

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 September 2007 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.15 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Coker (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Bunker, Doody, Hammon, Kinson, Kirton, Pratt and White.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Knight (Chair of Audit and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee);
Councillor Gifford (Chair of Environment & Economic Policy Committee);
Councillor Crowther (Labour Group Observer); and
Councillor De-Lara-Bond (Liberal Democrats Group Observer).

430. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute Number 433 – Discretionary Payments

Councillors Mrs Bunker, Coker and Hammon declared personal interests because they had previously discussed this item in the Employment Committee.

431. PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items, by reason of a likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

Item Nos.	Para Nos.	Reason
432, 433 & 434	1 & 2	Information relating to an individual Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
435	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

EXECUTIVE MINUTES (Continued)

432. ENABLEMENT OF 'AGILE WORKING' THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF INTERNET PROTOCOL TELEPHONY (IPT) AND WIRELESS WARWICK

The Executive considered a report from the Head of ICT updating them on the progress made on the WiMAX pilot. The Executive were also requested to approve the rollout of Internet Protocol Telephony (IPT) to the rest of Riverside House and remote offices subject to the funding being approved.

This project was to pilot IPT within Riverside House and to one of our other buildings and to introduce WiMAX, which was an open standard for metropolitan-area wireless broadband. The use of IPT enabled the telephone system to be run over the same network as data, including broadband Internet links.

The purpose of the IPT pilot was to ascertain the benefits of a full rollout to Warwick District Council, assess the correct hardware for potential users and learn important lessons with regards to system integration.

The Joint Audit and Resources and Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the progress made on the WiMAX pilot, be noted; and
- (2) the rollout of Internet Protocol Telephony (IPT) to the rest of Riverside House and remote offices be approved, subject to the funding being approved.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Pratt)
(Forward Plan ref 27)

433. DISCRETIONARY PAYMENTS

The Executive considered a report from the Strategic Director for Customer Information and Advice on an additional payment in respect of the Car Parks Inspectors redundancies.

At its meeting in March this year the Employment Committee approved a recommendation to adopt a multiplier of two to be applied to discretionary compensation payments in the case of redundancy. It also agreed that a further report would be considered when trade union feedback had been received.

A further report had been considered by the Employment Committee today, and they did not agree with the recommendations to award an additional payment to the Car Parks Inspectors whose posts were made redundant in June.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES (Continued)

The Joint Audit and Resources and Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee were split on the recommendation in the report. The majority did not support the recommendation because they did not want the redundancy multiplier to be revised. They believed that it should stay at a factor of 2 because there was not enough evidence to support a revision to 2.3. This was voted on as follows: Those in favour – 11, those against - 6 and those abstaining – 1.

RESOLVED that following the decision made by the Employment Committee not to increase the multiplier to a factor of 2.3, the decision regarding the financial implications of this was no longer relevant.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Coker)

434. BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE

The Executive considered a report from the Chief Executive on the Building on Excellence paper which set out the changing nature of the world in which the Council operated and the need to have a framework within which the Council could respond to the demands of these changes.

It set out proposals on how Warwick District Council would have to adapt in order to respond to the many changes occurring or planned in its external environment and to some internal matters if it was to maintain and build upon the “Excellent” status it achieved in 2004 under the CPA regime. This was important if the Council was to continue to deliver quality public services at the lowest possible cost and be in the best position to shape the area for the benefit of the local community.

The Joint Audit and Resources and Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported recommendations 1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 and 1.9 in the report. They also made the following comments:

- 1.2 The funding be agreed if the multiplier used was a factor of 2 and not 2.3 as subsequently agreed by the Employment Committee;
- 1.4 Recommendation was supported and report back be submitted in January 2008; and
- 1.9 Recommendation was supported, but the Audit & Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee would also like information on the financial implications including a comparison with the original budget.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Building on Excellence proposals, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES (Continued)

- (2) the funding from the Early Retirement Reserve in 2007/08 for the voluntary early retirement on the grounds of redundancy, for the Head of Leisure and Amenities, taking into account the Employment Committee's decision to maintain the multiplier at a factor of 2, be approved;
- (3) a report be submitted back to the Executive on the areas where further staff consultation is proposed, by January 2008, where appropriate;
- (4) a report be submitted back to the Executive on the geographic basis and service contribution to the neighbourhood working proposals, by January 2008;
- (5) the proposals be incorporated within a new Corporate Improvement Programme and the Corporate Strategy, where appropriate;
- (6) in order to finance the Capital costs of the implantation of the Agile Working (£290,000), the Council uses Prudential borrowing (or other appropriate financing to be determined as part of the Council's overall capital Financing), and the 2007/08 Capital Budget and funding be increased accordingly;
- (7) the Phase 2 – IPT / WiMAX Rollout contract be awarded to Intel Solution Services, due to their unique relationship with Pipex Wireless, under Standing Order 2.7.3 of the Council's Code of Contract Practice;
- (8) a further report be submitted to the Executive amending the scheme of delegation and to agree the changes to the portfolios as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report, in the light of the changes to the organisational structure; and
- (9) the Audit and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to monitor progress of implementation on a quarterly basis, in particular the risk log and to conduct a review after 12 months.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES (Continued)

(The Portfolio Holders for this item was Councillors Mrs Bunker, Coker, Doody, Hammon, Kinson, Pratt and White)
(Forward Plan ref 28)

435. SALE OF THE FORMER ART GALLERY, AVENUE ROAD

The Executive considered a report from the Chief Executive on a proposal to sell the premises unconditionally.

The Executive had agreed to sell the former Art Gallery to Oakmore Estates Ltd as part of a site for a mixed development that also included the adjoining former Library premises and the car park at the rear.

The disposal of the former Library was part of the College's Property Strategy and the proceeds from the sale would contribute towards their investment in the new Art and Design Centre, located within the grounds of Warwickshire College, which opened in October 2005.

The former Art Gallery and Library were, therefore, considered to be surplus to requirements and a joint venture was seen as the best opportunity of disposing of the properties.

The College marketed the site and the best offer was accepted in February 2006. The Net proceeds were to be split pro rata to the areas owned by each party. The sale was to be subject to the developer obtaining planning permission for a scheme that currently included Offices, a Restaurant and Housing (40% affordable) and having vacant possession.

The Joint Audit and Resources and Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

RESOLVED that the former Art Gallery be sold to Oakmore Estates Ltd as part of a site for a mixed development, including the adjoining former Library premises and the car park at the rear, for a total of £2,500,000. The Council then receives £463,750, subject to receiving an initial deposit and completion by 15 October 2007.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Coker)

(The meeting ended at 7.15pm)