

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE - Item 11(3)

12 April 2001

Minutes of the meeting of the **Member Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee** on **4 April 2001** when there were present:

Cllr G Fox (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs J Helson
Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr R E Vingoe
Cllr P F A Webster

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R Crofts	-	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
D Deeks	-	Head of Financial Services
J Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

133 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

134 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Sub-Committee considered the exempt report of the Chief Executive on the potential of a capital receipt in respect of land at Purdeys Industrial Estate and the implications for the Capital Programme.

The Head of Financial Services outlined the mechanisms associated with the application of capital receipts to Revenue and Capital together with potential costs which could be associated with certain projects.

Responding to Member questions, officers advised that-

- Capital receipts can be used in any year (not necessarily the year they are received).
- There will be a point when any receipt is taken into account by the Government.
- A prudent approach was advocated in that, notwithstanding income from the right to buy, it is unlikely that additional capital credits will be available.

During debate, the Sub-Committee concurred with the view of a Member that it would be valuable if arrangements could be made for each Group on the Council to have an opportunity to consider the position and formulate preferred options which could then be reported into the Committee process.

In addressing the possibilities for this type of arrangement, Officers confirmed that:-

- Officers could attend individual Group meetings to make presentations on this matter if so invited.
- Details of the revised Capital Programme could be distributed.
- The current Capital Programme will not be overdrawn until 2002/3.
- It is unlikely that a capital receipt will be achieved during the current month.
- Detailed breakdowns can be produced of both the Capital and Revenue implications of any proposals submitted by individual Groups prior to consideration by Council.

Following a discussion on the mechanisms for achieving Group submissions it was:-

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That each Group on the Council give consideration to the possibilities associated with the potential Capital Receipt and formulate proposals for submission to officers.
- (2) That all proposals be submitted to officers prior to 8 May (the date of Annual Council) so that a composite report addressing possibilities can be eventually submitted to the meeting of Full Council scheduled on 24 July 2001.(CE)

135 MILL HALL STAGE LIGHTING

Note: The Chairman admitted this item of business as urgent in order that provision could be made in the new Leisure Contract specification.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on the poor quality of the stage lighting at Mill Hall, Rayleigh.

Members agreed that it would be appropriate to include a requirement in the specification for the new Leisure Contract for the contractor to undertake responsibility for bringing the lighting up to modern standards. The Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) confirmed that, in the interim, it would be possible to identify how much the lighting is actually used and whether, if improved, it would attract additional custom.

RECOMMENDED

that the specification for the new Leisure Contract include a requirement that the contractor undertake responsibility for bringing the lighting up to modern standards, tenderers to be requested to highlight their estimated costs as part of the tendering exercise to facilitate a decision on whether or not upgrading should be agreed. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting commenced at 8.00pm and closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman:

Date: