

Date: 29 March 2007

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 **Thursday, 5th April, 2007** 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 8)

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 2 March 2007, (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

None

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

Best Value Performance Indicators – Performance against Top and Bottom Quartile 2005/06

At its meeting on 15 March 2007, the Scrutiny Committee considered report 159/06 - Best Value Performance Indicators – Performance against Top and Bottom Quartile 2005/06 and resolved:

"that the Executive takes up with the Audit Commission, through the Local Government Association, the relevance of some of the Best Value Performance Indicators, especially those that conflict with each other (BVPI 82aii [tonnage of waste recycled] and 84a [household waste collected]) and those outside the control of the Council – Crime (BVPI 126 [domestic burglaries], 127 [violent crimes and robberies], 128 [vehicle crimes], 156 [percentage of authority buildings open to the public and accessible to the disabled] and 175 [racial incidents])."

9. **Financial Monitoring**

(Pages 9 - 10)

Members are requested to consider the attached requests for virements.

Also attached to the agenda are the supplementary estimates noted at the last meeting of the Executive, but now showing the correct total. These are to be noted.

KEY DECISIONS

10. **Forward Plan**

(Pages 11 - 13)

To receive the Forward Plan containing Executive decisions to be taken from April to July 2007.

Recommendation

that the Forward Plan be received.

OTHER MATTERS

11. **Annual Audit and Inspection Letter**

To receive and consider the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (to follow). The District Auditor will attend the meeting to present his report.

12. **Housing Nominations Policy Review**

Following a report to Strategic Review Committee in January 2007, officers committed to bring a report to the Executive detailing the changes to the housing nominations policy that the review had identified as being necessary.

Since any alteration to policy will require alterations to the Council's Choice Based lettings system we have sought advice from our IT consultant, Abritas, as to the feasibility of certain proposals and their likely cost. Their advice is crucial since their response to our request will frame the proposed changes that officers propose. Therefore a revised policy cannot come forward until we have discussed the matter with them and understood the IT implications of our proposals.

Therefore it has been necessary to delay bringing forward this report. I now consider that this report will be unlikely to be placed before Members before the July Executive.

13. **Organisational Development Programme**

(Pages 14 - 16)

To receive and consider report 189/06 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

One of the Vale's corporate priorities is to "Build our capacity through managerial and organisational change". Since the creation of an Organisational Development and Support (ODS) service area in last year's senior management re-structuring, a new staffing structure has been created, which has provided the capacity to define the Organisational Development Programme.

The new ODS management team has used best practice guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to develop an Organisational Development Programme that will build the capacity to deliver the Vale's aspirations for improvement.

An iterative process of learning, development, consultation and review has produced six interlinked programmes within the overarching development programme, and this report seeks approval of these.

The Contact Officer for this report is Helen Bishop, Deputy Director Organisational Development & Support, 01235 540372.

Recommendation

that the concept of the organisational development programme being made up of the six interlinked programmes as outlined in paragraph 7.1 be approved.

14. Thames Water's Stage 2 Consultation on its Proposed New Reservoir

To receive and consider recommendations from the Reservoir Advisory Group on the Council's response to Thames Water's Stage 2 consultation on its proposed new reservoir.

15. Budget Carry Forwards Requests

(Page 17)

Members are requested to approve unused 2006/07 revenue budgetary provision for specific one-off projects to be carried forward to 2007/08 without the need to budget for them again. Members should note that requests to carry forward unused capital budgets are dealt with separately.

The Contingency Fund is the approved mechanism used to carry forward revenue budget provision from 2006/07 to 2007/08. This was approved in report 491/00 to Operations Sub Committee on 13 March 2001.

The table appended to this agenda lists the various requests submitted by officers for Member approval.

Recommendation

that Members consider the revenue budget carry forward requests and approve the budgets to be carried forward from 2006/07 to 2007/08.

16. Community Grants

(Pages 18 - 40)

To receive and consider report 190/06 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to set out the budget position for the Executive Committee in respect of Community Grants and to invite Members to consider and determine the grant applications received. The Executive currently considers grant applications bi-annually. Executive considered applications in October 2006 and the next meeting, at which the consideration of grants is planned, will be in October 2007.

The contact officer for this report is Lorna Edwards, Community Strategy Officer (Tel: 01235 547626).

Recommendations

- (a) *Members are asked to note that the Executive's budget for 2007/08 for Vale-wide grants is £23,814;*
- (b) *Members are asked to consider and determine the following grant applications and agree the Council agenda and priority:*
- (i) *My Life My Choice, £2,686.36, towards running 4 self-advocacy groups, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (ii) *OCVA, £5,000, towards running a volunteer brokerage service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (iii) *Neighbourhood Watch, £2,033, towards an expanded service, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (iv) *Root and Branch, £1,073.47, towards equipment, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (v) *Oxfordshire Play Association, £4,535, towards core services, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (vi) *Oxfordshire Artweeks, £1,000, production of the Artweeks Guide, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (vii) *Oxford Film & Video Makers, £2,400, towards a film and digital media festival, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (viii) *Oxfordshire Chinese Community and Advice Centre, £3,276, towards increased running costs, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (ix) *Wantage Diving Club, £1,500, towards equipment, Social Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (x) *Abingdon & District CAB, £7,477, towards increased running costs, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (xi) *Oxfordshire Children's Information Services, £5,000, towards enhanced services, Social Agenda, Access priority*
 - (xii) *Sunningwell School of Art, £3,000, towards a more efficient heating system, Environmental Agenda, Town & Village Vitality priority*
 - (xiii) *Accessible Sailing, £5,000, towards construction of pontoon, Social Agenda, Access priority*
- (c) *Members are asked to agree to the request from Area Committees to carry forward unspent grant budget from 2006/07; and*
- (d) *Members are asked to note the range of projects, services and events supported by the Executive in 2006/07.*

17. Revised Tariffs for Hackney Carriages

(Pages 41 - 46)

To receive and consider report 191/06 of the Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The Council last reviewed the tariff structure and charges for Hackney Carriages in September 2003. This report sets out the results of a consultation exercise with Hackney Carriage drivers within this District, and asks Members to determine the tariff level which should be proposed for the next two years.

Following this initial decision from Members, the proposed tariff must be published in a local newspaper so that any member of the public or trade can make representations to the Council. At least 14 days must be allowed for receipt of these representations, from the date of publication. If no objections to the proposal are received, the tariff will take effect on a previously specified start date. Any objections which are received must be considered at Member level, and the tariff (with any necessary amendments) must be introduced within two

The contact officer for this report is Rob Akers, Team Leader (Food and Safety), extension 382.

Recommendations

- (a) *that the proposal to increase the tariff for Hackney Carriages within the Council's District to the average amounts (rounded to the nearest five pence) arising from the recent consultation exercise, as given in the table below be approved:*

	Tariff One (£)				Tariff Two (£)			
	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)	Less than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	More than $\frac{7}{10}$ Mile	Subsequent $\frac{1}{10}$'s Mile	Waiting Time (per minute)
<i>Rounded average requested</i>	3.00	3.00	0.20	0.25	4.10	4.15	0.30	0.30
<i>Soiling charge</i>	£50 (No change)							

- (b) *that this proposed tariff be published for consultation on 12th. April 2007, and take effect from 27th. April 2007, provided that no objections have been received.*
- (c) *that the Executive delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Licensing to consider any objections which are received and approve a final tariff, with any necessary amendments.*
- (d) *that a periodic consultation exercise with the taxi trade within the District is undertaken once every two years, to ascertain their views on tariff levels, the results of which will be reported to Members with recommendations made as to the amendment of tariff levels.*

18. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment - Joint Study with South Oxfordshire District Council

The Government has recently published Planning Policy Statement 25, Development & Flood Risk (PPS25). The Planning Policy Statement requires Local Authorities to carry out Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for their area. An assessment, which will look at all forms of flooding will refine the information on the Flood Maps and determine the variations in flood risk across and from the District. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will be used to inform the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Development Documents and will provide the evidence base from which to apply the sequential test and exception test in allocating sites for development and considering planning applications in the development control process.

PPS25 states there are considerable practical and technical benefits in Local Authorities joining together to commission Strategic Flood Risk Assessments which are best undertaken on a river catchment wide basis. In addition we have been advised if we jointly commission a study with South Oxfordshire the cost of one rather than two separate studies is likely to be substantially less (about 25% to each authority). The cost of the work will be met from the Council's Local Development Framework fund, as the assessment is a vital part of the Local Development Framework process.

In order for South Oxfordshire to commission the work on behalf of both Councils, the Executive's authority is being sought for the Council's standing orders to be suspended in favour of those of South Oxfordshire.

Recommendation

In accordance with Standing Order 2C(4) this Authority's Standing Orders are suspended in favour of South Oxfordshire's in order to commission a joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to

cover both Districts.

19. Local Authorities in Oxfordshire

The Government has announced which proposals for unitary councils are to proceed to consultation and Oxford is not included. This means that the two tier system will remain in Oxfordshire for the foreseeable future.

However, the Government's press release also includes the statement that:

"In remaining two-tier areas Government expects all councils to pursue new working arrangements to achieve the same level of improvement and efficiency gains as we expect the new unitaries will be achieving."

The Executive is recommended to recommend the in-coming Council to determine its approach to this expectation as a matter of urgency.

20. 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, as amended, to the Act when the following items are considered:-

- Item 21 Minutes
(Category 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

- Item 22 Property Matters
(Category 3)

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

STANDING ITEMS

21. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 2 March 2007, (previously circulated).

OTHER MATTERS

22. Property Matters

(Pages 47 - 48)

To consider the attached property matters.