

## KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL

### RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Executive Committee held in the Council Chamber, Browfort, Devizes on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 at 2.15 pm

**PRESENT:**                    **Councillor L.H. Grundy** -                    **Chairman**

Councillor Mrs. K. Callow

Councillor Mrs. T.M. Carr

Councillor Mrs. R.S.E. Cummins

Councillor J.J. Kunkler

Councillor A. Molland

Councillor J.G. Ody

Councillor P.W. Richardson

Councillor P.N. Veasey

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Councillor P.A. Brown

Councillor D.J. Wilmott

Councillor Mrs J. M. Giles

#### **PART 1**

#### **Items considered whilst the public were entitled to be present**

#### **32. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No questions had been received for response at the meeting.

#### **33. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2005, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **34. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillor P.W. Richardson declared a personal interest in the item considered at Minute No. 42 owing to his membership of Tidworth Development Trust.

#### **35. IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT RETURN 2005 (IEG5)**

The Director of Resources reminded Members of the history of IEG funding, and of the requirements for regular statements of progress. He informed Members that the latest return contained a 100% positive response where appropriate.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** the draft IEG statement be approved, with delegated authority to the Information Services Manager and the Director of Resources to make any final amendments to the statement as may be required before submission.

**36. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2004/2005 – POST AUDIT**

The Financial Services Manager introduced his report and explained that the Balance sheet relating to the Statement of Accounts for 2004/2005 had been brought back before the Committee because of changes required by the Audit Commission as part of their annual audit. The changes requested stemmed from changes to the Capital Finance Regulations, were purely technical and had no bearing on the Council's financial position in terms of its current and future revenue and capital budget requirements.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Council's post audit balance sheet for the financial year 2004/2005 is formally adopted in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 and that the adjustments made to the balance sheet during audit are noted.

**37. SERVICE DELIVERY PLANS**

The Chairman explained the importance of the Service Delivery Plan documents to the Committee and invited Members to ask questions of the Service Managers present. The Committee had no questions for officers, and praised the content of the plans.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Service Delivery Plans for 2006 to 2009 be noted.

**38. VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT**

The Committee considered the content of the Value for Money Statement and noted that it provided a valuable narrative for Members. Members noted that the document had not received any Member input, and were informed that Members would be involved in the production of future position statements.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Value for Money Statement submitted on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 be noted.

**39. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO THE BROWFORT RECEPTION AREA**

The Director of Resources gave a brief outline of the Customer First Initiative and the history of the Contact Centre. He reminded the Committee that when the Contact Centre had been built, Members had agreed at that stage the principle that a second phase of building works would be required to reinstate the interview rooms that had been lost at phase 1.

The Director of Resources informed Members that the plans for altering the reception area would maximise space, allow some customers to self serve through computer terminals, would provide improved public toilet facilities, would reinstate interview rooms to a higher specification than before, and would improve disabled access to the building. He informed Members that the key principle of the alterations was to enable as many customers as possible to have their queries resolved at the first point of contact. Members were reminded that this would be a capital cost and would have very little impact upon Council Tax.

The Committee held a lengthy debate on the proposed alterations, and in particular expressed their concern that a robust PR exercise would need to be initiated to counter any public disquiet at the cost of works to the Council offices.

It was then proposed and seconded that

The work of improvements to the Browfort reception area as illustrated in the attached plan be approved at an estimated cost of £170,000, but that the works be delayed for 12 months.

This proposal was defeated following a vote by Members. Councillor P.W. Richardson requested that his vote against this proposal be recorded.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** the work of improvements to the Browfort reception area as illustrated in the attached plan be approved at an estimated cost of £170,000.

**40. BUDGET REDUCTION SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee received and noted the minutes of the Budget Reduction Sub-Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.

**41. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 100(A)(4)**

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of The Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraphs 5 and 8 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**PART 2**

**Items considered whilst the meeting was closed to the public**

**42. TIDWORTH DEVELOPMENT TRUST LOAN**

Members considered a report by the Financial Services Manager concerning an application for a loan by the Tidworth Development Trust.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Tidworth Development Trust be granted a loan of £30,000 at a fixed interest rate of 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> % PA, to be repayable within three years, to assist the setting up of a not for profit recruitment company as outlined within its business plan.

**THE CHAIRMAN THEN MADE A STATEMENT THAT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 100B4(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 THAT HE INTENDED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ITEM AS AN URGENT ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE**

**43. HILLS RECYCLING CONTRACT**

Members considered a report by the Director of Resources giving details of contract renegotiations concerning the collection and sale of recyclable waste.

**RESOLVED**

**THAT**

- (1) The Council enter into an agreement with Hills Minerals and Waste Limited to act as the contractor for that company for the provision of recycled materials, on the terms outlined in the report; and,
- (2) Delegated authority be given to the Environment and Amenity Services Manager to conclude any minor matters on detail in the proposed contract.

**44. URGENT ACTION BETWEEN MEETINGS**

None

Chairman  
7<sup>th</sup> February, 2006