

Date: 27 July 2006

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, 4th August, 2006** 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 is available. Any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Steve Culliford, Democratic Services Officer on telephone number (01235) 540307.

Map and Vision

(Page 6)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting, together with a copy the Council Vision is 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 7 July 2006, (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.

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

Scrutiny Committee - 13 July 2006

At its meeting on 13 July 2006, the Scrutiny Committee received the Executive minutes from the meeting held on 7 July. The Committee noted that a petition had been received regarding the locking of the gates at Manor Road Recreation Ground in Wantage and noted the Executive's response. In considering the matter the Committee offered the following advice:

"the Committee notes that expressions of interest have been sought by the Executive for the locking and unlocking of the gates to the Manor Road Recreation Ground by local residents but advises the Executive to think carefully of the implications before accepting any offer."

9. Financial Monitoring

(Pages 7 - 9)

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

KEY DECISIONS

10. Forward Plan

(Pages 10 - 12)

To receive the Forward Plan containing Executive decisions to be taken from August to November 2006.

Recommendation

that the Forward Plan be received.

OTHER MATTERS

11. Service Area Annual Reports

Copies of the Service Area Annual Reports have already been circulated to Members of the Executive and all Members of Scrutiny Committee. Members of the Executive are asked to report back to this meeting on any significant issues for the service areas for which they are responsible.

12. Prospectuses to Target Grants for the Benefit of Vale Residents

(Pages 13 - 22)

To receive and consider report 50/06 of the Strategic Director.

Introduction & Report Summary

The Council's four area committees wish to create greater awareness of the types of projects that are a priority for support for each area committee. Each area committee has approved a grants 'prospectus' with information about the committee's priorities when determining grants.

Each area committee has noted that the Chair of the Executive has requested that all area committee prospectuses are submitted to the Executive. The Chair wishes to ensure that whilst the prospectuses reflect local priorities they still retain a degree of consistency.

This report provides information about the prospectuses that the area committees have approved. The appendix consists of copies of the approved prospectuses.

The contact officer for this report is Toby Warren, Head of Innovation & Enterprise (Tel: 01235 547695).

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider if there is a need for any of the area committees to be asked to amend their prospectus in order to retain a degree of consistency across the Vale.

13. LGA Reputation Project

(Pages 23 - 42)

To receive and consider report 51/06 of the Strategic Director.

Introduction and Report Summary

The Reputation project is a joint I&DeA and LGA campaign aimed at bridging the chasm

between the reputation of individual council services (positive) and the reputation of councils as a whole (negative).

It is based on MORI research which found people know little or nothing about their council. As a result an action plan has been developed, which according to MORI, will increase public confidence based on the drivers of public satisfaction.

The drivers are:

- Perceived quality of services overall
- Perceived value for money
- Media coverage
- Direct communications
- A clean, green and safe environment
- Positive experiences in contact with staff

The success of the Reputation project depends on consistency at a local and national level. Once signed up, Councils must commit to fulfil the requirements of the 12-point action plan, which focuses on the cleaner, safer, greener agenda and communications and have begun demonstrably working on the action plan within 12 months.

So far 196 councils have signed up to the project, including Cherwell and Oxford City councils.

While the Vale already meets some of the requirements partially or wholly there are still some adjustments to be made to meet the requirements of the plan.

A summary document produced by the LGA is attached at Appendix B.

The Contact Officer for this report is Nikki Malin, Head of Communications (01235 540376).

Recommendation

The Vale signs up to the Reputation campaign;

The project is managed by the Head of Communications;

The action plan is agreed and rolled out over the next two years (separate reports will be drafted for any budget implications).

14. Building Regulation Trading Account

This report advises the Executive about the ring-fenced Building Regulation Charges Trading Account and the use of any surplus to re-invest in order to maintain the effectiveness and efficiency of the service.

In order to accommodate new and additional responsibilities, the Deputy Director is planning to restructure Commercial Services and will seek to use the established revenue budget for the Trainee Building Control Surveyor for other posts.

In turn, this would allow the opportunity for the Trading Account surplus to fund the Trainee BCS post on a 3-year fixed-term basis. This will help to support the Building Control service and contribute to succession planning and provide long term continuity.

Recommendation

To use up to £60,000 in total of the reserve to fund a Trainee Building Control Surveyor (including the relevant training programme) for a period of 3 years.

15. Local Area Agreement

Delegated authority is sought to sign the Local Area Agreement on behalf of the authority. A report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive setting out the implications of the agreement for this Council.

Recommendation

that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to sign the Local Area Agreement on behalf of the authority.

16. 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(l) and Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, to the Act when the following items are considered:

- Item 17 Minutes
(Category 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)
- Item 18 Evaluation of Proposal from Capita
(Category 3)
- Item 19 Property Matters
(Category 3)

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

STANDING ITEMS

17. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Exempt minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 7 July 2005, (previously circulated).

OTHER MATTERS

18. Evaluation of Joint Multi Channel Contact Centre Proposal from Capita

(Pages 43 - 50)

To receive and consider report 49/06 of the Strategic Director.

19. Property Matters

(Page 51)

To consider any property matters.