

Date: 28 July 2005

TO: All Members of the Executive
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **Friday, 5th August, 2005** at **2.30 pm**.

Yours faithfully

Terry Stock
Chief Executive

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct, and Standing Order 34 regarding the declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

A G E N D A

Open to the Public including the Press

A large print version of this agenda and any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement with Carole Nicholl, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 547631.

Map and Vision

(Page 8)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting, together with a copy the Council Vision are attached.

STANDING ITEMS

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the public minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 1 July 2005, (previously circulated).

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct and the provisions of Standing Order 34, any Member with a personal interest must disclose the existence and nature of that interest to the meeting prior to the matter being debated. Where that personal interest is also a prejudicial interest, then the Member must withdraw from the room in which the meeting is being held and not seek improperly to influence any decision about the matter unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee.

4. Urgent Business and Chair's Announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the Chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the Chair.

5. Statements and Petitions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any statements and/or petitions from the public under Standing Order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

To note that the authority has received a petition containing 82 signatures urging the Council to keep the open air pool open at the Abbey meadows, Abingdon.

6. Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 32

Any questions from members of the public under Standing Order 32 will be asked at the meeting.

7. Referral under the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules or the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

8. Referrals from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Other Committees

(a) Scrutiny Committee

Waste Management Contract- Annual Presentation

The Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 14 July 2005, received and considered the Annual Performance and Continuous Improvement Report in respect of the Council's Waste Management Contract 2003/09. In considering the report, the Committee resolved to advise the Executive as follows:

that the Executive be advised:-

- (i) that the Committee is generally content with progress on the Waste Management Contract 2003-09 but is disappointed that none of the performance targets relating to the contract have been met;*
- (ii) that there is an expectation by the Scrutiny Committee that it will undertake the 2005/06 Annual Review of the Waste Management Contract;*
- (iii) that in respect of bulky waste collections, the Scrutiny Committee is willing to undertake a review of the current service provided with a view to providing a more customer focused service;*
- (iv) that the Scrutiny Committee welcomes the work undertaken by the Oxfordshire Leaders' Group to promote partnership working on the removal of fly-posting and identification of fly-tipping across the County and asks the Executive to ensure that these arrangements are put in place as soon as possible.*

(b) Council

At the meeting of the Council held on 20 July 2005, it was reported that a petition had been received containing 73 signatures from the residents of St Katherine's House in Wantage, as follows:

"asking the Council to reconsider its decision to replace the travel tokens option with the offer of half-fare bus passes, at least for those over 80, most of whom need to have a taxi whenever they have to go to the Health Centre or visit the town and, even if one is available, many of them cannot physically board a bus."

The Council resolved that the petition set out above was referred without discussion to the Executive for determination, in accordance with Standing Order 13(4)(b).

9. Items Deferred from the Previous Meeting

10. Financial Monitoring

Members are requested to consider any significant budget variances and any requests for virement or permanent budget adjustment.

KEY DECISIONS

11. Forward Plan

(Pages 9 - 12)

To receive the Forward Plan containing Executive decisions to be taken from August to November 2005.

Recommendation

that the Forward Plan be received.

OTHER MATTERS

12. Service Plans Annual Reports 2004/05

Copies of Service Area Annual Reports have been circulated to all Members of the Executive and the Leader of the Opposition. Portfolio Holders have examined them with the respective Assistant Director in their meetings to review 2004/05 performance. Portfolio Holders will report any significant issues arising from the Annual Reports at this meeting.

The Portfolio Holder - Assistant Director performance review meetings also considered service areas' financial performance against budget. Portfolio Holders will report any significant 2004/05 year-end budget variances to this meeting.

Recommendation

that in light of the comments made by the Portfolio Holders, the Executive considers the Service Area Annual Reports and determines whether any specific issue should be examined in more detail.

13. Internal Audit Plan 2004/05 Out-turn

(Pages 13 - 16)

To receive and consider report 57/05 of the Strategic Director.

14. Thames Waterway Plan

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton; Abingdon Caldecott; Appleton and Cumnor; Faringdon and The Coxwells; Hanneys; Kennington and South Hinksey; Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor; Longworth; North Hinksey and Wytham; Radley; Sutton Courtenay and Appleford;)

(Pages 17 - 30)

To receive and consider report 58/05 of the Strategic Director.

15. Assessing the Housing Needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the Thames Valley Region

Following the recently increased political profile of this subject, the Government Office of the South East has been requiring local authorities to take a fresh look at the housing needs of gypsies and travellers in their area and to match this against existing provision so as to arrive at a conclusion as to unmet needs.

The Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR), covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, met recently and agreed that a sub-regional assessment of the needs of gypsies and travellers would be a useful exercise that could inform housing and planning development strategies in this area. A working group of authorities was formed with Oxfordshire representation from Cherwell District Council and this group have drawn up a specification for a needs survey, together with indicative costs.

It is proposed that external specialist consultants be employed to carry out this piece of work at a cost per authority of approximately £5,000.

This authority have been asked, alongside all other authorities in the region, to commit to this

contribution and the purpose of this report is to ask members of the Executive to consider whether they would wish to take part in this survey and, if so, to provide a supplementary estimate for £5,000 to pay the authority's contribution.

Officers believe that there is some value in this survey although have some concerns that region wide conclusions will be too general to be of any particular planning use within the district. Officers will propose, therefore, that regardless of whether members wish to take part in this scheme, that the housing needs of gypsies and travellers form a key component of any forthcoming housing needs assessment that takes place in the district. Notwithstanding this, however, up to date information on this subject would be welcome and could prove a significant benefit for a relatively modest cost.

Recommendation

that the Executive indicates whether it wishes to take part in the region-wide survey of the housing needs of gypsies and travellers, and if so, approve a Supplementary Estimate from Contingency of £5,000 to fund this Council's contribution towards the total cost.

16. Share of Right-to-Buy Sales – Deficit relating to 2004/05

Former tenants of the Council retained their right to buy their homes when the housing stock was sold to the Vale Housing Association in February 1995. The sale agreement included a clause that for ten years the Council was entitled to the proceeds of these property sales above an agreed level and after adjustment for costs and loss of rent.

This arrangement ended in 2004/05. For information, the sums received over the term of the agreement have been as follows:

Year	'Agreed' number	Actual sales	Excess	Net sum received* £
1995/96	21	81	60	486,175
1996/97	19	88	69	630,070
1997/98	18	126	108	1,222,950
1998/99	17	94	77	907,808
1999/00	17	112	95	1,829,998
2000/01	17	31	14	477,543
2001/02	17	18	1	28,887
2002/03	17	17	0	(21,433)
2003/04	15	14	0	(17,933)
2004/05	14	5	0	(6,623)
Total				5,537,442

* until 1998/99 there was a Government levy of 20%

If there were no excess sales the Council still had to pay some of the VHA's costs in line with the agreement and the Executive agreed supplementary estimates in 2003/04 and 2004/05 when there were no excess sales (payments are a year in arrears).

When the 2005/06 budget was being drawn up it was not possible to predict the number of sales for 2004/05 so no provision was made for any deficit, although it was borne in mind when setting the level of contingency allocated to unforeseen items. In the event the number of sales means that there is a payment due from the Council to the VHA of £6,623. This is the last such payment.

Recommendation

That Members agree to a supplementary estimate from Contingency of £6,623 in 2005/06 to meet the net cost of preserved Right-to-Buy sales that occurred in 2004/05.

17. Outside Body Appointment - Thames Valley Waste Forum

The authority has been asked by the Association of Councils of the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR) to appoint a Member representative to the Thames Valley Waste Forum. This is an Executive function and therefore the Executive is requested to appoint a representative to the Forum.

Recommendation

that Councillor Tony de Vere be appointed to the Thames Valley Waste Forum for the 2005/06 Municipal Year.

18. Abingdon Open Air Pool - STOP Business Plan

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton)

A letter has been received from the STOP campaign, complete with a business plan for the Open Air Pool in Abingdon. A copy of the letter and plan has been sent to every Member of the Council. The business plan can be found on the following website:

<http://legges.users.btopenworld.com/latest.htm>

The Executive is asked to consider the STOP's business plan.

Recommendation

that the Executive determines its response to the business plan.

19. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press

The Chair to move that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to prevent the disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in Section 100(I) and Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act when the following items are considered:

Minutes

(Category 1 - Information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office-holder, former office-holder or applicant to become an office-holder under, the authority).

(Category 9 - Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services).

Property Matters

(Category 9)

Mobile Home Parks

(Category 7 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)).

EXEMPT INFORMATION UNDER SECTION 100A (4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

STANDING ITEMS

20. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Exempt minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 1 July 2005, (previously circulated).

KEY DECISIONS

OTHER MATTERS

21. Property Matters

(Page 31)

To consider the property matters attached and nay urgent property matters.

22. Mobile Home Parks

(Wards Affected: Radley)

(Pages 32 - 34)

To receive and consider report 59/05 of the Strategic Director.