

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2000 IN THE IRELAND ROOM, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 1.15 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr M J Greenburgh (in the Chair)

Mrs C M Aston, Mrs A R Bainbridge, Mr R H StG Carey, Mrs M P Clayton, Mrs P M Crawford, Mr T J Fowler, Mr C Jones, Mr S Kennell, Mr P M Lawrence, Mrs S J Lee, Mr R Lingham-Wood, Mr R S Royston, Mr J S Ryman, Mr F V J Sweatman and Mr M W Taylor.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Mr I S Bates and Mr D A C Shakespeare.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Greenburgh declared an interest in Agenda Item 23, The Legal Services Division – Partnership with Wragges as he is employed by that company.

1 MINUTES

The minutes of meetings of the Committee held on 6 June 2000, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed.

2 REPORT OF THE POLICY, PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE PANEL

The report of the Policy, Performance and Finance Panel was received and noted.

3 REPORT OF THE ICT WORKING GROUP

The report of the ICT Working Group was considered by the Committee and the business of the past three meeting, and progress made, was noted.

RESOLVED

- 1 That charging for internal IT courses should cease with effect from 31 March 2001 and that £62,500 of the £227,358 savings achieved from implementing the Root and Branch Review of IT be used for that end and that the Director of Corporate Services be asked to make interim arrangements for this year;**

- 2 **That the balance be used to offset the loss of income from 2001/02 of £193,000 for providing payroll service until the strategy to move away from the mainframe is achieved;**
- 3 **That the Committee support the retention of the ICT Working Group under the new arrangements relating to modernised structures.**

4 REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES WORKING GROUP

The Committee received and noted the report of the Human Resources Working Group.

RESOLVED

- 1 **That the business of the past four meetings and the outcomes achieved be noted;**
- 2 **That approval in principle be given to support the requirement for a new Human Resources Information System.**

5 THE LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Legal Services about current issues and developments in the Legal Division.

6 THE FUEL CRISIS – 11 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2000

The Committee received the report of the County Emergency Planning Officer about the Fuel Crisis of 11 to 16 September 2000, the lessons learnt from it and the follow up action being taken.

RESOLVED

- 1 **That the Committee place on record their appreciation to all those County Council staff who were involved in dealing with the Fuel Crisis;**
- 2 **That a letter be sent to the Home Office expressing the County Council's concern about the shortcomings as outlined in the County Emergency Planning Officer's report.**

7 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY

The Committee received and noted the report of the Chairman of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority, a copy of which was tabled.

8 LOGO AND BRANDING

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer of the Council on the design of the County Council's corporate logo and steps to extend the coverage of corporate "branding" in the context of the Council's wish to raise its profile in relation to the delivery of its services.

RESOLVED

- 1 That the proposal for the retention of the corporate logo be endorsed;**
- 2 That the extending of coverage of County Council branding by better signing at country parks, signs to indicate Council construction and engineering projects, improved branding at schools and other appropriate buildings, and consistent application on County Council documents and screen images, be noted.**

9 USE OF REVENUE CARRY FORWARD

The Committee received the report of the Director of Corporate Services seeking agreement to the allocation of the Committee's revenue carry forward from 1999/2000.

RESOLVED

That the allocations for carry forward as set out below be agreed:

	£'000
IT – Web Manager	20
Surplus Property	20
Human Resources	20
Asset Management	60
Corporate Branding	30
Fuel Crisis Overtime	<u>7</u>
	<u>157</u>

10 MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

The Committee received and noted the report of the Director of Corporate Services of matters dealt with under Delegated Powers.

11 HUNTSMOOR PARK FARM, IVER – RESULT OF PUBLIC INQUIRY

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Estates and Valuation and Head of Legal Services which informed members of the result of the Inquiry and its significance to the sale of property under the Green Belt (London and Home Counties) Act 1938.

12 REPORTING PROCESSES UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Administration outlining proposed reporting processes under the new arrangements.

13 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: PROVISIONAL STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES AND BAPTIE CONTRACT

The Committee received information on structure and activities of the recently formed Property Management Division and noted progress as reported on the Babtie Term Contract for Architectural Design Services and the Consultants Second Annual Report.

14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following items of business on the grounds that the disclosure of information would be prejudicial to the public interest by virtue of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted:-

Agenda Item 17: Confidential minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2000

Agenda Item 18: Disposal of the Agricultural Estate including sale of land to Chiltern District Council

Agenda Item 19: Disposal of Old County Hall and Annex A, Aylesbury

Agenda Item 20: Matters dealt with under delegated powers

Agenda Item 21: Standing Orders as to Contracts

Agenda Item 22: Debt Write-Offs

Agenda Item 23: The Legal Services Division – Partnership with Wragges

15 SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

The following is a summary of the confidential business of the Committee:

Agenda Item 17: Confidential minutes from the meeting held on 6 June 2000 were confirmed.

Agenda Item 18: Disposal of the Agricultural Estate including sale of land to Chiltern District Council. The Committee noted progress and approve the sale of land.

- Agenda Item 19: Disposal of Old County Hall and Annex A, Aylesbury. The Committee agreed that current negotiations for the disposal of the building should be brought to a close for the time being until the Crown Court's future has been clearly established.
- Agenda Item 20: Matters dealt with under delegated powers. The Committee noted matters dealt with under delegated powers.
- Agenda Item 21: Standing Orders as to Contracts. The Committee noted Orders which had been placed for urgent and emergency work in excess of values prescribed under the Council's Standing Orders.
- Agenda Item 22: Debt Write-Offs. The Committee agreed debt write-offs.
- Agenda Item 23: The Legal Services Division – Partnership with Wragges. The Committee were advised of current issues and developments in connection with the Partnership between the Legal Division and Wragge & Co.

CHAIRMAN

CONTACT OFFICER : CLIVE PARKER (01296) 382147