

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Executive Committee held in the Council Chamber, Browfort, Devizes on Tuesday 30th August 2005 at 2.15 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor L.H. Grundy - Chairman

Councillor P. A. Brown
Councillor Mrs. K. Callow
Councillor Mrs. T. M. Carr
Councillor A.P.J. Duck
Councillor Mrs. S.M. Findlay
Councillor Mrs. J.M. Giles

Councillor J.J. Kunkler
Councillor A. Molland
Councillor P.W. Richardson
Councillor P.N. Veasey
Councillor D.J. Wilmott

PART 1

Items considered whilst the public were entitled to be present

21. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received for response at the meeting.

22. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26th July, 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures were made.

24. FINANCIAL PROSPECTS 2006/2007

The Chief Executive explained that this report signalled the start of the budget setting process for the 2006/2007 Municipal Year. He further explained that the report set out the emerging financial picture and made recommendations upon which Committees could base their budget preparations.

The Chief Executive and Director of Resources jointly responded to questions from Members regarding the Planning Delivery Grant, the grading of Council priorities, decriminalised parking and the fund-

raising powers of Parish and Town Councils.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Council set the following guidelines for the Executive Committees in framing the budget for 2006/2007:

1. Expenditure growth should be minimised, consistent with the need to maintain essential, core services.
2. All sources of income and expenditure should be critically examined with a view to achieving savings such as to produce a balanced budget in 2006/07 that conforms to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
3. Staff structures and staffing levels should be kept under review and opportunities taken in association with the Human Resources Committee to reduce staff costs, consistent with the need to maintain priority services.

25. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The Director of Resources introduced his report and drew Members' attention to two notable differences from the previous Strategy, namely changes to the taxation Strategy and that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy was seeking to match the allocation of resources to priorities within the Corporate Strategy.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2005/2006 to 2008/2009 be adopted by the Council.

26. REPORT OF ACTUAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR 2004/2005

The Chief Accountant and Auditor introduced her report and explained to Members that the report was a requirement of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance. She responded to questions from Members about terminology contained within the report.

RESOLVED

THAT

1. The actual prudential indicators reported in relation to 2004/2005 be acknowledged.
2. The revised prudential indicators relating to the capital spending plans for 2005/2006 through to 2007/2008 be acknowledged

and approved.

27. DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Director of Resources introduced his report and explained to members that the decision to close public conveniences within the district had already been taken by the Community Development Executive Committee and that it was the role of the Resources Executive Committee to decide on the most efficient way of disposing of the Council's assets.

The Director of Resources responded to questions from Members regarding possible future uses of the buildings and land that might be acquired by Parish Councils and reminded Members of the proposed future provision of public conveniences within Devizes.

RESOLVED

THAT

1. Disposal of the Council's public conveniences to the Town and Parish Councils that wish to continue to provide a public convenience service for £1 consideration would help improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the areas concerned.
2. Such disposals should be structured in legal terms to protect the Council's future interests.
3. Both parties should bear their own costs in connection with the transfer of any interest in the properties.

28. WILTSHIRE COMPACT

The Policy Support Manager introduced the report and informed Members that the Charities Information Bureau was also a Statutory Partner in this process.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Council continues to support the Wiltshire Compact and adopts the codes of practice contained in the report.

29. BEST VALUE AUDIT INSPECTION - CUSTOMER FOCUS

Members considered the Report of the Director of Resources and

RECOMMENDED

THAT the recommendations made in the Audit Commission

Report, as shown at Appendix B, be added to the Council's Corporate Action and Improvement Plan.

30. RACE RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) ACT 2000 - RACE EQUALITIES SCHEME

The Director of Resources introduced his report and explained to Members that the adoption of a scheme was a statutory requirement. He explained to Members that the scheme before them was almost identical to the previous scheme. He further explained that Kennet was one of just forty Councils out of four hundred and forty to have achieved level 3 within the scheme.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Race Equality Scheme attached to the report be adopted by the Council.

31. URGENT ACTION BETWEEN MEETINGS

Members noted that the Chairman and Vice Chairman had approved expenditure for revenues software within the terms of the Constitution.

PART 2

Items considered whilst the meeting was closed to the public

None.

Chairman
29th November, 2005