

## Extraordinary Council – 22 November 2000

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Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **22 November 2000** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson

Chairman

Cllr R Adams

Cllr A Hosking

Cllr R S Allen

Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr R A Amner

Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr C I Black

Cllr Mrs S J Lemon

Cllr Mrs R Brown

Cllr T Livings

Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr D F Flack

Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr Mrs J E Ford

Cllr R A Pearson

Cllr G Fox

Cllr Mrs L I V Phillips

Cllr K A Gibbs

Cllr S P Smith

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr M G B Starke

Cllr J E Grey

Cllr P D Stebbing

Cllr Mrs J Hall

Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr D R Helson

Cllr P F A Webster

Cllr Mrs J Helson

Cllr D A Weir

Cllr Mrs M A Weir

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P A Capon, D M Ford, Mrs J M Giles and G A Mockford.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	- Chief Executive
R J Honey	- Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance and External Services)
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
D Timson	- Highways & Transportation Manager
J Bourne	- Leisure & Contracts Manager
J Bostock	- Principal Committee Administrator

### **393 CONTRACTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

Council considered the Minutes of the Contracts Sub-Committee held on 14 November 2000 and the recommendations contained therein.

### **Minute 99 – Contract Award – Refuse and Recycling, Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance**

During debate of the recycling element of Minute 99, reference was made to the value of consulting the public on aspects of recycling in tandem with the forthcoming consultation on new political structures.

It was recognised that, as likely future standards for recycling pointed to increased recycling activity, comprehensive consultation would be appropriate. A Member wished to mention specific concern that momentum had been lost in terms of the Hawkwell East recycling trial. The proposed further trials in separate parts of the District had not commenced.

Following a motion moved by Councillor G Fox and seconded by Councillor P D Stebbing relating to public consultation on recycling it was:-

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the lowest tender of Serviceteam Ltd. for the Refuse and Recycling Contract in the sum of £795,000 less 2% be accepted.
- (2) That the lowest tender of Serviceteam Ltd for the Street Cleansing Contract in the sum of £353,000 less 2% be accepted.
- (3) That the lowest tender of Serviceteam Ltd for the Grounds Maintenance Contract in the sum of £574,260 less 2% be accepted.
- (4) That a decision on the cost and extension of the recycling programme be taken as part of the budget setting process for 2001/02.
- (5) That a public consultation exercise on recycling be undertaken in tandem with the Council's consultation on new political structures to obtain the views of the public on:-
  - Whether they would be willing to pay an extra six pence per week Council Tax (Band D properties) to enable the Council to extend the kerbside recycling programme to approximately 5,000 households.
  - Whether they would be willing to pay an additional Council Tax (to be identified) which would enable recycling across the whole District.Within the consultation exercise, the relative merits of weekly and fortnightly collections, together with costs, should also be included. (CD(F&ES))

### Minute 100 – Contract Monitoring and Chauffeuring Duties

In response to Member questions on aspects of chauffeuring duties and the Civic car, officers advised that:-

- Whilst savings resulting from proposals would be minimal, the emphasis was on the freeing up of time for contract monitoring and other work.
- Budget setting for a pilot out-sourced chauffeuring service would be based on average costs over a period of several years. It was envisaged that the budget could be included as part of the Chairman's allowance and that a Chairman would be able to use the service for as many functions as required.
- The pilot period would be for one year. Whilst the existing car could be stored during the pilot, it would also be available as a fall-back.

During debate a number of Members wished to comment on some of the benefits which had been associated with the in-house Civic car/chauffeur arrangement. The experience of a number of past Chairmen highlighted the value of the Chairman/Chauffeur relationship. An effective chauffeur was able to develop an understanding of the requirements of a chairman prior to and during events and accompany the chairman as appropriate. The supporting role often proved of particular value to female Chairmen.

Reference was made to the possibility of building standards within a pilot arrangement that would enable an outsourced service to meet some of the benefits associated with an in-house service including the following features:-

- A car of the appropriate quality, displaying the Council's crest.
- No more than two regular drivers so that the Chairman could become acquainted with the personnel involved.
- Provision for the chauffeur to remain at an event for as long as a Chairman required.
- Three monthly reviews.

A motion that the Civic chauffeuring duties be outsourced to a private hire car company on a contracted basis for a pilot one year period and incorporating the features discussed was moved by Cllr G Fox, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Helson and lost on a show of hands.

A Member expressed some concern that, if chauffeuring was to remain in-house, this could have implications for effective contract monitoring. A motion was moved by Councillor Mrs J Helson and seconded by Councillor P F A Webster on this aspect and it was:-

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the new structure of the Contract Monitoring Unit be implemented.
- (2) That the implementation of the zoned system of monitoring be agreed.
- (3) That a report be submitted to the Member Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee on how effective contract monitoring will be maintained with the retention of an in-house civic chauffeur service. (CD(F&ES))

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

#### **Resolved**

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

### **394 STAFFING AND RESOURCE PROPOSALS**

The Chief Executive introduced an exempt report outlining a range of staffing and resource issues, reflecting the recommendations of the meeting of the Member Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee held on 17 October 2000.

Following debate during which the Chief Executive answered Members' questions, the Meeting indicated broad agreement with the proposals set out in the report. The recommendations, moved in three parts by Councillor G Fox and seconded by Councillor P D Stebbing were carried subject to an amendment moved by Councillor P F A Webster and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore that the allocation of £20,000 to support the Council's Leisure and Client Services operations should "be considered as part of the 2001/2002 budget setting process".

#### **Resolved**

That the Council agrees

- (1) to the staffing proposals in the report of the Chief Executive set out in the exempt appendix to these Minutes.
- (2) that the additional allocation of £20,000 to support the Council's Leisure and Client Services operations be considered as part of the 2001/2002 budget setting process.

## Extraordinary Council – 22 November 2000

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- (3) to make the necessary provision within the 2001/2002 budget accordingly

The Meeting closed at 9.24 pm.

Chairman.....

Date .....