

The Executive – 15 October 2014

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **15 October 2014** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice Chairman: Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr Mrs C E Roe

Cllr S P Smith
Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr I H Ward

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr K J Gordon.

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Dave - Chief Executive
A Bugeja - Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
R Evans - Head of Environmental Services
L Bliss - Senior Corporate Communications Officer
J Bostock - Member Services Manager

211 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

212 REPORT OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE ON THE OPERATION OF THE ICT CONTRACT

Cllr M Hoy, Chairman of the Review Committee, presented that Committees report on the review of the operation of the Council's ICT contract.

Responding to questions Cllr Hoy advised that, in developing recommendations, the Review Committee had been cognisant of the Council's Key Performance Indicators in relation to ICT. The Committee had felt that it would be useful for user surveys to be capable of identifying whether problems are minor or major and their frequency. The Committee had given consideration to the ICT contract as a whole and had heard from meeting attendees as considered appropriate. It was understood that officers were considering possibilities in relation to multiple device use and hot desking for more casual users. At its meeting on 8 July 2014 the Review Committee had been advised that there was no budget for the replacement of computer hardware.

The Portfolio Holder for People and Technology, Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill, observed that the sharing of iPads could prove impracticable and that funding was available for the replacement of items of equipment. There was a sense that the Review Committee had not achieved a depth of understanding on aspects of ICT arrangements or heard sufficiently from those responsible for

the service. The relationship between the Capita Call Centre and the Council's ICT staff was such that trends and issues could be identified. Compared to other authorities the Council had experienced minimal ICT issues.

During discussion a Member observed that, whilst it was commendable that the Review Committee had been mindful of achieving savings where possible, there are occasions when the availability of multiple devices is valuable for work activity. It was also observed that the introduction of a mandatory requirement for the completion of user surveys could introduce consequences for staff out of line with what was hoped to be achieved.

On a motion, moved by Cllr K H Hudson and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, it was:-

Resolved

That, under the circumstances, the Review Committee be asked to further consider this subject in detail, involving the Portfolio Holder for People and Technology and lead ICT officers as appropriate, on the basis that as much data can be made available as possible to accord with the agreed project scope. (HLEMS)

213 EVALUATION OF THE COLLECTION SCHEME FOR DRY RECYCLING

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on retention of the existing collection scheme for dry recycling.

Responding to questions, the Head of Service advised that there had been no precise guidance on contamination and other threshold levels or on whether glass should be excluded from the scheme.

Members concurred with the observation of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor S P Smith, that, as there would have been an element of expenditure involved in developing an understanding of this subject; this should have been included in the resource implications section of the report.

Thanks were extended to SITA and the Council's officers for their work.

Resolved

That the existing 'three bin' collection scheme for dry recycling is retained on the basis of the assessment undertaken by the consultants WYG. (HES)

214 CAPITAL PROGRAMME RESURFACING AND DRAINAGE WORKS

The Portfolio Holder for Enterprise, Cllr M J Steptoe, presented the report on the release of monies from the capital and special items budget 2014/15 to allow works to be carried out.

Members noted that:-

- For road surfaces, patching work was ineffective and costly in the long term. Notwithstanding that it would be appropriate to define the precise

extent of works, an issue with the surface of the Pay and Display car park in Back Lane, Rochford was lateral cracking.

- The Rawreth Leisure Centre car park saw high usage. Visitors were parking in Rawreth Lane due to issues with the car park surface.
- At locations such as the Rochford Reservoir there was a need to balance the maintenance of wild life features with maximising facility usage by residents.
- The tender process would ensure that the Council and residents were achieving value for money.

Resolved

That £71,600 be released from the capital and special items budget 2014/15 to allow the works itemised in paragraph 2.2 of the report to be carried out, subject to the resurfacing of areas of Back Lane pay and display car park, Rochford, the extent of which will be agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Enterprise in consultation with Rochford Ward Members. (HLEMS)

215 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL REPORT

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services on the remuneration scheme proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

It was observed that the proposed increase for the Child Care Allowance when not using a child care professional of up to £10 per hour maximum could help the Council in having an affordable option for individuals with children considering whether to stand for election. It was also observed that, in having kept Allowances at the same level for a number of years, and taking account of inflation, the Authority had, effectively, achieved a cut of 14% in real terms.

Recommended to Council

That the Remuneration Scheme for 2015/16 proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted. (HLEMS)

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

216 COMMERCIALISM UPDATE

The Portfolio Holder for Enterprise, Cllr M J Steptoe, presented the exempt report on progress being made on commercialism.

It was noted that the Portfolio Holder was intending to introduce an arrangement whereby the Council formally recognises suggestions from officers that are implemented. It was also noted that officers were in liaison with Fusion, the Council's leisure contractor, on possibilities for the Freight House, Rochford.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress being made across the organisation on commercialism be noted.
- (2) That the outcomes from the Dragon's Den initiative involving Council officers be noted and the following projects approved:-
 - The hire of an area in Sweyne Park, Rayleigh to a third party, for open air cinema events.
 - A budget of £1,500 to support the administration of Town Teams in Rayleigh, Rochford and Hockley.
 - The establishment of a Challenge Fund to encourage Community Groups and individuals to assist with key aspects of the Council's Corporate Plan. Precise details to be agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Enterprise. (HES)

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman

Date

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