

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

GENERAL REPORT

1. The Executive Cabinet has met once on 24 August 2006 since the last ordinary meeting and this report summarises briefly the principal matters considered at that meeting. Separate reports have been prepared in respect of the items which require Council decisions.

Revenue Budget, 2006/07 - Monitoring Report

2. We received and considered a report of the Director of Finance monitoring the current financial position of the Council in comparison with the budgetary and efficiency savings targets for 2006/07 in respect of the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account.
3. We were pleased to note a continuing improvement in the situation with the General Fund, with a reduction in the forecast overspend from £82,000 to £66,000 since the previous monitoring report. We were assured that further savings will be pursued, with a number of areas (eg agency staff costs, income streams from the Development and Regeneration Directorate, increased refuse collection, concessionary travel and benefit costs) being closely monitored over the remainder of the year.
4. Increases in both the cost of the Job Evaluation process and forecast income had resulted in an expectation for Housing Revenue Account balances to reach £683,000 at the end of the financial year.

Learning and Development Strategy

5. We approved the amendment of the Learning and Development Strategy for 2005-2008 by the inclusion of additional challenging targets and actions relating to Member Development arrangements as recommended in a report of the Director of Human Resources.
6. The amendment of the Strategy reflects the significant improvements to Member Development that has occurred over the last 18 months and injects additional actions required to maintain the achievements made to date and ensure their continual development. This will contribute to the enhancement of Members' knowledge and capacities, especially in relation to the delivery of the Council's strategic objectives.

Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Directorate - Phase 1 Restructure

7. We considered a confidential report of the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhood and Environment on the outcome of the consultation exercise on proposals to revise the senior management structure of his Directorate, following the recent amalgamation of the former Public Services Unit, Environmental Services Unit and part of the Corporate and Policy Unit.
8. The report explained the rationale behind the recommended alterations to the original restructure proposals and the additional revisions to the staffing structure that had been agreed through delegated powers.
9. Following the Executive Cabinet's assessment of the representations received and the Officers' responses, we agreed the recommendations in the Director's report for the adoption of the suggested revised senior management structure of the Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment Directorate.

Steps to becoming an Excellent Council - Restructure of Policy and Performance Directorate

10. We received a confidential report of the Chief Executive on the outcome of the consultation exercise on proposals to restructure the Policy and Performance Directorate.
11. We were reminded of the critical role the Directorate would be required to play in the delivery of the Corporate and Community Strategies and the Authority's achievement of a higher Comprehensive Performance Assessment rating.
12. After consideration of the representations received, we approved the adoption of the recommended revised staffing structure of the Policy and Performance Directorate, aimed at producing a 'fit for purpose' structure that will be capable of meeting new internal and external challenges and demands.

Restructure of Office Support

13. The Chief Executive presented a confidential report on proposals to restructure the office support service function, which suggested the division of the service under the following three broad functional groupings:

Executive Secretariat; Directorate Support Team; Corporate Support Team.

14. The proposals aim to provide a more flexible, corporate support facility to meet the demands of the Council's new organisational structure and corporate priorities and will generate further annual financial savings.
15. We accepted the draft proposals to revise the Office Support Service staffing structure for consultation purposes and authorised the Executive Leader and the Chief Executive to agree the final structure, following consideration of the consultation responses.

Recommendation

16. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR P GOLDSWORTHY
Executive Leader

There are no background papers to this report.

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