

Meeting of South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee

Thursday, 7 December 2017

10.00am to 10.45am

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present: Councillors: Chitty (Chairman), Lewin (Vice-Chairman) and Burgoyne

In Attendance: Janine Boughton, Head of Administration and Business Development
James Freeman, Head of Planning, Swale Borough Council
Sarah Kilkie, Assistant Director (Communities), Gravesham Borough Council
Tomasz Kozlowski, Assistant Director, Physical and Cultural Regeneration
Michael Turner, Democratic Services Officer
Tony Van Veghel, Director, South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership

21 Apologies for absence

There were none.

22 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 21 September 2017 was agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

There were no interests disclosed.

24 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

25 Schedule of Meetings 2018/19

Background:

Members considered a report regarding a provisional programme of meetings for the 2018/2019 municipal year.

Decision:

The Joint Committee agreed the provisional timetable of meetings for the 2018/2019 municipal year as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

Reasons for decision:

The Joint Committee was asked to consider the provisional programme of meetings for the 2018/2019 municipal year, in order to provide some certainty for Members and the Partner Authorities.

26 Exclusion of the press and public

The press and public were excluded from the meeting during consideration of the exempt material relating to agenda items 7 and 8 because consideration of these matters in public would disclose information falling within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as specified in agenda item 6, and, in all the circumstances of the case, the Joint Committee considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

27 South Thames Gateway Building Control Business Plan 2018 – 2021

Background:

Members considered a report which sought agreement to the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership's Business Plan and Delivery Plan for 2018-2021.

In response to a query from a Member about where details of succession planning could be found in the Business Plan, as agreed at the last meeting, the Director of the Partnership advised that these details would be reported to the next meeting.

Members congratulated the team on the results of the Building Control Performance Standard Advisory Group annual benchmarking survey which saw the Partnership in the top 10% of respondents.

Decision:

The Joint Committee approved the updated version of the Business Plan and agreed to refer it to the Cabinet of each partner authority to approve the Final Draft Business Plan, subject to the following amendments:

- Clarifying that the main purpose of the conference for neighbouring authorities was to encourage councils to join the partnership;
- The Partnership's objectives set out in Paragraph 4.1 of the Plan be amended to read as follows:

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- Continue to meet customer needs
- Maximise technology to reduce cost and improve delivery
- Continue to improve the way we work
- Value support and develop staff.

Reasons for decision:

The Joint Committee has a duty under the Memorandum of Agreement to formally consult with partner authorities on the draft Business Plan.

28 Monitoring Report - September 2017 to November 2017

Background:

Members considered a report which updated the Joint Committee on the current forecast for the 2017/2018 financial year and gave details against the progress of the objectives of the Business Plan 2017/2018.

Members welcomed the fact that, following an inspection by the BSI, the Partnership had fully achieved compliance under ISO 2001:2015 a year ahead of schedule. The new quality standard would be displayed on documentation and the website.

A Member noted that the online payment module was not likely to be available until the end of the financial year and asked if this timetable could be brought forward. The Director of the Partnership agreed to look into whether that could be achieved.

In relation to the expansion of the Partnership to include Canterbury City Council, negotiations were due to end by the end of December and Members would be updated if necessary. It was agreed that the City Council's representative and the lead officer would be invited to the March meeting as observers. Recognising the significant work involved in progressing the expansion, Members asked that their thanks be passed on to the team for their hard work and commitment.

Decision:

The Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

Reasons for decision:

The Constitution requires the Joint Committee to monitor the progress of the Partnership.

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Chairman

Date:

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