheeled bins to 12,000 properties,
- (7) that once the Partnership Board is established, it should overlap with the Project Team with the same Councillor representatives,
- (8) that the delivered recycled boxes be treated as the Council approved receptacle for recycling and shall not be accepted back by the Council,

\*172 **Recycling and Refuse Project Team – recommendations (cont)..**

- (9) that SITA continue with arrangements to secure a depot site at Woodbury Salterton,
- (10) that no further action be taken regarding the equipping of wheelie bins with microchips at the present time,
- (11) that SITA be asked to examine the possibility and options for operating the pilot weekly recycling and bi-weekly refuse collection scheme from 1 June 2007 with the current facilities available with and/or without plastic and card recycling,
- (12) that the Project Team be known as the 'East Devon Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board' to reflect the new partnership working arrangements,
- (13) that the Charter setting out the terms and conditions of the Partnership Board be approved,
- (14) that the new Partnership Board be chaired by the Portfolio Holder – Environment with effect from April 2007,
- (15) that the minutes of the Partnership Board be referred to the Executive Board, to note, and when appropriate, to decide any financial and strategic issues,
- (16) that the level of return/profit for SITA, acceptable to both the Council and SITA, be referred for consideration to a special meeting of the Partnership Board – the discussion to include how to deal with profit beyond the agreed level and how much financial data would be provided,
- (17) that SITA's amended claim for £30,655.40 as the difference between the original contract and the new contract be accepted and processed.

173 **Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing – proposed fee increases**

Members considered the report of the Licensing Manager showing the current fee structure for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licensing fees and the proposed increase from 1 June 2007.

- RECOMMENDED**
- (1) that the proposed licensing fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved and introduced with effect from 1 June 2007,
  - (2) a) that notice be given in accordance with Section 70(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 of the proposed variation of licence fees determined by the Council for this year,

173 **Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing – proposed fee increases (cont)..**

- b) that should objection be received resulting from the notice, and not withdrawn, delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council
- to consider the objection(s) as provided by Section 70 and,
  - to set a further date not later than two months after the first specified date on which the variation shall come into force with or without modification.

(Councillor Miss J M Elson declared a prejudicial interest in this item as holder of a Hackney Carriage Driver's licence).

\*174 **Concessionary fares scheme 2007/08**

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director – Economy identifying an extra £130,000 in the 2007/08 budget to cover the shortfall in the concessionary fares budget together with an extra £30,000 which had been made available to extend the scheme from April 2007. The enhanced national scheme would be introduced in April 2008. Members noted that the sum paid to operators was derived from a formula (detailed in the report) which required the calculation of an average fare and the applications of a 'generation' factor. The proposal was to freeze the current rates next year.

The Council had previously agreed how the scheme should be extended, on a priority basis, when additional finance became available, namely:

- Routes to significant settlements outside of East Devon to which residents would travel in order to visit the doctor, dentist, hospital, bank or post office which would also provide access to shops and other town centre facilities.
- Exeter and park and ride facilities
- Other destinations within Devon.

The Portfolio Holder – Resources thanked the Corporate Director – Economy for the report and for the effective budget work carried out which had meant that the shortfall in the scheme could be covered and surplus funds had been made available to extend the service.

The public would be notified of the extended service through press releases, information on the Council's web site, through town and parish councils and the bus operators.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the concessionary travel scheme be extended to settlements outside East Devon, as set out in appendix A to the report, to which residents would travel in order to visit the doctor, dentist, hospital, bank or post office: the extension would also provide access to shops and other town centre facilities,
- (2) that bus operators be advised that the average fare and 'generation' used in the reimbursement formula for 2007/08 be retained at existing values.

**\*175 Business Support and Advice Services**

Members considered the report of the Economic Development Manager in respect of the procurement of impartial business support and advice services. This was currently provided by the Heart of Devon Enterprise Agency (HoDEA) but changes in the scope and funding had made it difficult to sustain the delivery of services to local business. A merger of the HoDEA and Enterprise South Devon to create 'Enterprise Devon Ltd' was progressing. In addition Members noted the bid to extend the Rural Renaissance programme to assist with the delivery of business support programmes in East Devon. This support would benefit the small and medium sized enterprises within the district as these would fall within the definition of 'rural business'.

The Portfolio Holder – Economy and Regeneration acknowledged the work carried out by Councillor Cox as the Council's representative on the Heart of Devon Enterprise Agency Board.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the Board note the efforts made by the staff and directors of the Heart of Devon Enterprise Agency Ltd to secure the future delivery of impartial support and advice services to small and medium sized enterprises trading within the sub-region,
- (2) that the Council's collaboration with Devon Renaissance on the funding of Rural Enterprise Development in East Devon during 2007/08, as detailed in the report, be supported,
- (3) that funding for the business support and advice services be released only after the successful conclusion of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Council and the Accountable Body, subject to approval by Members.

**\*176 Home Safeguard – new business opportunity**

Members considered the report of the Head of Housing and Social Inclusion in respect of a proposal for attracting new business for Home Safeguard. The proposal was to take over the emergency out of hours and lone worker call handling service. The work would be on a fixed price and in accordance with a service specification and clear set of procedures for dealing with work outside normal office hours. The contract was seen as a good business opportunity for Home Safeguard and was in accordance with the Council's Housing Strategy and the Home Safeguard Marketing Plan.

**RESOLVED**

that the Head of Housing and Social Inclusion be authorised to enter into an agreement for the Home Safeguard service to undertake Teignbridge District Council's out of hours and lone worker call handling service.

**\*177 East Devon Employment Land Review**

Members considered the report of the Principal Planning Officer seeking Council approval to allow the study, produced by Atkins Consulting in response to a Council Commission to assess current supply and future demand for employment land in the District, to be used for future policy formulation and be made available to the business community and the wider public. This was the first study to be carried out to provide base information to inform the Development Framework. The review identified a potential development land shortage beyond 2016 based on historic data and trends. Predicting land requirements so far into the future was a problem and was achieved by looking back and projecting forward. It was important to use these trends but then take into account likely future needs and direction of growth. The importance of having the infrastructures in place was acknowledged as vital. It was suggested that the East Devon Business Forum should review the results in the first instance.

**\*177 East Devon Employment Land Review (cont)..**

**RESOLVED** that the East Devon Employment Land Review be referred to the East Devon Business Forum and the Overview Committee for their comments with a report incorporating their recommendations being referred back to the Executive Board for its consideration.

**\*178 Proposed Science Park – progress up-date**

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director – Environment which gave an update on the proposed Science Park. A Partnership/Steering Group, comprising relevant partners, had been formed to take the project forward. The Group had commissioned the preparation of a business plan. In addition a Supplementary Planning Document was being prepared by consultants, on behalf of the Council, to help achieve the desired standard of quality for the development. A public consultation exercise over the issues and options for the planning of the science park had just been completed.

The draft business plan being produced by a Science Park specialist, Professor John Allen, was being finalised. The consultant had recommended establishing of a ‘company limited by shares’, as the best option for achieving of the aims and objectives of the project. The arrangement would commit each of the current partners to decide whether to be full stakeholders by the investment of equity into the development of the Park.

Members noted the financial implications of progressing the initiative, including a potential equity involvement and the cost, in 2007/08, of detailed technical work to support a planning application. Government funding had recently been announced for the designated New Growth Point for Exeter/East Devon and this included £100,000 as a contribution towards the master planning of this project.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the progress made with developing the proposed Science Park be noted.
- (2) that when available the Business Plan be referred to the Executive Board for consideration with Professor John Allen, who had produced the Plan, being invited to present this to the Board.

**\*179 Affordable Housing Development Agreement – Stowford Rise, Sidmouth**

Members considered the joint report of the Head of Housing and Social Inclusion and the Housing Enabling Officer, settling out an affordable housing development opportunity in Sidmouth. The Portfolio Holder – Communities said that the proposal was an exciting and welcome opportunity.

The Council had a significant land holding at Stowford Rise which was acquired for the provision of affordable housing. The Head of Housing and Social Inclusion sought a Member steer on how the remaining land should be developed. Members discussed the need for a master plan to include the provision of a community centre, open space and affordable housing. It was recognised that the Council had a dual hatted position, both as landlord and as the housing authority responsible for the provision of affordable housing. As landlord, the Council had to achieve the appropriate value for the land and as housing provider had to meet affordable housing needs. The Council was not in a position to fund and provide the housing on the site and various options were proposed. One of the options for achieving this provision was to enter into a Development Agreement with a preferred Registered Social Landlord partner. Devon and Cornwall Housing Association had, to date, offered to develop an scheme but would require assurances on land disposal if the Council wished them to proceed with this. An alternative, more market driven approach would be to invite expressions of interest in developing the site and tendering for a partner.

\*179 **Affordable Housing Development Agreement – Stowford Rise, Sidmouth (cont)..**

The Portfolio Holder – Communities suggested that provision for extra care housing could be included within the site and should be investigated.

The proposal to include a Community Centre within the proposed development of the site was welcomed. Local Members stressed the importance to the area of the natural amenity space (identified at Plot C on the map attached to the report) which should be retained as a priority.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that delegated authority be given to the Head of Housing and Social Inclusion and the Portfolio Holder – Communities to progress the preferred option of the Council entering into a Development Agreement with a preferred Housing Association as a Registered Social Landlord Partner, subject to the District Valuer agreeing that, through this process, the Council would achieve best value for money,
- (2) that a report on the terms of any Development Agreement for providing affordable housing on the Stowford Rise site be referred back to the Executive Board for consideration.

\*180 **Quality Parish/Town Councils – opportunities for greater involvement in the planning process**

Members gave consideration to the report of the Corporate Director – Environment which set out how Quality Parish and Town Councils could be given opportunities for greater involvement in the planning process within East Devon.

Two areas had been identified in the first instance which could be referred to the Quality Parish and Town Councils, namely: trees and advertisement consents, as these were relatively straightforward and of local interest. The Council's Arboricultural Officer would give the councils expert advice on trees. Members noted the proposed arrangements and the anticipated work load. The Quality Parish/Town Councils involved in this delegated work would be given support and guidance, particularly in the initial months of the pilot.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that authority be devolved to the Quality Town and Parish Council's to resolve decisions on the following matters:
  - (a) Applications for works to trees in conservation areas, including the consideration of whether to make a tree preservation order,
  - (b) Applications for works to trees covered by a tree preservation order, including applications to fell,
  - (c) Applications for advertisement consent.
- (2) that the scope and operation of the scheme be reviewed after six months.

\*181 **Up-date on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act**

Members noted the report of the Senior Policy Officer setting out the number and types of requests made under the Freedom of Information Act during 2006. Members noted the quantity and types of requests and the monitoring of cost and time taken to research the information requested.

**RESOLVED** that the number and type of requests made under the Freedom of Information Act during 2006 be noted.

\*182 **Connaught Gardens Footbridge**

Members considered the report of the Principal Engineer in respect of a proposal received from the Sidmouth Millennium Walkway Group (SMWG) to construct a pedestrian footbridge from Manor Road Car Park to Connaught Gardens. The Group wanted to make the Gardens more accessible and reduce the risk of a serious accident to pedestrians crossing the road from the Car Park to the Gardens. The Group proposed that the Council would share the cost of the bridge equally with SMWG, would place and supervise the contract for the construction and take over the ownership of the bridge when completed.

Members noted that the EDDC planners has been informally consulted on the proposal and their opinion was that the bridge, as proposed, was unlikely to be granted planning permission because of its appearance not being in keeping with the setting and as the ramps would have a significant impact on the Connaught Gardens. As a result of this, Members felt that it was appropriate to consider any funding issues after the application for planning permission had been determined.

Councillor Mrs Liverton advised that the proposal had not been endorsed by Sidmouth Town Council as the details were not yet available but that the Town Council had advised that the proposal was a good idea in principle.

It was suggested that an alternative to the bridge could be a wheelchair slope and a zebra crossing.

**RESOLVED** that consideration of the proposal of the Sidmouth Millennium Walkway Group to construct a pedestrian footbridge between Manor Road Car Park and Connaught Gardens in partnership with the Council be deferred until the relevant planning application had been determined by the Development Control Committee.

\*183 **Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out on the agenda and in the additional report at minute 159 above in respect of the urgent item: Leisure East Devon ICT transfer – final cost savings, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing the items in private session (Part B).

\*184 **Proposed land exchange – Sidmouth**

Members noted the report of the Senior Estates Surveyor setting out the recommendation of the Asset Management Forum to exchange a specified site and premises on the Esplanade with a site at Chambers Close, Sidmouth. Members also noted the capital cost of constructing the buildings on the new site.

**\*184 Proposed land exchange – Sidmouth (cont)..**

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that the negotiated terms detailed in the report for the exchange of site and premises be agreed,
  - (2) that the sum contained in the report for the financial year 2007/08 to undertake the construction of the buildings be approved.

**\*185 Temporary additional hours in Arts Development**

Members considered the report of the Corporate Director – Communities seeking agreement to temporarily increase the hours of the specified Officer within the Arts Development Team.

- RESOLVED** that the hours of the Officer within the Arts Development section, identified in the report to the Board, be increased to 3 days a week for a period of 6 months.

**\*186 Leisure East Devon ICT transfer – final cost savings**

Members were reminded of the Board's agreement, at its meeting on 13 December 2006 (minute 122) to any early transfer of Leisure East Devon's ICT service from the Council to external providers. The Board required cost savings equivalent to the ICT recharge costs to be found from the ICT Service. These costings were now available. Savings had been made from revenue accounts with the remainder equating to two ICT posts. The report of the Head of ICT identified two posts within the ICT service which would meet the costs of the LED transfer without having an unacceptable affect on the service provided. However, Members were advised that the loss of the posts would cause a reduction in capacity within the ICT service.

Although the matter was debated by the Executive Board and a recommendation made to Council, the Chief Executive requested that the recommendation be withdrawn in order that he could further assess the most appropriate way forward.

Chairman ..... Date .....