

Cabinet

Tuesday 10 August 2010

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs Pengelly, in the Chair.

Councillor Fry, Vice Chair.

Councillors Bowyer, Brookshaw, Michael Leaves, Sam Leaves, Monahan, Mrs Watkins and Wigans.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Jordan and Barry Keel (Chief Executive)

Also in attendance: Adam Broome (Director for Corporate Support), Carole Burgoyne (Director for Community Services), Neville Cannon (Assistant Director for ICT), Malcolm Coe (Assistant Director for Finance, Assets and Efficiencies), Mark Grimley (Assistant Director for Human Resources and Organisational Development) and Bronwen Lacey (Director of Services for Children and Young People).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.25 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Cabinet will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct from councillors in relation to items under consideration at this meeting.

32. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010 were signed as a correct record.

33. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions submitted by the public for this meeting.

34. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

35. **JOINT PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE REPORT**

The Corporate Management Team submitted a written report. The Director for Corporate Support corrected the base rate appearing in paragraph 12.2.5, on page 41 of the report, from 0.45% to 0.5%.

The Assistant Director for Finance, Assets and Efficiencies undertook to assess the impact of the recently announced government initiative on a 'New Homes Bonus', whereby the government was planning to give grants to councils in England for every newly-built home.

Agreed –

- (1) that a £4m reduction to the 2010/11 budget, is allocated across departments, to reflect the Council's assessment of the impact of Government Action;
- (2) the principle that the Council will increase charges to reflect the VAT increases, from January 2011, except where this conflicts with other Council priorities;
- (3) the changes to the capital programme (as detailed in sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the report), including new approvals of £0.596m, leading to a revised programme of £100.415m;
- (4) the Officer action taken to freeze transport schemes in 2010/11 to the value of £0.870m, pending a complete review of the capital programme;
- (5) that the pay award provision is removed from departmental budgets and held under corporate items to meet the costs of redundancies and other budget pressures;
- (6) that Directors progress urgently, further delivery plans to address the remaining shortfall in 2010/11.

36. **ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY BUSINESS CASE**

The Director for Corporate Support submitted a written report.

This was an urgent key decision and approval had been given by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, under Paragraph 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Special Urgency), that the decision could not reasonably be deferred. To wait until September 2010 for Cabinet approval would have delayed implementation of the strategy and reduced the revenue savings achieved in 2011/12 by approximately £125,000, further increasing budgetary pressures on the Council.

The Chair also drew Members' attention to the report referred to in minute 38 below.

Agreed that –

- (1) this stage of the Accommodation Strategy is approved, i.e. vacating six satellite offices and focusing on three core office accommodation bases of Civic Centre, Windsor House and Midland House;

- (2) the capital investment and one-off revenue costs required to enable implementation of this stage of the strategy, is approved;
- (3) capital funding required is, where feasible, drawn from the council's existing investment portfolio, hence minimising further borrowing requirements;
- (4) revenue savings generated in 2011/12 are used to fund the revenue costs of exiting existing lease agreements early. Any cashflow issues in terms of timing, or net revenue shortfall in 2011/12, to be met from the council's accommodation reserve;
- (5) a corporate provision is created into which each 'invest to save' scheme is required to make future financial contributions;
- (6) from 2012/13 onwards, 10% of the revenue benefit from this invest to save scheme, (i.e. £152k per annum), is contributed to the council's corporate invest to save provision;
- (7) that the report is referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and inclusion in their work programme as appropriate.

37. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Agreed that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

38. **ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY BUSINESS CASE (E3)**

The Director for Corporate Support submitted a written report.

(See minute 36 above)

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