

Council

23 February 2009

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Malcolm Hall (Deputy Mayor) and Councillors P Anderson, K Banks, M Braley, J Brunner, M Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, J Cookson, D Enderby, A Fry, C Gandy, W Hartnett, N Hicks, D Hunt, R King, W King, C MacMillan, W Norton, J Pearce, B Quinney, M Shurmer, D Smith, D Taylor and D Thomas

Also Present:

M Collins (Vice-Chair, Standards Committee)

Officers:

K Dicks, H Halls, S Hanley, T Kristunas, S Mullins and J Smith

Committee Services Officer:

I Westmore

107. WELCOME

The Deputy Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

108. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor Field, and Councillor Mould.

Members agreed that the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery from his present ill-health be passed on to the Mayor.

109. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Kevin Dicks (Acting Joint Chief Executive) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 8 (Acting Joint Chief Executive – Review of Operation of Secondment Arrangements) as detailed separately at Minute 113 below.

.....
Chair

110. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - URGENT REFERRALS

Members considered urgent referrals from the Executive Committee in respect of the following matters:

Estimated Outturn 2008/09;
Virement Request – Planning Savings; and
General Fund Revenue Budgets and Capital Bids 2009/10 – 2011/12.

During consideration of the item on the Estimated Outturn, Members again reiterated their concern at the further reduction in the contribution from Scottish Widows Investment Partnerships Ltd to the Shopmobility service.

In respect of the General Fund item, the Council was informed that in addition to proceeding with all revenue bids identified as unavoidable or high priority steps were to be taken to identify an existing officer within the organisation to undertake the role of Grants Officer which had been categorised as a medium priority revenue bid.

1. ESTIMATED OUTTURN 2008/09:

RESOLVED that

the Estimated Outturn 2008/09 be recommended for approval;

2. VIREMENT REQUEST – PLANNING SAVINGS

RESOLVED that

The budget savings totalling £57,900 be vired for studies required as part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework and the Redditch Economic Strategy, estimated to cost £55,000.

3. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGETS AND CAPITAL BIDS 2009/10 – 2011/12

RESOLVED that

- 1) subject to comments, above, the Initial Estimates for 2009/10 be approved;**
- 2) the Revenue Bids categorised as unavoidable and high detailed in Appendix 14 be approved as follows:**

2009/10	£465,000
2010/11	£367,000
2011/12	£280,000;

- 3) the General Fund bids for capital resources categorised as unavoidable and high set out in Appendix 15 be approved as follows:

2009/10	£1,112,800
2010/11	£ 920,000
2011/12	£ 820,000;

- 4) the Housing Revenue Account bids for capital resources categorised as high set out in Appendix 17 be approved as follows:

2009/10	£1,090,000
2010/11	£ 570,000
2011/12	£ 570,000;

- 5) the savings / additional as identified in Appendix 18 and below be approved for consultation:

2009/10	£ 958,400
2010/11	£1,464,900
2011/12	£1,571,700;

- 6) the balance of the set up costs for Civil Enforcement Parking funded by the Council from future income streams;

- 7) potential redundancy costs of £35.1, be funded from balances;

- 8) Officers be asked to do further work with regard to

- a) Arrow Valley Countryside Centre
- b) Forge Mill Museum
- c) Shopmobility
- d) Dial A Ride.

111. ADJOURNMENT

RESOLVED that

the meeting of the Council be adjourned to permit a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held to consider the setting of the Council Tax 2009/10 and other associated financial matters.

(At this point - 7.28 p.m. - the meeting adjourned and reconvened at 7.44 p.m.)

112. COUNCIL TAX - YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

The Council considered the recommendations of the meeting of the Executive Committee held during the adjournment referred to above, regarding the setting of the Council Tax 2009/10 and other associated financial matters.

During the course of the discussion a motion to amend the recommendation in respect of Council Tax – Year Ending 31 March 2010 through the adoption of a number of different options in respect of revenue and capital bids was the subject of the following named vote in accordance with Standing Order 16:

Members voting FOR the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Cookson, Enderby, Fry, Hartnett, Hicks, Hunt, R King, W King, Shurmer and Taylor.
(10 votes)

Members voting AGAINST the amendment to the motion:

Councillors Anderson, Banks, Braley, Brunner, Chalk, A Clayton, B Clayton, Gandy, MacMillan, Norton, Pearce, Quinney and Smith.
(13 votes)

Members abstaining from voting:

Councillors Hall and Thomas.

Accordingly, the amendment to the Motion fell and it was subsequently

RESOLVED that

the recommendations of the meeting of the Executive Committee, held earlier in the evening on 23 February 2009, be approved.

113. ACTING JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - REVIEW OF OPERATION OF SECONDMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Members received a report from the Leader of the Council reviewing the operation of the arrangements with Bromsgrove District Council for the secondment and sharing of their Chief Executive as the Acting Joint Chief Executive for both Councils.

The figures for the costs to date to Redditch Borough Council for the post of Joint Chief Executive were reported orally as being £38,605, and those for the consequential costs in relation to the Acting Deputy Chief Executive post as being £8,990.

The Leader of the Council reported that she considered the first six months of the trial period for the Acting Joint Chief Executive post and the Joint Working and Shared Services arrangements with Bromsgrove District Council to have been successful.

The recommendations in relation to the Joint Working and Shared Services arrangements received broad support although the post of Acting Joint Chief Executive continued to be cause of less consensus across the Groups as had been the case within the Shared Services Board.

- 1) **the recommendation from the Shared Services Board to continue with the Joint Working and Shared Service arrangements with Bromsgrove District Council be approved; and**
- 2) **the continued secondment of the Acting Joint Chief Executive to the Council be continued until the 31st July 2009 in accordance with the six month review requirements within the secondment agreement.**

(Prior to consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Kevin Dicks, Acting Joint Chief Executive, declared a personal and prejudicial interest, in view of the fact that the matter under discussion was the terms and conditions of his employment by the Council, and withdrew from the meeting.

During consideration of this item, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 81 of the Local Government Act 2000, Sue Hanley, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, withdrew from the meeting in view of the fact that the matter under discussion included the terms and conditions of her employment by the Council.)