

## Review Committee – 12 April 2016

---

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **12 April 2016** when there were present:-

Chairman for the meeting: Cllr D J Sperring

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher  
Cllr R R Dray  
Cllr J D Griffin  
Cllr J Hayter  
Cllr B T Hazlewood  
Cllr M Hoy

Cllr G J Ioannou  
Cllr J L Lawmon  
Cllr Mrs C M Mason  
Cllr J R F Mason  
Cllr Mrs C A Pavelin  
Cllr Mrs M H Spencer

### **VISITING MEMBERS**

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley  
Cllr M Maddocks  
Cllr S P Smith

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J H Gibson and M Webb.

### **ALSO PRESENT**

T Mills - Director of Business Development, Fusion Lifestyle (for item 5)  
I Cooper - Regional Business Manager, Fusion Lifestyle (for item 5)  
P Wallis - Fusion Lifestyle Contract Manager, Rochford (for Item 5)  
C Golding - Chief Accountant, Essex County Council (for Item 6)

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

M Harwood White - Assistant Director, Commercial Services  
M Aldous - Leisure and Wellbeing Officer  
R Manning - S151 Officer  
P Gowers - Overview and Scrutiny Officer  
M Power - Committee Administrator

### **74 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **75 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### **Resolved**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of 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.

### 76 LEISURE CONTRACT

Members considered the report of the Assistant Director – Commercial Services on the Leisure Contract.

(Cllr J L Lawmon declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of his membership of Fusion Lifestyle and regular attendance at Clements Hall Leisure Centre.)

Areas of discussion are set out in the exempt appendix to this Minute.

#### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

### 77 READMISSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

#### **Resolved**

That the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting

### 78 FUSION LIFESTYLE

The Committee heard from Tim Mills, Director of Business Development, Fusion Lifestyle with an update on the Leisure contract.

In response to Member questions, the following was noted:

- There had been a small turnover of staff following award of the contract to Fusion, which is to be expected as new management will often introduce changes that impact on how employees will be required to work. Recruitment and retention of high quality staff is an ongoing priority for Fusion.
- Every member of staff undertakes developmental training to achieve the appropriate qualifications; it is beneficial for the organisation to have multi-functional staff.
- Aspects of concern regarding the disabled facilities at Clements Hall will be investigated.
- In addition to the facility for on-line reporting, there will be hard-copy comment slips at the front reception at all the centres.
- Individual comments and complaints, as well as trends in both the levels of comments/complaints and the areas involved, are discussed at site level weekly and monthly meetings. The concerns raised by Members will be dealt with at one of these meetings.

- It was anticipated that the 'Bickels Yard' range of healthy food and drink will be introduced into the Rochford Contract later in 2016.
- Although the influx of budget 'gym only' operators in the area puts a big pressure on the Fusion business and how it positions itself in the market, Fusion has a much broader offer; it is family friendly and has a swimming pool and outdoor facilities. It is vital that the facilities offered by the District's leisure centres are effectively marketed so that residents are aware of all that is available.

### **79 TREASURY MANAGEMENT – INVESTMENT STRATEGY SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Section 151 Officer on the Council's Treasury Management Investment Strategy. This supplementary report provided additional information on the investment possibilities that could be included in the Council's Investment Strategy.

In response to a Member request for clarification, it was confirmed that the Council will not be investing in the CCLA property fund, regardless of its potential for higher returns. Low liquidity property funds are not appropriate for the Council at this time and will not be included in the Council's 2016/17 Investment Strategy.

At this point in the meeting the Committee had some exempt discussion around how the credit rating agencies are used to formulate the advice given to the Council by its Treasury Management adviser and the approach taken by Essex County Council in determining how it bases its investments on the advice it receives.

**Recommended to Council** that the Treasury Management annual investment strategy remains as it is for the rest of 2016/17.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That a dummy portfolio is built, which includes the Property options as per Options 2 and 3 on page 6.11 of the report, and also includes higher risk / higher return products as set out in paragraph 2.10 of the report, to understand the volatility and potential risk/return of this portfolio and to report back to Review Committee in Quarter 2 2016/17 with progress.
- (2) That, in addition to scrutinising the Treasury Management Strategy, the Mid Year Treasury Management Report and the Annual Strategy report, the 2016/17 the Review Committee's Treasury Management Task and Finish Group be requested to look at what the Council gets in terms of added value for the investment advice service it receives from its Treasury Management advisor.

**80 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT**

The Committee considered the Key Decisions Document and noted its contents.

**1/16 Planning Policy Evidence Base.** Members requested that the Assistant Director, Planning Services advise Members of the reason for the delay for progressing the item and the anticipated date that the decision will be made.

**81 WORK PLAN**

The Committee considered and approved its Work Plan.

**82 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee considered the draft Annual Report on its workings, which would be submitted to Full Council.

**Resolved**

That the Annual Report be submitted to Full Council.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.