

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER

TUESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY 2009 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillors: G W Ballinger (Chairman), Mrs J Greener (Vice-Chairman), M Ahmed, Mrs H E Dyke, J Holden, J Phillips, M A Salter, K J Stokes, J Thomas and N J Thomas.

Observers:

Councillors J-P Campion and P B Harrison.

CSP.127 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S J Williams.

CSP.128 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor M A Salter was appointed as a substitute for Councillor S J Williams.

CSP.129 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Mrs H E Dyke declared a personal interest in Agenda Item No. 5 – Financial Strategy 2009/2012, in view of being a board member of the Community Housing Group.

Councillor J-P Campion declared a personal interest in Agenda Item no. 5 – Financial Strategy 2009/2012, in view of being a Worcestershire County Council representative of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor Mrs J Greener declared a personal interest in Agenda Item no. 5 – Financial Strategy 2009/2012, in view of being a board member of the Citizens Advice Bureau.

CSP.130 Minutes

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CSP.131 Review of Financial Strategy 2009/2012 and Alternative Budget Proposals

The Committee received recommendations from the Budget Review Panel on the outcome of its scrutiny of the Cabinet's Proposal Financial Strategy 2009/2012 and the alternative budget proposals received.

The Head of Financial Services informed Members that he had met with Councillor

Agenda Item No. 4

Kelly regarding a query on the restructuring item on his alternative budget proposals. The query had been raised at the Budget Review Panel on 11th February 2009 regarding the manpower implications. He clarified that Councillor Kelly had acknowledged that compulsory redundancies would have to be made.

Members commented that the Labour party amendments were the same as the Cabinet proposals.

The Leader of the Council reminded the Committee that the £2m for compulsory redundancies was to be used before 31st March 2009, this amount could not be carried over to the following financial year.

The Chief Executive informed Members that consultations were ongoing with the Unions.

Agreed:

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL

Having considered the Cabinet proposals, and amendments from the Independent Community & Health Concern, Labour and Liberal/Liberal Democrat Groups, the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the proposals are all clear, achievable and financially sound.

CSP.132 Income Service Options

The Committee considered recommendations regarding the Income Services Options.

The Head of Financial Services circulated to Members the revised schedule for car park charges. This had been revised as the previous schedule was not considered to be comprehensive.

Members were informed that Council had resolved that should a pedestrian crossing be built at Vale Road, Stourport-on-Severn, then charges for the Vale Road car park would apply.

The Chairman reminded Members that there was still an opportunity to hold another Corporate Services Scrutiny Meeting but the Committee felt there had been ample opportunity to discuss the budgets in detail.

Agreed: The information be noted.

CSP.133 Press Involvement

No items were identified for scrutiny that might require publicity.

CSP.134 Exclusion of the Press and Public

DECISION: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CSP.135 Summary of Minutes

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as "exempt Information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

CSP.136 Exempts Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm.