

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 October, 2002 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Caborn (Chair); Councillors Mrs Boad, Darmody, Davis, Dray,
Mrs Evans, Mrs Pavier, Short and Windybank.

(Councillor Mrs Pavier substituted for Councillor Thomas).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Crowther (Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic Leadership).

Peter Sellors from Warwick Chamber of Trade

467. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 469 - Consultation of the Business Community

Councillor Mrs Boad declared a personal interest as she is a member of South Warwickshire Tourism

Minute Number 471 - Black Community Resources Centre Feasibility Study

Councillor Davis declared a personal interest as he was a board member of Regenesys and a management committee member of Bath Place Community Venture.

Councillor Mrs Evans declared a personal prejudicial interest as she was a director of Bath Place Community Venture and she left the room when the item was discussed.

468. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP)**

The Committee received a presentation from Liz Young and Chris Elliott from Policy Services on the Local Strategic Partnership.

They presented information to members on the development of the Warwick District LSP, the membership of the LSP Board and how the themes and steering groups fed into each other and the LSP Board. They also detailed how the LSP would be moving forward.

Members requested that the information presented be forwarded to them for their information and future reference.

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

RECOMMENDED that the presentation be noted.

469. CONSULTATION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services on a consultation with the Business Community on the Council Tax setting process for 2003/2004.

Peter Sellors from Warwick Chamber of Trade addressed the committee on his concerns for Warwick, the changing business patterns and made suggestions for improvements. He thanked the Committee for being given the opportunity to address them.

RECOMMENDED that the comments and concerns raised by the Business Community, be taken into account by the Council and the Executive when they set the budget plans for 2003/2004.

470. ASHOW FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

The Committee considered a report from Planning and Engineering on the final costs associated with this scheme.

The Council had been requested to approve a supplementary estimate of £80,000 in order to allow the Ashow Flood Alleviation Scheme to proceed. The recommendation had been made because the lowest tender received from five contractors had been some 49% higher than the £95,800 estimated value for the works. The lowest tender was £143,319.90.

The Ashow Brook Scheme had been completed at the beginning of March 2002. The approved budget had been £175,000 which included the approved supplementary estimate of £80,000. The final cost to the Council, after receipt of the contributions from the County Council and residents amounted to £147,224. Savings of some £18,000 had been made within the works contract itself.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

471. BLACK COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services which gave an update on the progress of the feasibility study on the establishment of a Black Community Resource Centre.

In October 2001, the Executive had agreed to allocate £5,000 from its Community Plan allocation to finance a feasibility study into the establishment of a Black Community Resource Centre in Royal Leamington Spa.

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The work was being spearheaded by the Warwick District Racial Equality Council, but also working with the African Caribbean Project. Officers from Warwick District Council had also been involved.

So far the opportunities which had been examined were:

- (A) the purchase of a social club that had been on the market - this could not progress as funds could not be raised in time to meet the requirements of the sell-off. The property had since been sold;
- (B) using part of the Sikh Community Centre - this failed to progress as no agreement could be reached in principle about the use of the property; and
- (C) using part of the under-used car park next to Bath Place Community Venture. Discussions had been held with the Bath Place Community Venture and the African Caribbean Project to ensure active co-operation and maximise the space of all organisations involved. This appeared to have potential and it was on this site that it was proposed to focus the architects work and then the business case.

As a result the feasibility study had not yet been completed.

RECOMMENDED

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) the feasibility study includes a full survey of the usage and potential usage of the car park next to bath Place Community Centre

472. PROGRESS ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEST VALUE REVIEW

The Committee considered a report from Finance and Policy Services advising members of the progress on the Financial Management Best Value Review.

A Best Value Review of Financial Management was being undertaken and an interim report with emerging issues was detailed in an appendix to the report.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

473. CAR PARKS BEST VALUE REVIEW IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Committee considered a report from Leisure and Amenities updating members on the progress of implementing the Car Park Best Value Improvement Plan.

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The Car Park Best Value Review had taken place during 2000 and had been undertaken principally by the then, Engineering Business Unit. The service had

been managed by the Leisure & Amenities Business Unit since its transfer in October 2001. The delivery of the Action Plan was now the responsibility of the Amenities Management Section. A Car Park and Public Convenience Manager had now been in post since March 2002.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the progress on implementing the action plan, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and
- (2) the target dates, as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

474. EXECUTIVE MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive held on Monday 16 September 2002, which came within the remit of the Committee was submitted for information and scrutiny.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

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

The Committee considered items 3, 4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 17A and 17B on the agenda for the meeting of the Executive on Monday 14 October 2002.

RECOMMENDED that

Agenda Item Number 3 - Capital Programme 2002/2003 To 2006/2007

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 4 - Implementing Electronic Government Statement 2

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 5 - Ladycroft Drainage - Cublington/Drainage Costs - General

The Resources Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 9 - Acquisition Of A Property Management System

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Agenda Item Number 12 - Timetable Of Committee Meetings

The Committee made no comment on the recommendation

Agenda Item Number 14 - External Audit Of Compliance With The Commission For Racial Equality And New Generic Equality Standards

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 17(A) - Forward Plan

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 17(B) - Car Parks

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

476. WORK PLAN 2002/2003 AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER PRIORITY AREAS

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services updating the Scrutiny Committee's work plan for the year and monitoring the progress against the Portfolio Holder priority area.

It had been agreed to consider the Committee's work plan as a standing item on each agenda. The current work plan reflected items raised by the Committee at its meeting on 10 September 2002 and was detailed in appendix 1 to the report.

The Executive had agreed service plans at its meeting on 5 March 2002. The relevant service plan action plan for this Committee was detailed in appendix 2 to the report. The Portfolio Holder was present at the meeting to provide an update.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

(The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.)

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