

EXTRACT FROM EXECUTIVE MINUTES OF 23 JULY 2008

277. IMPROVEMENT OF THE DISTRICT

The Executive considered a report from Councillor Michael Doody. As Leader of the Council Councillor Doody proposed to establish a Working Group comprising of the 17 new Councillors elected to Warwick District Council in May 2007 and asked them to propose ideas on how they feel Warwick District could be improved as a whole through the use of £60,000.

The Working Group was to be established for a short space of time to help capture the energy and ideas of the new Councillors and to include their views on how they felt the district should be shaped.

Councillor Michael Doody considered offering the opportunity to new members of the Conservative Group but felt that it would be more beneficial to include all parties as the emphasis would be on new Councillors to enable them to develop as well as capturing their enthusiasm and not party politics.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were concerned about £60,000 being used from the contingency budget for this project, and the money should be kept in the contingency budget in case it was needed to fund existing projects.

There would be no Liberal Democrat representatives on the group, and although the Labour party were not happy about the money being spent in this way, they would have representatives on the group so they could have an input into how this public money would be spent on the whole district.

The majority of the Audit & Resources Scrutiny Committee felt there was no point in debating the issue at this stage as Members could not scrutinise something when they had no indication of what the Working Group was going to suggest. There was also a minority view that a sum of £60,000 should not be spent in such a manner when the Council was moving into a much tighter financial regime

RESOLVED that

- (1) a Working Group consisting of Councillors Barrott, Britland, Ms Dean, Dhillon, Malcolm Doody, Edwards, Mrs Gallagher, Heath, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Mobbs, Pittarello, Rhead, Mrs Scarrott, Mrs Tyrrell, and Weed, be appointed;

- (2) the above working party to meet and submit a report to the Executive in September 2008 on how it feels the £60,000 could be used to improve the District as a whole; and
- (3) a one-off sum of £60,000 for Improvement of the District to be ring fenced within the 2008/09 Contingency Budget for use by the Executive, if the proposals from the working party are approved.

(The Portfolio Holder for this item was Councillor Michael Doody)
(Forward Plan Ref 114)