

AUDIT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 17 June 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Davis, Gill, Kirton, Mrs Knight, Pratt, Mrs Sawdon, Smith and Windybank.

(Councillor Windybank substituted for Councillor Caborn).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Crowther (Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic Leadership), and
Councillor Gifford (Member of the Executive).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Blacklock.

116. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of Councillor Caborn, Councillor Windybank was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

117. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute Number 125 - Executive Agenda Item Number 19 - Cultural Quarter Proposal, Spencer's Yard, Leamington Spa.

Councillor Davis declared a personal interest because he was a member of the Regenesi Board.

Minute Number 125 - Executive Agenda Item Number. 17 - St. Mary's Lands Proposals and Hill Close Garden Scheme, Warwick

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest because he was a member of Warwick Town Council's Planning Committee which had already considered and commented on the proposals.

118. PORTFOLIO HOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer on the proposals to be submitted to the Standards Committee and Council to effect constitutional changes in respect of areas of responsibility for Portfolio Holders and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Committees themselves.

Details of the revised responsibilities for the Council's Portfolio Holders, with accompanying confirmation as to the responsibilities of the corresponding

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Scrutiny Committee were attached to the report. Also attached to the report was a revised Article 6 from the Constitution, reflecting the appropriate changes to the terms of reference for the Committees themselves.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted and no comments be made on the proposals.

119. THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION - A CASE STUDY

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Directors on a case study as a practical example of how to develop the role of the Scrutiny Committee in a practical way.

A copy of the presentation given by KPMG prior to the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committees was circulated with the report.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

120. BEST VALUE, COMMUNITY PLAN AND PREPARING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Committee considered a report from Finance summarising the results of the planned internal audit undertaken during 2002/3.

Richard Barr the Council's Audit Services Manager attended and made a presentation to the Committee. Peter Jackson, John King and Ian Wilson, Senior Internal Auditors, also attended.

Richard Barr and his staff answered questions from members.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

121. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee considered a report from the Asset Management Steering Group updating members on progress.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted and the Officers be asked to inform members of the reason why there has been a delay in acquiring a property management system.

122. EXECUTIVE MEETING - TUESDAY 27 MAY 2003

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday 27 May 2003, which came within the remit of this Committee, were submitted for information and scrutiny.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

123. EXECUTIVE AGENDA - (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

AUDIT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on the 17 June 2003 which came within their remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive.

Agenda Item Number 2 - Approval of Accounts 2002-2003

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but expressed concern about the robustness of the original estimates for the year, particularly in the light of the increase in the repair and maintenance costs and the shortfall in the savings on staffing costs.

The Committee asked that the Corporate Property Maintenance budget management should be included in its future work plan for Scrutiny.

Agenda Item No. 3 - Financial Strategy and Budget Setting Timetable

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 4 - Corporate Strategy

The Committee had no comments on this report.

Agenda Item No. 5 - Capital Programme 2003-4

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 6 - Best Value Community Plan and Preparing for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item No. 7 - A Local Strategic Partnership for Warwick District

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 9 - Performance Management - Full Year Results 2002-2003

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but had no comment to make on the results.

Agenda Item No. 11 - Warwick District Race Equality Scheme Update and Schedule of Reviews for 2003/05

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

124. PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 8 and 9 of Schedule 12A of the

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Local Government Act 1972.

125. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 23 June 2003, which came within their remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item Number 15 - Proposals for Kenilworth Town Centre

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report but pointed out that in the last sentence of paragraph 53 one of the references should be to Party A.

Agenda Item Number 16 - Marlborough House, Leamington Spa

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 17 - St. Mary's Lands proposals and Hill Close Garden Scheme, Warwick

The Committee supported the recommendations in the revised report.

Agenda Item Number 18 - Disposal of Land at Station Approach, Royal Leamington Spa

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report but suggested a proviso that should the value of the land increase for any reason the sum to be paid to the Council be reviewed.

Agenda Item Number 19 - Cultural Quarter Proposal Spencer's Yard, Leamington Spa

The Committee supported the recommendation in the revised report. The Committee also asked for details to be included in the future report on the business plan on the value of the land and buildings owned by the Council which would form part of the project.

(The meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.)

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