

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2002 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Caborn (Chair); Councillors Mrs Boad, Davis, Mrs Evans, Gill, Short, Thomas and Windybank.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Darmody and Dray.

(Councillor Gill substituted for Councillor Dray)

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

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 11 July and 13 August 2002, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. **SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The Committee considered a report from Members and Customer Services on a possible timetable of meetings for the first three cycles from May 2003 based on the Scrutiny Committees meeting on separate evenings.

At the meeting on 18 June 2002, the Committee requested that a possible timetable of meetings should be drafted as an example of how meetings of the Scrutiny Committees could be held on separate evenings.

RECOMMENDED that a report be submitted to the Executive and the Executive make a recommendation to Council suggesting a way forward.

4. **MONITORING OF THE JEPHSON GARDENS PROJECT**

The Committee considered a report from Leisure and Amenities on the monitoring of the Jephson Gardens project.

Before the meeting the Committee had undertaken a walking tour of Jephson Gardens to see how the project had progressed.

The Committee were updated on the progress of the minor repairs and restoration to monuments and features, specialists mechanical and electrical repairs and restoration of the Hitchman

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Fountain, the Boat House refurbishment, Mill Gardens external works package, restorations and repairs to the Aviary, Restaurant and Temporate House, Jephson Gardens external works and the landscaping of the Temporate Glasshouse.

The overall costs summary had indicated an overspend of £6,347 with variations of between £35,971 and £42,318 projected with further contingency of £5,000 for ongoing client costs giving a total projected overspend of £47,318. Additional matching funding reduced this sum to £37,549 and the client and design team members would be asked to try and deliver the total project on budget.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

5. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee considered a progress report from the Asset Management Steering Group.

The Asset Management Plan became a statutory requirement for all Councils in 2001. The latest AMP had been submitted on the 31 July 2002 and would be assessed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in December.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

6. EXECUTIVE MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive held on Monday 19 August 2002, which came within the remit of the Committee was submitted for information and scrutiny.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

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

The Committee considered items 3, 11, 12C & D on the Agenda for the meeting of the Executive on Monday 16 September 2002.

As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item Number 3 - Performance Management Reports

The Resources Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendation in the report but would like a report back with half year figures giving more clarity and detail on all the performance indicators.

Agenda item Number 11 - Financial Strategy

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item 12 C - Risk Management

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item 12 D - Approval Of Statement Of Accounts 2001/2002

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

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

The Committee considered a report from Policy Services updating the Scrutiny Committees work plan for the year and monitoring the progress against the portfolio hold up priority areas.

It had been agreed to consider the Committees work plan as a standing item on each agenda. The current work plan reflected items raised by the Committee at previous meetings and was detailed in an appendix to the report.

The Executive had agreed service plans relating to the work of each portfolio holder at its meeting on 5 March 2002. Development priorities and work programmes for the portfolio holders covered by this Committee were detailed in appendix to the report.

RECOMMENDED that the progress against the Portfolio Holders priorities and work programmes be noted.

9. PUBLIC AND PRESS

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 1, 8, 9 and 12 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

10. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered Items 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19 on the agenda for the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 16 September 2002.

As a result, the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item 15 - Housing Structure - Head Of Housing

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item 16 - Housing Restructure

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item 17 - Pay Award - Consultation

RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report but would like to draw to the attention of the Executive the effect the pay award will have on the Council's financial position.

Agenda Item 18 - Low Cost Business Starter Units Leamington Old Town

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report but would like the Executive to look further at the length of the lease.

Agenda Item 19 - Asset Disposals

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report, but would like assurance that the shops and flats above will be kept together as an entity and the shops not be sold off separately from the flats. It was hoped that the anomalies in the report would be rectified at the meeting of the Executive.

(The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.)

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