

STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 17 December 2009 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 1.20 pm.

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Dr Peter Skolar – in the Chair

Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE
Councillor Nick Carter
Councillor Arash Fatemian
Councillor Jean Fooks
Councillor A.M. Lovatt
Councillor Melinda Tilley (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor David Wilmshurst
Councillor Nick Turner (in place of Councillor Bolster)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Keith R Mitchell, CBE (for Agenda Item 5)
Councillor David Robertson (for Agenda Item 5)

Officers:

Whole of meeting S.Whitehead (Corporate Core)

Part of meeting

**Agenda Item
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Officer Attending

Alexandra Bailey (Corporate Performance & Review Manager)
Assistant Chief Executive & Chief finance Officer, L. Baxter (Financial Planning)
S. Conaway (Head of ICT Service),
Kathy Wilcox (Financial Planning),
Lorna Baxter (Financial Planning),
Director for Community Safety & Shared Services and Chief Fire Officer,
Neil Monaghan (Head of Property)
A. Ulusoy-Shipstone (Finance & Procurement)
M. Tailby (Strategic Asset Management)
B. Threadgold (Corporate Core)

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The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports are attached to the signed Minutes.

25/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda No. 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Chip Sherwood.

26/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor Nick Turner* declared a personal interest on Item 5, Service and Resource Planning 2010/11-2014/15 as a County Council representative on Mill Arts Centre.

Councillor Liz Brighthouse declared a personal interest on Item 5, Service and Resource Planning 2010/11-2014/15 as a Director of Research Machines.

Councillor Melinda Tilley declared a personal interest on Item 5, Service and Resource Planning 2010/11-2014/15 as a close family relative was employed by Research Machines.

* Name corrected at meeting on 14 January 2010.

27/09 MINUTES

(Agenda No. 3)

Following a comment from Councillor Fooks on page 2 of the minutes noting that the position was difficult with proposals for reduced spending now, with further efficiencies in future years, the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2009 were approved and signed.

28/09 SERVICE & RESOURCE PLANNING 2010/11-2014/15

(Agenda No. 5)

The Committee considered a report and received presentations setting out the Business Improvement & Efficiency Strategy for the Corporate Core Directorate, Shared Services and Environment & Economy Directorate, along with details of Corporate & Cross Directorate pressures. The strategies contained the identified pressures and proposed savings over the medium term from 2010/11 to 2014/15.

The Leader and Deputy Leader as relevant portfolio holders were in attendance for this item.

During discussion the following were amongst the main points made:

1) The Committee recognised the importance of ICT services to the provision of front line services to the public and took as a starting point the need to protect them as much as practicable. In recognising the budget pressures they endorsed the prioritisation of projects to ensure best use of available resources and consideration of making recharges to Directorates to ensure a focus on service definition and costs. There was general support for the view expressed by Councillor Fooks that ICT 'invest to save' projects should be supported.

2)The remaining proposals in the Corporate Core Efficiency Strategy were supported including the proposals for the members' budget.

3)The Committee endorsed the Directorate efficiency strategy in relation to Shared Services and suggested that there be continued pressure to drive efficiencies from contracts and to extend the provision of services where it was advantageous to do so.

4)The Committee endorsed the Directorate efficiency strategy in respect of property although noting that elements of it were high risk.

Capital Investment

The Committee highlighted the following schemes (identified by number) as ones they would wish to see go forward:

Pages 83 – 86 - Nos. 2, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14,
Pages 87-88 – Nos.1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18

Councillor Mitchell noted that the cost of the schemes supported was greater than the capital investment available.

29/09 CORPORATE PLAN 2010/11 - 2014/15
(Agenda No. 6)

The Committee noted a report on progress with the Corporate Plan 2010/11 – 2014/15, setting out the principles on which the plan was being developed and the timetable for its completion. The Committee was advised that the draft Plan will be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 14 January 2010.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing 2010