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## RECOMMENDATIONS AND REFERENCES FROM THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2000

(a) **MINUTE 411(3) – RELATING TO CORPORATE RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTE 376 – CONSULTATION WITH CHAMBERS OF TRADE**

The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Standing Order 18(6), a requisition has been received in the names of Councillors D R Helson, Mrs J Helson and Mrs H L A Glynn requiring that the part of Minute 411(3) relating to the provision of additional CCTV cameras in Rayleigh Town Centre be referred to Full Council for decision.

A copy of the appropriate Committee Minute is set out below. **Note:** It is resolution (2) which has been referred. To assist Members, a copy of the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee minute and associated report is set out at Appendix 1.

**411(3) Corporate Resources Sub Committee – 28 November 2000  
Minute 376 – Consultation with Chambers of Trade**

**Note** Councillor Mrs J Helson declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of membership of Rayleigh Town Council.

A Motion was moved by Councillor D R Helson and seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn that recommendation (2) of minute 376 be revised to read “that the provision of additional CCTV cameras in Rayleigh Town Centre be implemented in consultation with the Chamber of Trade and Rayleigh Town Council to supplement the existing network”.

Those in support of the motion felt that it would be appropriate given that the Council had budgeted with a view to supporting Chambers of Trade. The Chamber’s proposal for 2 camera installation had the support of the Police and it would be of value if the District was involved in working with the Police in developing CCTV protocol within the Town. Other Members felt that the Sub-Committee recommendation did not preclude further consideration being given to the provision of additional cameras.

Comment was made on the need to be mindful of potential needs in other parts of the District when allocating monies and to the partnership aspect of proposals. In response to Member questions, Officers confirmed that monies not committed this financial year would be carried forward.

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The motion was lost on a show of hands and it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That the provision of an explanatory historical sign board in the Back Lane Car Park, Rochford be referred to the Rochford Town Centre Working Group for consideration.
- (2) That the provision of additional CCTV cameras in Rayleigh Town Centre be deferred, pending a review of the effectiveness of the existing network.
- (3) That the provision of £5,000 for financing joint initiatives with the Chambers of Trade be included within the budget for 2001/2002 (CD(F& ES)).

**(b) MINUTE 422 – IT INFRASTRUCTURE RECABLING**

Minute 422 reads as follows:-

“The Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services providing an update on the condition of the Council’s IT network and recommending replacement of the present cabling and associated infrastructure.

Responding to Member questions, Officers advised that:-

- The majority of the network had been in place since the late 1980s and maintenance costs were now high. The condition of much of the network was such that early action needed to be taken.
- Recent network failures had had adverse consequences for service delivery, IT being a core element of the Council’s operations. The cost of maintaining the network in this financial year was at least £10,000 above that which would have been expected had the network been satisfactory. There were other less quantifiable costs, such as the need to acquire new software.
- The Council’s new IT contractor (Securicor) had expertise in resolving network problems and had worked with other local authorities.
- It was important to proceed on a basis, which built in flexibility for the future. Proposals needed to be seen in the context of the emerging IS/IT strategy, which would set out a plan of action over a period of time.

- It was proposed to address problems at the Council's Rochford site together with the Tax Office, Members' lounge and Reception areas at the Civic Suite, Rayleigh. Ideally, a review of cabling possibilities for the meeting rooms at Rayleigh would also be appropriate.
- The tender documentation contained phased priority areas and possibilities would become clearer once actual tender amounts were known.

During debate, Members agreed that it would be appropriate to include the identification of possibilities for the committee room facilities at Rayleigh within the tendering process. Reference was made to the changing pace of technology and to the value of regular review reports being submitted to the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee. Reference was also made to the possibility that Best Value Review activity, such as that relating to assets, would have consequences for the strategy.

The Committee agreed a motion moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor G J Morgan on the submission of appropriate Committee reports and it was:-

## **RECOMMENDED**

To Council

- (1) That replacement of the IT network infrastructure be agreed in principle, a final decision to be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee via the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee once the outcome of the tender process is known.
- (2) That tender process include identification of costings for introducing appropriate cabling/infrastructure to the meeting rooms at the Civic Suite, Rayleigh.
- (3) That an additional provision of £50,000 be made for network recabling within the Council's capital programme.
- (4) That the action taken by the Corporate Management Board to invite tenders for the replacement of the IT network be affirmed.
- (5) That regular IT review reports be submitted to the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee. (HAMS)

Andrew Smith  
Head of Administrative & Member Services