

HEALTH AND CONTROL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 17 November 1999 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Attwood (Chair); Councillors Butler, Cleaver, Mrs Compton, Crowther, Darmody, Davis, Ms Flanagan, Gifford, Gill, Golby, Mrs Goode, Harris, Kirton, Mrs Leddy.

(Councillor Darmody substituted for Councillor Aujla
Councillor Davis substituted for Councillor Copping
Councillor Ms Flanagan substituted for Councillor Mrs Clayton
Councillor Kirton substituted for Councillor Jackson)

476. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 1999 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record with the exception of the words "an extra litter bin" in resolution 2 of minute 364, (Rugby Road Recycling Centre), being amended to read "an extra paperbank".

PART I

(Matters not the subject of powers delegated to the Committee by the Council)

NIL

PART II

(Matters delegated to the Committee by the Council)

477. **FLOOD ALLEVIATION ON THE RIVER LEAM**

Bill Forbes and Kevin Bolton, from the Environment Agency, attended the meeting and addressed members on their investigations into flood alleviation on the River Leam.

They had been asked to investigate possible flood storage options upstream from Leamington Spa but were unable to find an economically viable scheme.

The Agency were not permitted to proceed with any scheme unless the benefit/ cost ratio was at least 1. Details of the schemes investigated and the benefit/cost ratio of these schemes were submitted by Mr Bolton.

Mr Bolton and Mr Forbes answered questions from members and Mr Forbes undertook to provide details of the evaluations of the schemes investigated to the Head of Engineering.

The Chair thanked Mr Forbes and Mr Bolton for attending.

RESOLVED that a report on the details to be supplied by

Mr Forbes be submitted to a future meeting.

478. ENGINEERING QUALITY MANUAL

The Committee considered a report and presentation from Engineering on the development of a quality manual in the Engineering Business Unit.

The need for producing the quality manual had been highlighted as part of the fundamental review of the Engineering Business Unit and its development costs had been jointly funded by the Commissioning Team and the Engineering Business Unit.

An extract of some of the procedures from the manual was appended to the report. A full copy of the manual was available for inspection at the meeting and would be available in future for inspection at the Office of the Engineering Business Unit.

The report set out how the manual had been developed, the mechanism for continuing improvement and review of the manual, and the benefits to the Council of such a document.

RESOLVED that the report and presentation be noted and the Committee's appreciation be expressed to the Engineering Business Unit for the considerable work done by officers in its development.

479. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) The Committee considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Mrs Goode which had been referred to this Committee by the Council:-

"In view of the serious damage caused by flooding to property in this District, this Council welcomes Severn Trent's commitment to improve our drainage systems and resolves:-

- (1) to agree an action plan with Severn Trent at the earliest opportunity;
- (2) to review the frequency of drain and gulley cleaning in the District;
- (3) to urge the Environment Agency to advise on the likely effects of further house building;
- (4) to request Central Government to review the standard of drainage nationally."

RESOLVED that the officers report on the contents of the Motion to the next meeting.

- (B) The Committee considered the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Mrs Goode:-

"In view of the substantial public concern regarding potential health hazards from telecommunication masts, this Committee calls for a report, with a view to a District-wide ban on telecommunication masts being sited in residential areas."

RESOLVED that the officers report on the contents of this Motion to the next meeting.

480. **REVENUE ESTIMATES 2000/2001**

The Committee considered a report from Environmental Health, Engineering, Members' Services and Finance on the revenue estimates for the years 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.

In September 1999 the Strategy Committee had formulated the Council's Financial Strategy for the year 2000/2001. This had been prepared on the assumption that there would be a potential growth in 2000/2001 of £900,000. Final decisions on the use of the potential growth would be made by the Strategy Committee in February 2000.

The effects of applying the Financial Strategy to the services covered by this Committee had produced a target budget of £2,815,016. An analysis of the budget for each service was appended to the report and identified the main groups of expenditure and income. The estimates for 2000/2001 did not reflect the effects of any capital financing charges that might be required to support the Capital programme. As the additional resources were only bids at the time of the estimate process they were not included in the revenue estimate calculations for 2000/2001.

Details of the revised estimates for 1999/2000, totalling £3,232,400 and the estimates for 2000/2001 of £2,812,900 were set out in the report. An application for a supplementary estimate for 1999/2000, in connection with the revised estimates, was dealt with in minute 481.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the revenue estimates for 2000/2001 amounting to £2,812,900 be approved and referred to the Strategy Committee; and
- (2) the revised estimates for 1999/2000 amounting to £3,232,400 be approved and referred to the Resources Sub-Committee.

481. LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT - POLLUTION MONITORING FOR STAGE 3 REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

A report from Environmental Health was submitted seeking support for a supplementary estimate to enable the carrying out of pollution monitoring and assessment in specific areas within the district.

The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process under the Environment Act 1995 required all local authorities to carry out a review and assessment of the air quality within their areas in a staged approach. The first stage of this review and assessment had been reported to the Committee in March 1999. The process was due to be completed by all authorities by December 1999 but there had been some question as to the Government's intentions and it was likely that it would defer the completion date. The completion of monitoring work still needed to be undertaken as soon as possible. A new date for completion had not yet been set by the Government. To wait until the next financial year before starting work could mean that this Council would fail to meet the Government's deadline.

This work overlapped with the study which had already been carried out by consultants and required equipment which the Environmental Health Unit did not possess. The work also needed to be carried out within a short timescale which the Pollution Control Division could not resource. It was suggested, therefore, that consultants be commissioned to undertake monitoring and assessment work for a period of approximately three months to commence as soon as possible at a cost of £7,000.

RESOLVED that Resources Sub-Committee be asked to approve a supplementary estimate of £7,000 to be used to undertake pollution monitoring and assessment work essential to stage 3 of the review and assessment of air quality under the Local Air Quality Management process.

482. PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCES FEES

A report from Members' Services was submitted which proposed increases in fees charged for public entertainments licences with a view to recouping the cost to the Council of providing the service.

At its last meeting, the Committee had approved the performance measures for the Licensing Service Plan which had included an objective that the level of fees for public entertainments licences be reviewed with a view to ensuring that all the Council's costs were recovered. It had been agreed that the revised fee should operate from 1 April 2000.

The report set out the background to the setting of fees for public entertainments licences and the increases above inflation which had been introduced over the past two years.

The report pointed out that further increases might result in customer resistance with premises not providing entertainments simply to avoid the cost

of a licence.

Reference was also made to the impact increased in fees could have on events organised for charity.

The Service Plan Group had suggested that the fees should be based on occupancy figures and the following fees were suggested for premises for the year 2000/2001:-

	£
Under 200 occupancy	185 (this was the figure previously agreed (i.e. inflation plus £19) rounded up to the nearest £5)
Over 200 occupancy	250 (this was the figure previously agreed (i.e. inflation plus £39) rounded up to the nearest £5)
Over 300 occupancy	275
Over 400 occupancy	300
Over 500 occupancy	325
Over 600 occupancy	350
Over 700 occupancy	375

The above fees for premises would give, if there were no resistance, an estimated additional income for 2000/2001 of £1,371.

A licence was also required for public musical entertainment in the open air. Such entertainment was provided on a regular basis at Warwick Castle, Kenilworth Castle, Stoneleigh Abbey, Packwood House and the grounds of Sydenham School. Fees for licences for public musical entertainment in the open air was at present the same as for premises, although it was true that in some cases the issuing of such licences involved a great deal of work by Council officers.

The following fees were suggested per performance for outdoor events for 2000/001:-

	£
Up to 500	325
Up to 1,000	400
Up to 5,000	1,000
Over 5,000	1,500

Depending on the number of events held, this new pricing structure for outdoor events could mean an extra income of £5,000. However, the more events that were held the more officer time would be involved and some of the £5,000 would merely cover the extra cost.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the fees as set out above be adopted with effect from 1 April 2000; and
- (2) agreement in principle be given to a reduction in the licence fees for open air events held for charitable purposes and the Licensing Sub-Committee be authorised to agree the level of reduction in each case.

483. INTERIM FUNDING FOR RECYCLING

A report from Engineering was submitted seeking approval to £9,500 of Key Issue funding reserved for recycling to be made available in order to pay for improvements to current recycling facilities in the district.

Through the Key Issue Strategies, the Council had expressed its desire to improve its performance in the area of recycling and this Committee had made a successful bid for Key Issue funds to be allocated for this area. The Council was currently looking at the longer term prospects for expanding recycling and a report would be presented to this Committee in January. There were, however, certain aspects of the current schemes which required immediate attention.

The leaflets and calendars issued in connection with the kerbside paper recycling scheme would be out of date at the end of the year and would need to be replaced. The new leaflets would help to raise the profile of the scheme even further as well as incorporating new streets. The total cost of the new leaflets including distribution would be approximately £2,600.

The Council had sited a large recycling centre at the new Tesco store in Warwick which had already proved to be very well used. The total cost of providing the bins was £2,050.

There were several recycling centres in the district which were prone to vandalism and which were poorly used as a result. It was proposed that a number of recycling centres in the district be improved to resist vandalism and make the sites more user friendly. The total cost would be in the region of £4,850.

RESOLVED that £9,500 be made available from Key Issue funds for the implementation of the measures detailed above.

484. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

A report from the Head of Engineering and Commissioning Team was submitted on the Capital Programme for 2000/2001.

As part of the Financial Strategy for 2000/2001, the Strategy Committee had approved a maximum amount for the "core" capital programme of £750,000. The amount available in 2000/2001 for new schemes was £634,110, due to supplementary estimates which had been approved in the current year and continuing schemes from 1999/2000.

A draft capital programme for the Committee was submitted showing the proposed expenditure for 2000/2001, 2001/2002 and future years.

RESOLVED that the Capital Programme as set out be submitted to Strategy Committee for approval.

485. GENERAL REPORT

(A) HOUSE RENOVATION GRANTS - 1999/2000

RESOLVED that the details of the number of applications for house renovation grants for the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 October 1999 inclusive be noted.

(B) CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING - 1999/2000

RESOLVED that the report from Engineering setting out a monitoring statement for this Committee for schemes within the control of Engineering be noted.

(C) WARWICK DISTRICT SAFETY FORUM

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Forum, held on 23 September 1999 as set out in Appendix "D", be received.

(D) LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 29 September and 27 October 1999, as set out in Appendix "E", be received.

(E) SEWERS FOR ADOPTION

RESOLVED that the sewers listed in Appendix "F" be adopted by the Council as agents for Severn Trent Water Limited under Section 102 of the Water Industry Act 1991 as public sewers.

(The meeting ended at 7.30 pm)

