

RESOURCES POLICY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting - 8 June 2011

Present: Mr Wilson (Chairman)
Mr Anthony, Mr Chhokar, Mr Hardy, Mr Harding and Mr Hollis

Also Present: Kempton Carr Croft - for the Part II item Land at the Broadway Car Park

Apologies for absence: Mr S W Jones and Mr Smith

1. BRIEFING ON THE ROLE OF THE RESOURCES PAG

Members received a PowerPoint presentation on the role of the PAG and the services covered by the Resources Portfolio Holder. Members noted that a copy of the presentation would be made available in the Councillors Area on the intranet.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) held on 8 March 2011 were received.

3. VERDANT CONTRACT BOND

Following the request made at the meeting on 8 March 2011 the PAG received a further report setting out the sum that would need to be set aside each year in the event of the Council having to step in to operate the refuse and recycling collection and street cleaning services contract currently with Verdant Group Ltd at any time. The sum equated to £260,000 as set out in a table in the report which went on to explain that making provision for such a sum would remove the need to continue to have a bond in place with Verdant at a cost of circa £22,000 per year.

The PAG particularly noted that if the bond arrangement continued until one year after the contact with Verdant was due to end (31 October 2022) the Council would have paid £242,000, a sum not dissimilar to the sum referred to above. If the Council were not required to step into the contract then the £260,000 would not be expended.

Having considered the comments of the PAG the Portfolio Holder has

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that, instead of continuing with a bond with Verdant, arrangements be made to ensure that the general reserves are maintained at a level to cover the potential liability each year of £260,000, such arrangements to remain in place until the end of the current contract in 2022/23.

4. RIVER ROAD TAPLOW LANDING STEPS

The Council owns and is responsible for maintaining the open space on River Road that fronts the River Thames and an inspection of the landing steps had confirmed that the steps, together with the embankment supporting the steps, were eroding and posed a health and safety hazard. As a precaution the steps had been fenced off from public access.

The report considered by the PAG identified three options including one to carry out remedial works. Quotations to carry out this work had been invited with the lowest of the four quotes received being submitted by Greenford Ltd in the sum of £20,286.

Having considered the comments of the PAG the Portfolio Holder has

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that the quotation submitted by Greenford Ltd in the sum of £20,288 be accepted to carry out health and safety remedial works to the landing steps at the open space on River Road that fronts the River Thames and that the costs be met from the Capital Programme.

5. **BAD DEBT WRITE OFF POLICY**

The PAG received a report updating the Council's Bad Debt Write Off policy as it was due for review. Other than presentational changes the only point of note was that the current limit above which bad debts need to be approved by members is £2,000 and the new policy recommended that the level be increased to £2,500 to reflect the cumulative effects of inflation since 2006 when the limit was last reviewed.

Having considered the comments of the PAG the Portfolio Holder has

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet that the update Write - Off policy be adopted.

6. **DEBT RECOVERY**

The PAG received a report providing information on the Council's income collection performance in 2010/11 and debt position as at 31 March 2011 as summarised in three tables which set out:

- Income Collection 2010/11;
- Outstanding Debt Position; and
- Bad Debt Write-offs

The PAG noted the report.

7. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Members noted that the following items contained exempt information which was not available to the Press or Public.

Minutes

(Schedule 12A part 1 para (3) - because of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person)

The Part II minutes of the meeting of the Policy Advisory Group held on 8 March 2011 were agreed.

Land to the rear of Broadway Car-Park, Farnham Common

(Schedule 12A part 1 para (3) - because of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person)

The PAG considered a report setting out the progress that had been made to dispose of the Council owned land to the rear of the Broadway Car Park, Farnham Common. Circulated at the meeting was a report from the Council's valuation adviser, Kempton Carr Croft, setting out the offer that had been made.

Following consideration of the offer and the comments of the PAG the Portfolio Holder agreed to defer the matter pending further information.

The meeting terminated at 7.32 pm