

TO: RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 3rd December 2002

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE HOUSE - STAFF CATERING

FROM: LEISURE AND AMENITIES UNIT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 At the meeting of Resources Scrutiny Committee on 3rd April 2002 members asked for a further report on the staff catering service at Riverside House after 6 months following the termination of the contract with Eurest.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The catering service at Riverside House has been provided by Kelly Baylis since April 2002. In taking over the service originally provided by Eurest, Ms Baylis, previously a Eurest employee, has been able to offer hot and cold snacks, drinks and confectionary service for employees based at Riverside House and visitors, and hospitality service to support meetings and courses. This service has been provided on the basis that she retains the profits made from sales while the Authority provide and maintain kitchen and vending machines and pay electricity and water bills. Previously the catering service provided by Eurest has cost the Authority in the region of £47,400

2.2 A meeting between the Head of Leisure and Amenities and Ms Baylis in September 2002 confirmed that the service being delivered is acceptable to the Authority and that Ms Baylis is satisfied that she can continue to make this a viable business operation.

2.3 There have been ongoing technical problems with the hot/cold drinks vending machines over the summer months which have lead to these machines being out of action for a significant period of time. Three of the five remaining machines are now fully operational. Some of the technical problems are thought to be due to the limited time that Ms Baylis has available to service the machines whilst operating the catering service. Discussions are currently taking place with Vendepac, a Birmingham based company, investigating the option of their taking over the maintenance and filling of these machines in the future. There would be a small cost to the Authority for this service.

3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

3.1 A budget of £10,600 has been allowed to provide the staff catering service at Riverside House. To date a total of £10,956 has been spent to include vending machine leases, and technical callouts for these machines. The slight overspend anticipated for the full year is due to the additional technical support required to address the breakdowns referred to in paragraph 2.3

3.2 We are currently waiting for Vendepac to provide cost details of providing the vending support service (paragraph 2.3). A further report to members will follow when the costings are available.

4. **OUTCOME(S) REQUIRED**

4.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Dale Best
Head of Leisure and Amenities

Background Papers:

Resources Scrutiny Committee - 3rd
April 2002

Areas in District Affected:

N/A

Executive Portfolio Area and Holder:

Corporate Services and Community
Leadership - Cllr Bob Crowther

For further information about this report please contact:

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