

Extraordinary Council - 30 November 2004

Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **30 November 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs R Brown (Chairman)
Cllr P F A Webster (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr R A Amner	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr C I Black	Cllr G A Mockford
Cllr P A Capon	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr Mrs T J Capon	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr P K Savill
Cllr Mrs S A Harper	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr C A Hungate	Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr Mrs L Hungate	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr T Livings	Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L A Butcher, R G S Choppen, T G Cutmore, K A Gibbs, J E Grey, J R F Mason and S P Smith.

OFFICERS PRESENT

Paul Warren	-	Chief Executive
John Honey	-	Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
John Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

500 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) - IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which introduced the CPA Improvement Plan for approval and dealt with corporate governance arrangements to enable the plan to be reviewed, developed and monitored against the key milestones laid down.

It was noted that the Audit Commission was currently finalising guidance on the 2005/06 CPA process and that detail on this should be received by the Authority during December. It was also noted that, in developing the draft Improvement Plan, officers had been mindful of embracing aspects that are likely to be associated with the next CPA round.

Responding to questions, the Chief Executive advised that:-

- A number of authorities had achieved funding from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) for aspects of their improvement plans. There was every indication that the Authority would be able to determine how any funding was spent providing there was clear linkage with the Improvement Plan and specified objectives were being achieved.
- The layout of the Plan was consistent with the format recommended by the Audit Commission.
- It was important for Members to own the plan. Final conclusions on all areas highlighted within it would be determined by Members taking account of the views of the CPA Inspectors.
- Over a three year period the expenditure associated with the improvement plan was estimated to be in excess of £200,000, of which it was hoped ODPM would provide a significant contribution via the capacity building fund. This figure excluded the opportunity costs associated with the Improvement Planning Process and its implementation.
- Savings may be associated with the development of partnership working in some areas, particularly those associated with back office functions.
- An important element of the process would be ensuring that decisions reached on the way forward are robust and evidence based.
- All the identified actions were key headings that the Authority would need to consider in detail. The words "Rochford District" should have been included in the action column on page 3.10.
- Whilst the Council would be accountable for the timeframe associated with reviewing and revising the Consultation and Communications Strategy, it should be achievable given background work already underway.
- Working with the Chief Executive in taking a lead role in implementing the Council's Workforce Development Plan allied well with the Council Leaders role, particularly as the leader was also Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to inclusion of the words "Rochford District" in the action on page 3.10, the Improvement Plan attached as Appendix A to the report be agreed as the basis for sustained improvement.

- (2) That the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee have principal responsibility for the monitoring, review and development of the Improvement Plan to ensure that the Council's progress in addressing the areas highlighted for improvement is maintained. (CE)

The meeting closed at 7.59pm.

Chairman

Date