

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CORPORATE RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

THURSDAY, 15TH APRIL 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, M A Salter, M J Shellie, J Thomas, N J Thomas and S J Williams.

Observers

Councillors J-P Campion and F M Oborski.

CR.133 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Aston and K J Stokes.

CR.134 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor M J Shellie was appointed as a substitute for Councillor K J Stokes. Councillor S J Williams was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J Aston.

CR.135 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

CR.136 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman informed the Committee that agenda item no. 15 – Single Site would be taken before any of the other agenda items.

CR.137 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.138 Single Site

The Committee received a report from the Chief Executive, Director of Legal and Corporate Services and the Director of Resources which gave an update on progress with regard to the purchase of Single Site and on the project generally.

Agenda Item No. 4

Councillor J Holden arrived at this point, 6.04pm.

Members were informed that contracts for the purchase of Single Site should be exchanged by the end of April 2010. The purchase would be line with the valuation from the District Valuer in 2009.

It was confirmed that potential partners were considering options open to them to take up space in the building.

A report would be sent to Cabinet on 20th April 2010 regarding the procurement of services of Project Management and design team.

Members considered that the building should be energy efficient and the Chief Executive confirmed that it would be. However, until the procurement exercise had been carried out, it was unknown as to what sort of heat the building would have.

The Director of Legal & Corporate Services informed Members that as an authority, the Council were legally required not to pay more than the value of the land and the Council were required to employ an independent person and used The District Valuer.

Members asked for details of the named vote from the Council meeting in July 2009 to be circulated.

It was confirmed to Members that attaining the BREAM (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) standard for the new offices would at least be very good.

Agreed:

- 1. The Committee/Scrutiny Officer to circulate to Members of the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee the minutes of the July 2009 Council meeting that gave details of the named vote on Single Site.**
- 2. The information be noted.**

Councillor J-P Campion left the meeting at this point, 6.40pm.

Having considered the exempt report, the Committee returned to the open section of the agenda.

CR.139 Equality & Diversity Update – April 2010

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Equality & Diversity Officer which provided an update on Equality & Diversity work that was currently taking place as part of the 'Being Different Together' project and proposals for continued partnership working following the end of the project.

Members were informed that it was important for them to undertake Equality & Diversity Training and they should contact the Equality & Diversity Officer to arrange this.

An update on Community Engagement which could involve some joint working with Wyre Forest Matters would be given at the next Scrutiny meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4

Members felt that organisations did not always cascade information down and for that reason residents needed to be encouraged to attend the Community Engagement Forum meetings.

Members requested that new Councillors receive Equality & Diversity training.

Agreed:

- 1. To continue to work closely with Worcestershire County Council and the other members of the 'Being Different Together' project group in order to continue the sharing of good practice and resources following the end of the formal project.**
- 2. To create a Single Equalities Scheme in partnership with other organisations from Worcestershire in order to show how we are working together to reduce inequalities across the county.**
- 3. Equality & Diversity training be added to the induction training programme for the new municipal year.**

CR.140 Performance Management Action Plan Update

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Policy & Performance Officer which informed Members of progress against the Performance Management Action Plan as agreed by the Audit Commission.

Members were informed that costs and performance were compared with other authorities. Processes were looked at to see if they could be smarter and generate efficiencies.

Agreed: The Committee noted progress against the Performance Management Action Plan and agreed the proposed further action for 2010/11.

CR.141 Directorate Business Plans 2010/11

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Policy & Performance Officer which informed Members of the Directorate Business Plans for 2010/11.

The Policy & Performance Officer informed the Committee that the Chief Executive's Directorate had been disbanded and that Human Resources had now moved to the Resources Directorate.

Members were informed that some of the sections in the directorate business plans needed to be updated and these would be carried out soon.

Members asked for details of each of the Directors' secretaries.

Agreed:

- 1. The Committee be advised through the quarterly 'highlight' and 'exception' reports from the Corporate Performance Clinics of progress being made by Directorates in the delivery of their Business Plans.**

- 2. Members from this Committee continue to champion a particular Directorate Plan and report on progress on a quarterly basis.**

Recommended to Cabinet:

The Committee recommend to Cabinet that the Directorate Business Plans for 2010/11 be approved.

CR.142 Recommendations from the Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Chairman of the Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel which detailed recommendations of the Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel following its review into the effectiveness of the Corporate Performance Clinics.

The Chairman of the Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel thanked Members and Officers involved in the work of the review panel. The meetings that had been held had highlighted a number of issues and these were reflected in the recommendations in the report. It was suggested that the Review Panel reconvene in December 2010 as it had been felt that this would allow time for the Corporate Performance Clinic to get embedded.

Recommended to Cabinet

- 1. The Chief Executive to remain as Chairman of the Corporate Performance Clinic.**
- 2. The timing of all future meetings of the Corporate Performance Clinic to commence at 4pm.**
- 3. Progress on items raised at the Clinic should be reviewed after six months and reported back to the Corporate Performance Clinic.**
- 4. The Corporate Performance Clinic Review Panel to reconvene in December 2010 time to review the situation.**
- 5. All information presented to the Corporate Performance Clinics to be communicated to staff through team briefings and Wyred Weekly.**
- 6. All information presented to the Corporate Performance Clinics be communicated to Members through the Members Information Bulletin.**

CR.143 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The Committee noted the content of the Cabinet action list, following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 23rd March 2010.

CR.144 Work Programme

Agreed: The information be noted.

CR.145 Press Involvement

There were no items that required press involvement.

CR.146 As this was the last Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee of the current municipal year, the Chairman thanked all members for their enthusiasm during the meetings and stated that he had enjoyed his time as Chair.

The meeting ended at 7.17 pm.