

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Executive Committee held in the Council Chamber, Browfort, Devizes on Tuesday 28th June 2005 at 2.15 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor L.H. Grundy - Chairman

Councillor P. A. Brown	Councillor Mrs J.M. Giles
Councillor Mrs. K. Callow	Councillor C P Humphries
Councillor D Campbell	Councillor J.J. Kunkler
Councillor Mrs.T. M. Carr	Councillor A. Molland
Councillor Mrs. R.S.E.Cumins	Councillor P.N. Veasey
Councillor A.P.J. Duck	

PART 1

Conducted whilst the public were entitled to be present

1. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received for response at the meeting.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15th March, 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures were made

**4. NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MRS TAYLOR
PROPOSING THAT MEETINGS OF KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
SHOULD BE HELD IN THE EVENING.**

Councillor Mrs. M.S.N. Taylor presented her notice of motion as set out in the report of the Head of Human Resources.

Councillor Mrs Taylor spoke in favour of introducing evening meetings in order to give more opportunity to younger people to stand for the Council. She stated that the composition of the Council was undemocratic at the moment as it did not represent the population as a whole. She clarified that by evening meetings she meant anytime from 5pm onwards. She added that the majority of other local authorities in the area held meetings in the evening and that the councillors at those authorities coped with the evening travelling. She also stated that holding meetings in the evening would make it easier for members of

the public to attend.

A discussion then took place during which a Member spoke in support of Councillor Mrs Taylor's motion. She stated that a lot of the arguments put forward in the report were not valid and that it was the right choice to have evening meetings so that working people could be involved.

Other Members spoke against the motion stating that if meetings were held in the evening they would not be as well supported by officers. They added that there was no evidence that holding meetings in the evenings attracted younger people to stand for election. They pointed to the number of other meetings that were already held in the evening which would make it difficult to attend additional meetings. A Member added that Kennet was a rural community where people worked a variety of hours, not just 9am until 5pm and stated that Parish Council meeting that were held in the evening were very seldom attended by the public. Following further discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

RECOMMENDED:

THAT the Notice of Motion put forward by Councillor Mrs M S N Taylor proposing that meetings of Kennet District Council should be held in the evenings, be defeated.

5. NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR WOOD PROPOSING THAT IN THE EVENT OF THE SOUTH WEST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY BEING WOUND UP, THIS COUNCIL WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PENSION RIGHTS OF THE BOARD AND ITS EMPLOYEES AND THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE S.W.R.A. BE SO ADVISED.

Councillor A. S. Wood presented his notice of motion as set out in the report of the Head of Human Resources.

In referring to the papers attached to the report, Councillor A S Wood stated that this was an important political issue and was a point of principle for the Council to decide whether to support the SWRA and the liabilities if they were to be dissolved. He stated that the papers fully explained the background and added that the Council could investigate whether it would be possible to buy in services that were offered by the South West Provincial Employers.

Councillor A Molland, the Council's representative on the South West Regional Assembly, spoke against the motion stating that it was a legal impossibility as the Council was either a Member of the SWRA or it was not. It was not possible to be only members of one or two bodies as the South West Regional Assembly, the South West Local Government Association and the South West Provincial Employers had

a joint subscription and joint secretariat. He added that if the South West Regional Assembly were to be dissolved a motion would need to be passed and approved by three quarters of the Assembly entitled to vote. Any liabilities would be in direct proportion to annual subscriptions which for Kennet would amount to 0.78% of any liabilities.

In terms of pension liabilities the staff at the Secretariat were members of the Somerset Local Government Pension Scheme and an additional bond had been earmarked in the unlikely event that pension liabilities needed to be met. Councillor Molland concluded by saying that the likelihood of liability and the likely scale of liability were reasonable and did not amount to a good reason to leave the SWRA.

Following further discussion, it was proposed, seconded and

RECOMMENDED:

THAT Councillor Wood's Notice of Motion proposing that 'in the event of the South West Regional Assembly being wound up, this council will not accept any responsibility for the pension rights of the Board and its employees and that the Chief Executive of the SWRA be so advised' be defeated.

6. BUDGET REDUCTION SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

THAT the Budget Reduction Sub Committee be reappointed for the 2005/2006 municipal year and comprise five members (3 Conservative and Independent, 1 Independent and 1 Liberal Democrat).

7. KENNET CONSULTATIVE ACCESS PANEL

RESOLVED

THAT the panel be reappointed for the 2005/2006 municipal year and comprise Councillors J.A. Booth, Mrs. K. Callow, Mrs. J.K. Combe, Mrs. R.S.E. Cummins and Mrs. J.M. Giles.

8. GERSHON – EFFICIENCY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Resources who sought approval for the efficiency strategy which was attached at appendix b to the report.

In introducing the report the Director of Resources stated that the strategy before Members set out how the Council was to organise itself in order to achieve the savings that had been set by Gershon. He added that he was confident that the strategy would ensure that the

Council were able to meet the target that had been set.

RESOLVED

THAT the efficiency strategy attached to the report be approved.

9. EQUALITIES MONITORING – POLICY AND PRACTICE GUIDE

The Committee considered the report by the Director of Resources which sought approval for the Equalities Monitoring Policy and Practice Guide as attached to the report.

The Director of Resources explained that the proposed Policy and Practice Guide codified existing good practice in many parts of the organisation, gave a brief overview of the report and responded to questions from Members.

RESOLVED

THAT the Equalities Monitoring Policy and Practice Guide attached to the report be approved.

10. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN AND CORPORATE STRATEGY 2005/2006

Consideration was given to a report by the Policy Support Manager which sought approval for the draft 6th annual Best Value Performance Plan and Corporate Strategy.

The Policy Support Manager gave a brief overview of the report and drew members' attention in particular to the recommendation which incorporated the usual caveat to enable any last minute amendments to be made.

The Policy Support Manager and the Chief Executive then responded to questions from Members. During the general discussion it was noted that there was a grammatical error on page 26 of the Plan which it was agreed would be corrected.

RESOLVED

THAT the draft Best Value Performance Plan and Corporate Strategy for 2005/2006 be approved, subject to any last minute amendments for the publication of the Best Value Performance Plan.

11. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Accountant and Auditor which appraised members of the requirement for the Council to

prepare and publish a statement of internal control as part of the Council's financial statement. Copies of the statement of internal control and action plan were attached as appendices to the report.

The Financial Services Manager took members through the report and advised that a cross service working party had been established to review the internal control environment of the Council. Whilst the working party had not identified any significant weaknesses it had identified a number of improvements that would enhance the control environment. These were set out in section 5 of the report.

RESOLVED

THAT

1. Members approve the Statement of Internal Control (Appendix B) for signing by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council and inclusion in the statement of accounts for 2004/2005
2. Members approve the action plan prepared to address the areas for improvement identified in section 5 of the report (Appendix C).

12. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2004/2005

The Committee considered a report of the Financial Services Manager which updated the Committee on the performance of the Council's investment during 2004/2005.

The Financial Services Manager gave a brief overview of the report and responded to questions from Members.

RESOLVED

THAT the performance relating to 2004/2005 Treasury Management activities as a requirement of the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement be noted.

13. INTERNAL AUDIT 2004/2005

The Committee received the report of the Management Team Audit Board and the Financial Services Manager highlighted the salient features and responded to questions from members of the Committee.

RESOLVED

THAT the report be noted.

14.IMPLEMENTING E-GOVERNMENT (I.E. G) STATEMENT 2005 MID TERM (I.E. G 4.5)

The committee was recommended to approve implementing the E-Government Statement 2005 as set out in the agenda papers, subject to the Information Services Manager being authorised to make any last minute amendments which might be necessary.

RESOLVED

THAT the implementing E-Government Statement 2005 mid term document be approved, subject to the Information Services Manager being authorised to make any last minute amendments which might be necessary.

15.URGENT ACTION BETWEEN MEETINGS

Details of urgent action taken between meetings were available at the meeting.

PART 2

Items considered whilst the meeting was closed to the public

None

Chairman
28th July, 2005