

# RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 November, 2002 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 7.00 pm.

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dray and Short.

## 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 September and 8 October 2002, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 3. **ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee considered a report from the Asset Management Steering Group on the progress of the Asset Management Plan (AMP)

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

The AMP contained an action plan against which performance could be assessed. This was detailed in Appendix 'A' to the report. It also contained performance standards, which were monitored annually.

In addition, Appendix 'B' to the report sought to keep Members up to date with disposals, acquisitions, developments etc, as and when they occurred.

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be noted.

## 4. **PEOPLE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

The Committee considered a report from Corporate Personnel Services updating members on the People Strategy Action Plan for 2002-2003.

The Committee had considered the Action Plan when it was first developed in March 2002 and had requested a progress report as part of their work programme for the year.

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be noted and a further report be submitted in 6 months.

## 5. **BUILDING CONTROL CHARGES - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered a report from Planning and Engineering on the progress and operation of the revised scheme and charges for the Building Control fee related function, for the financial year 2002/2003.

From 1 April 1999, responsibility for setting the charges in respect of the Council's statutory fee related function, was devolved from Central Government to local authorities. The charges set needed to be established to ensure the income over the period of three financial years was not be less than the cost of the Building Control fee related function.

In addition, guidance from the LGA and DETR (Deputy Prime Ministers Officer) advised that any surplus fee should be modest.

**RECOMMENDED** that the report be noted.

## 6. **EXECUTIVE MEETING - MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2002**

The Committee received a report from the Chair on the meeting of the Executive held on Monday 14 October, 2002.

The minutes of the Executive held on Monday 14 October, 2002 which came within the remit of the Committee were submitted for information and scrutiny.

**RECOMMENDED** that the Chair's report and the minutes be noted.

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

The Committee considered items 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9C & 9F on the agenda for the meeting of the Executive to be held on Monday 11 November, 2002.

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

### Agenda Item Number 4 - Development Of A Warwick District Local Strategic Partnership

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and would like assurance that all the community groups detailed on page 12 be given the opportunity to be fully involved.

### Agenda Item Number 5 - Performance Management - Half Year Results 2002

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and made the following comments:

- 1) The results in paragraph 4.4 (page 19) could be misread and needs to be explained more clearly, with regard to the inclusion or exclusion of "under query" line in the performance column

- 2) The summary results in the appendices need to report the indicators in a consistent format - They vary between each table
- 3) The indicators do not mean a great deal in isolation - They need to be compared through bench marking.
- 4) There are no targets for some performance indicators e.g. complaints (CM 3). This needs to be addressed and reported back to the Scrutiny Committee.

#### Agenda Item Number 6 - Comprehensive Performance Assessment Guidance Consultation

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

#### Agenda Item Number 7 - Approval Of Fees And Charges 2003/2004

The Committee supported the recommendations and made the following comments:

- 1) The Committee supported Option B
- 2) Paragraph 9.8 is wrongly worded and should state that all children under 8 years should be accompanied by an adult.

#### Agenda Item 9C - Virement Of Salary Budgets

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report on the understanding that the virement was for one year only.

#### Agenda Item Number 9F - Sports Facility In South Leamington/Whitnash

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report and agreed that any monies raised from the sale of assets should not be ring fenced.

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

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

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 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 an appendix to the report.

**RECOMMENDED** that

- 1) the progress against the Portfolio Holders priorities and work plans be noted; and
- 2) the following items be added to the work plan:
  - i) a report on the Council's complaints procedure;
  - ii) a progress report in 6 months on the People Strategy Action Plan;
  - iii) a progress report on the Equalities BV Review to the next meeting; and
  - iv) a report on the Engineering restructure to the next meeting
  - v) a report on discretionary rate relief to sports clubs and village halls.

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

## 10. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered Items 11, 12 and 13 on the agenda for the meeting of the Executive on Monday 11 November, 2002.

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

### Agenda Item Number 11 - St Mary's Lands Proposals And The Hill Close Gardens Scheme Warwick

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and made the following comments:

- 1) WDC should retain complete financial control of the car parks
- 2) It needs to be identified where the social housing will be located in the scheme
- 3) Is there the possibility of having the option of a conditional agreement in case other parts of the scheme do not go ahead?
- 4) Are the tenders which have been submitted time limited?

### Agenda Item Number 12 - Kenilworth Proposals

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

### Agenda Item Number 13 - The Band Factory

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and made the following comments:

- 1) Why were the monies released when the management agreement had not been signed?
- 2) Can we get the money back from the Trustees of Brass 2000?

(The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.)

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