

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL  
RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Executive Committee held in the  
Council Chamber, Browfort, Devizes on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at 2.15 pm

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

Councillor J A Booth	Councillor Mrs J M Giles
Councillor Mrs K Callow	Councillor S J Miles
Councillor D D Campbell	Councillor A Molland
Councillor Mrs T M Carr	Councillor P W Richardson
Councillor A P J Duck	

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Mrs R S E Cummins    Councillor J J Kunkler

**PART 1**

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

**37. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No questions had been received for response at the meeting.

**38. MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**39. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**40. FINANCIAL PROSPECTS 2007-2008**

Consideration was given to a report jointly produced by the Chief Executive and the Director of Resources outlining the financial position that the Council is likely to be in for the year ahead.

The Committee were informed that their recommendations would be sent to the next meeting of the Council for approval.

A discussion regarding the state of finances in Kennet ensued, with the Director of Resources answering questions from Members.

Following consideration is was

**RECOMMENDED**

**THAT**

1. Expenditure growth should be minimised as is 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 2007/08 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 as is consistent with the need to maintain priority services.

**41. AIR CONDITIONING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Chief Executive introduced the report and explained the implications relating to the three options presented for Members.

Members sympathised with the need for air conditioning in the council chamber but thought it impractical given the current financial situation.

Alternative suggestions included gentlemen dressing down for meetings, lowering the temperature of the Browfort offices to save money and providing additional cooling fans for meetings.

After discussion it was

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** the decision be deferred for future consideration pending costing estimates for the whole building.

**42. GERSHON EFFICIENCY GAINS – ANNUAL STATEMENTS**

The Financial Services Manager introduced the report and answered questions arising from Members.

After consideration it was

**RESOLVED**

**THAT**

1. Progress made by the Council against its efficiency targets be noted.
2. Members continue to monitor progress against efficiency targets as part of the budget monitoring processes.

#### **43. BUDGET MONITORING**

The Financial Services Manager introduced the report and was supported in both his explanation and clarification by the Director of Resources.

The Committee thanked the Chief Accountant & Auditor for her ongoing work in preparing budget monitoring reports for the Committee to consider.

The Chief Executive agreed that the possibility of joint procurement for energy would be explored. Following proposal, seconding and a vote it was

#### **RESOLVED**

#### **THAT**

1. Progress made by the Council against its budgeted income and expenditure for the first quarter of the 2006-07 financial year be noted.
2. The actions proposed by the Management Team in appendix B of the officer's report be approved to manage associated risks.

#### **44. REPRESENTATION IN COURT PROCEEDINGS**

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that the report was a formality needing approval in order to reflect the changes in job names and included the new trainee solicitors.

It was

#### **RESOLVED**

**THAT** the new list of officers authorised to represent the Council in court proceedings and valuation tribunals be approved as per the officer's report.

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

Following consideration it was

**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 paragraph 2 of Part 1 to Schedule 12A of the Act.

**PART 2**

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

**45. PAYROLL PROCESSING**

The Financial Services Manager talked Members through his report and explained the financial, legal, staffing and risk implications associated with it.

Following consideration it was

**RESOLVED**

**THAT** the recommendations in the report be approved.