

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CORPORATE RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

THURSDAY, 18TH MARCH 2010 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillors: G W Ballinger (Chairman), J Greener (Vice-Chairman), J Baker, A J Buckley, H E Dyke, P B Harrison, J Holden, C D Nicholls, J W Parish, K J Stokes, J Thomas, N J Thomas, S J Williams and G C Yarranton.

Observers

There were no members present as observers.

CR.120 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Aston, N J Desmond, H E Dyke and M A Salter.

CR.121 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor S J Williams was appointed as a substitute for Councillor M A Salter. Councillor G C Yarranton was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J Aston.

CR.122 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

CR.123 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

CR.124 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

CR.125 Update on the ICT Strategy

The Committee received a report from the Director of Resources which updated Members on the ICT Strategy.

Members were informed that by procuring the Storage Area Network (SAN) & Virtualization Technology System, there were potential savings for the Council of approximately £100,000. SAN was a way of rationalising the number of servers from 80 to approximately 15. This would also make the move to the Single Site easier as there would be less equipment to move.

There were a number of pilots running at present to ensure that the new technology worked. The pilots that were currently running were in Council Tax, Licensing, ICT and the Chief Executive's directorate.

There were also additional projects being undertaken, i.e. upgrade to the Groupwise system and upgrading the wireless network to increase security.

It was noted that the Corporate Management Team, the Information Communication E-Government Group and the relevant Cabinet Member were updated on a monthly basis of progress made to date.

In response to a Member's question, the reason the 'live' site was in the Town Hall, Kidderminster was that the Council knew it would be keeping that site when the move to Single Site happened. The back up site was at present in Duke House, Kidderminster.

Members were also informed that the ICT project was on budget.

Agreed: A half yearly report regarding an update on the ICT Strategy be presented to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee.

CR.126 Flexible Retirement Policy

The Committee received a report from the Human Resources Officer which provided Members with information on the draft Flexible Retirement Policy.

Members were informed that the 85 year rule would be phased out between 2016 and 2020.

Members asked for clarification regarding the possibility of buying in additional pension.

In response to a Member's question, it was confirmed that there was no minimum period to qualify for Flexible Retirement at the age of 55 or over.

Agreed:

- 1. The Human Resources Officer to clarify the situation on whether additional years can be bought in.**

Recommended to Cabinet:

- 1. The Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that the draft Flexible Retirement Policy be adopted by Council.**

CR.127 Corporate Performance Clinic – February 2010

The Committee considered a report from the Policy & Performance Officer which provided Members with a summary report of the outcomes for the items discussed at the Corporate Performance Clinic held on 8th February 2010.

A member referred to the item relating to NI195b – Improved Street and environmental Cleanliness – Detritus, and stated that he hoped that some of the outcomes stated in the report would be actioned.

Agreed: The information be noted.

CR.128 Feedback from Cabinet

The Committee noted the contents of the Cabinet action list of 16th February 2010 which related to the following:

- a. Proposed Financial Strategy 2010/2013
- b. Draft Workforce Plan

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list, following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 16th February 2010 be noted.

CR.129 Work Programme

The Committee/Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that the recommendations from the Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel would be presented to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee on 15th April 2010.

Agreed:

1. **The Committee/Scrutiny Officer be congratulated on keeping the work programme up to date.**
2. **The information be noted.**

CR.130 Press Involvement

There were no items that required press involvement.

CR.131 Exempt Information

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 paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CR.132 Single Site

The Committee received a report from the Chief Executive and the Director of Legal and Corporate Services which gave an update on the progress of Single Site.

In response to a Member’s question, the Director of Legal and Corporate Services advised that the Chief Executive had recently met with partners in respect of their requirements for occupying the new Single Site.

It was noted that Members had not been updated by their Group Leaders on information that had been presented to the Transformation Board meetings.

Members asked for clarification on the size of the proposed single site.

Agreed:

- 1. The Committee felt that the DTZ report of July 2008 was now out of date and asked for up to date information with regard to projections/costings for the Single Site project to be presented to the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee on 15th April 2010.**
- 2. The Committee also asked for a report to be presented to the next committee on 15th April 2010, which should include details on responses from partners interested in occupying the space in the new Single Site and the size of the proposed site. The Committee/Scrutiny Officer to invite the Chief Executive and the Director of Resources to the next meeting.**

The meeting ended at 6.51 pm.