

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
RESOURCES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Executive Committee held in the Council Chamber, Browfort, Devizes on 29th June 2007 at 2.15 pm

PRESENT: Councillor L H Grundy - Chairman

 Councillor Mrs P A Dow Councillor T C F Howard
 Councillor A P J Duck Councillor J J Kunkler
 Councillor Mrs S Evans Councillor D J Willmott
 Councillor R Gamble

APOLOGIES:

Councillor J D Pearcy-Caldwell Councillor A Lake
Councillor A Molland

PART 1

Items considered whilst the public were entitled to be present

18. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received for response at the meeting.

19. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th March 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were none.

21. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

The Information Services Manger introduced her report which informed the Committee of the transformation programme of services provided by the Council, and its progress to date. Members learnt that the programme essentially started in 2001 when the e-government agenda was published.

NOTED

22. THE FUTURE OF TELEPHONY

The Committee considered the report from the Information Services Manager seeking approval for a system to replace the outdated telephony system at Kennet District Council. Members learnt that a complete replacement of telephony was the best option for Council needs. Following deliberation it was

RESOLVED

THAT

1. A detailed business case and full specification of requirements for the full replacement of the Council's telephony (as detailed in option one of the report) be produced for the purpose of undertaking a procurement exercise.
2. £300,000 be included in the 2008/09 capital programme for the purpose of updating the telephony (as detailed in option one of the report).

23. GENDER EQUALITY SCHEME

The Committee considered a joint report from the Director of Community Services and the Head of Human Resources who sought adoption of a gender equality scheme needed to address the Council's obligations as defined by the Equality Act 2006. The Chairman assisted in clarifying points raised in the report and invited comment from Members. Following consideration it was

RESOLVED

THAT

1. The gender equality scheme be adopted.
2. The action plan be endorsed.

24. STATEMENTS OF ACCOUNTS 2006-07

The Chief Accountant & Auditor presented her report to the Committee and talked them through the previous year's accounts. Councillor Gamble asked for clarification regarding the tax base and budget. He was informed that the tax base remained neutral, with any additional revenue raised through taxation being offset by a reduction in the Central Government grant. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

THAT the statement of accounts for the 2006-07 financial year be both formally adopted by the Committee and signed by the Chairman in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

25. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2007-08

The Chief Accountant & Auditor informed Members of the purpose of the capital strategy and informed them it was good practice to review the document on a regular basis. Kennet District Council has maintained its 'good' rating since the initial strategy was required to be produced in 2002. Members

RESOLVED

THAT the capital strategy for 2007-08 be approved.

26. ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

In the absence of the Director of Community Services, The Planning Services Manager introduced the report and answered questions from Members. The plan would appease any concerns raised by the Audit Commission regarding asset management. Following deliberation it was

RESOLVED

THAT the asset management plan be adopted.

27. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2006-07

The Chief Accountant & Auditor updated the Committee with the performance of the Council's investments during 2006-07. Members received details of activities carried out in the past year and compared them to the strategies that had been originally adopted at the start of the financial year. It was

RESOLVED

THAT the report be noted in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement.

28. AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN

The Corporate Services Manager introduced her report to the Committee, identifying four key areas to be undertaken under the Code of Audit Practice. There were no legal, financial, risk or staffing implications arising from the report

NOTED

29. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN & CORPORATE STRATEGY 2007-08

The Corporate Services Manager presented the latest version of the 8th annual best value performance plan and corporate strategy, explaining that the Council had a duty to publish such a plan. Several points of clarification were raised which were answered accordingly. It was

RESOLVED

THAT the draft statutory aspects of the best value performance plan and corporate strategy are approved for 2007-08 subject to any last minute amendments prior to publication.

30. URGENT ITEMS

Under the provisions of section 100B(4)b of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman agreed to take items at minutes 31 and 32 as urgent items for consideration by the Committee, because the timings of both items precluded decision by any other Committee at any other time.

31. PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE UNITARY STRUCTURES: MEANS OF PRIORITISING PROPOSALS – CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive explained that the Government had recently published a further consultation inviting comment from stakeholders regarding the prioritisation of applications submitted to the Secretary of State.

Members learnt that applications would be prioritised by their ability to provide strategic leadership, neighbourhood empowerment, and value for money public services. Should the perceived cost of reorganisation outweigh the perceived benefit arising from reorganisation, the application may not proceed to implementation. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

THAT the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State expressing concern that levels of public opinion are not being taken into account during the prioritising process, and that financial claims of potential savings are not being audited for robustness.

32. APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET REDUCTION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Financial Services Manager informed the Committee of the need to form a budget reduction sub-committee. It was

RESOLVED

THAT a budget reduction sub-committee consisting of 4 Conservative and 1 Independent Members be appointed.

PART 2

Items considered whilst the meeting was closed to the public

There were none.