

AUDIT AND RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 October 2004 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Caborn (Chair), Councillors Davis, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Hirsch, Holland, Kirton, Mrs Knight, Pratt and Mrs Sawdon.

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

(Councillor Ms Hirsch substituted for Councillor Ashford)

449. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

450. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 2004 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

451. **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee considered a report from the Asset Management Steering Group which provided members with an update of progress on the key objectives referred to in Section 5.5 of the Asset Management Plan and other that have arisen since.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Committee would like a report on the approach to the disposal of small parcels of grassland; and
- (3) the Committee would wish to see any proposal for the sale of land for any new Criminal Justice Centre to be at full market value.

452. **EXECUTIVE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2004**

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on Wednesday 15 September 2004, which came within the remit of this Committee were submitted for information and scrutiny.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

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(Continued)

453. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 25 October 2004 which came within its remit. As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:

Agenda Item No. 4 – Approval of Fees and Charges

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but ask that the Executive ask the Head of Planning and Engineering to bring forward proposals for charging an hourly rate for advice and negotiation on planning applications.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Council Tax – Discounts and Tax Base

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but would urge the Executive to ensure that there is some benefit to Warwick District Council before proceeding.

Agenda Item No. 6 – Code of Financial Practice

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item No. 7 – Financial Monitoring 2004/2005 (to August 2004)

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but ask that energy costs be looked at within the procurement project. This Committee would like to look at concessionary fares when the issue is also considered by Social Scrutiny. The Committee would ask that Environment Scrutiny Committee revisit energy consumption in view of the effect of costs on the Councils budget.

Agenda Item No. 8 – Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 11 – Catering Contract and Management Arrangements for the Assembly Rooms, Restaurant in the Park and Aviary

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item No. 14B – Data Protection and Freedom of Information Act

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but would ask that the training for staff and members be arranged as soon as possible.

Agenda Item No. 14C – Revisions to Prudential Indicators

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

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(Continued)

Agenda Item No. 14D – Discretionary Rate Relief Update Report

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

454. PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

455. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the confidential items and reports which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday 25 October 2004 which came within its remit. As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item No. 17 – Catering Contracts and Management Arrangements for the Assembly Rooms, Restaurant in the Park and Aviary

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report. However, this Committee would like to review the financial position of this contract in 12 months time before the next budget process.

(The meeting ended at 8.25 pm)