

Date: 5 July 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 **Friday, 13th July, 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; e-mail: steve.culliford@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

Please note that this meeting will be held in a wheelchair accessible venue. If you would like to attend and have any special access requirements, please let the Democratic Officer know beforehand and he will do his very best to meet your requirements.

Map and Vision

(Page 9)

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 1 June 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**

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

Scrutiny Committee – 14 June 2007

Corporate Governance – Fourth Quarter 2006/07

In considering the above report, the Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED

that the Executive be advised:-

- (1) that the Scrutiny Committee is concerned at the number of inaccuracies contained in the report;*
- (2) to consider including the issue of affordable housing and rural exception sites on the agenda for the Joint County/District Parish Liaison Meeting to be held in the autumn.*

9. Financial Monitoring

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 - 11)

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

Recommendation

that the Forward Plan be received.

OTHER MATTERS

11. Provision of Schools in Grove

(Wards Affected: Grove)

At it's meeting on 20 June 2007 the County Council's Cabinet considered three options to meet future demand for secondary school places in Wantage/Grove and the surrounding villages. The options were:

- (a) Two schools each with 1,250 pupils;
- (b) One school on two sites with 2,500 pupils; and,
- (c) A new 600 place 11-16 school for Grove and retain King Alfred's as existing.

The Cabinet agreed to proceed with Option C and provide a new 600 place 11-16 school for Grove and retain King Alfred's Sports and Community College under the existing arrangement and authorised Officers to complete negotiations with developers to secure a sufficient and appropriate site to meet the needs of the selected option and any possible future expansion and report back on the potential implications in terms of timeline and cost of the preferred option. The County Council's Scrutiny Committee has called this item in for consideration. The Executive may wish to comment on this option.

12. Ridgeway Shared Services Organisation

(Pages 12 - 42)

To receive and consider report 31/07 of the Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

In establishing a shared financial service between Vale of White Horse District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, known as the Ridgeway Shared Services Organisation (RSSO), an informal committee was created.

The report will explain that following legal advice it has been concluded that both Councils should establish a formal Joint Committee

This report seeks authority to agree a formal joint committee between the two councils, to formalise both the joint working and the way any future decisions are made. The report also makes recommendation that appointments to the Joint Committee should be made by the Executive (if not already done so by recent appointments to outside bodies).

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Bishop, Strategic Director (Chief Finance Officer), (01235 540332), email steve.bishop@whitehorsedc.co.uk.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:-

- (a) approve that the Council and South Oxfordshire District Council create a Joint Committee responsible for the provision of financial services to both Councils;*
- (b) delegate authority to the Strategic Director (Chief Finance Officer) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, to approve any minor drafting changes to the Joint Committee agreement and constitution attached to this report;*
- (c) authorise the Agreement between the two constituent Councils to be completed;*
- (d) that appointments to the Joint Committee are made by the Executive.*

13. Treasury Management – Review of Activities in 2006/07

(Pages 43 - 45)

To receive and consider report 32/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The Council's Treasury Management Policy requires a report to be made on Treasury Management performance in the previous financial year. It is also required by the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice as embodying sound financial management.

The purpose of this report is to detail the Council's cash investment performance in the financial year 2006/07 and to raise any treasury management issues.

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Lawrence, Head of Asset Management, telephone 01235 540321, e-mail address: steve.lawrence@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Recommendations

- (a) *to note the return on cash invested during 2006/07 and the balances of the funds at 31 March 2007; and*
- (b) *to note the prospects for the return on cash investments in 2007/08.*

14. 2006/07 Annual Outturn Monitoring

(Pages 46 - 52)

To receive and consider report 33/07 of the Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The report details, in accordance with the corporate planning framework the outturn position for 2006/07, subject to audit.

The Contact Officer for this report is Steve Bishop, Strategic Director (& Chief Finance Officer), (01235 540332).

Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- (a) *Note the overall outturn position of the Council as well as the outturn of individual service areas and cost centres; and,*
- (b) *Take into account the impact of the outturn position in the Integrated Service and Financial Planning process when setting the 2007/08 Revised Budget and 2008/09 Original Budget.*

15. Service Area Annual Reports 2006/07

Copies of Service Area Annual Reports have 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. A template has been provided.

16. Corporate Equalities Action Plan 2007/08

(Pages 53 - 66)

To receive and consider report 34/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

- a) As a major employer and public service delivery body, the Council is committed to meeting the needs of all its employees, residents and customers. To help the Council realise this commitment in a proactive, proportionate and co-ordinated way, a Corporate Equalities Action Plan (CEAP) has been drafted for 2007/8.
- b) The Plan brings together all the Council's key areas of work for the current year with regards to the promotion of equality and diversity. It will help us to meet our statutory duties and achieve our BVPI targets for 2007/08.
- c) The Plan incorporates all the actions from the Council's recently updated Race Equality Scheme.
- d) Progress against the actions will be reported on in October 2007 and April 2008. The CEAP will be revised by the end of the calendar year in order to include the action plans from the forthcoming Disability and Gender Equality Schemes (these are both due to be finalised and approved by the end of December).
- e) The revised CEAP will cover 2008/09 – 2010/11 and will be subject to approval by the Council's Executive.
- f) This report summarises the contents of the CEAP and makes a recommendation for its adoption by the Council's Executive.
- g) The contact officers for this report are Katharine Doherty (Equalities Officer, 01235 520202 katharine.doherty@whitehosedc.gov.uk) and Tim Sadler (Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer, 01235 520202 tim.sadler@whitehosedc.gov.uk).

Recommendation

That the Executive adopts the Corporate Equalities Action Plan 2007/08.

17. Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy - Environmental Implementation

(Pages 67 - 70)

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton)

To receive and consider report 35/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer.

Introduction and Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to invite Members to consider committing funding from the capital budget to enhance the highway works in Stert Street and Broad Street, Abingdon being carried out by Oxfordshire County Council as part of the town centre Phase 2 implementation of the Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy.

The Contact Officers for this report is Grant Audley-Miller, Section Head (Environmental Planning & Conservation) on (01235) 540343.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- (a) *Commit £72,500 from the Capital Budget towards enhancing the ABITS highway works in Stert Street and Broad Street, Abingdon during the current financial year.*
- (b) *Suspend Contract Standing Orders in relation to procurement for the works in Stert Street and Broad Street, Abingdon.*
- (c) *Enter into formal contracts with Oxfordshire County Council and Isis Accord for the works in Stert Street and Bath Street, Abingdon.*
- (d) *Agree that further commitments to contribute to the environmental enhancement of Phase 2 of the ABITS strategy await the outcome of the review of the proposed highway works.*
- (e) *Ask the County Council to confirm that in the event of High street works not being implemented that the funds would be earmarked for highway schemes in and around Abingdon.*
- (f) *Welcome the intention to continue a Members Working Group for ABITS open to the public but seek assurances from the County Council on how this will be achieved.*

18. Local Development Framework - Core Strategy

At the meeting of the Strategic and Local Planning Advisory Group on 25 June 2007, Members considered the timetable and responsibility for signing off the Core Strategy document as part of the Local Development Framework. The first stage is to produce an Issues and Options Report containing policies or preferred approaches. There was a short timescale to produce this (this had to be published by November), the Advisory Group recommends that approval of the detailed wording should be delegated to the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy) in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Shadow Member for Planning. The Advisory Group will be given the opportunity to comment on and agree the substance of the document prior to final drafting.

Recommendation

that authority be delegated to the Deputy Director (Planning and Community Strategy), in consultation with the Executive Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Shadow Member for Planning, to publish the Issues and Options Report on the Core Strategy and other information for publication, including Vale Views.

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

- Item 20 Minutes
(Category 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).)
- Item 21 Old Gaol, Abingdon
(Category 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual.)
(Category 3.)
- Item 23 Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme
(Category 3.)
- Item 24 Property Matters
(Category 3.)

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 Executive meeting held on 1 June 2007 (previously circulated).

KEY DECISIONS

21. **Old Gaol, Abingdon - Shortlisting of Development Partners**

(Wards Affected: Abingdon Abbey and Barton)

To receive and consider report 30/07 of the Chief Executive.

OTHER MATTERS

22. **Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme**

(Pages 71 - 79)

To receive and consider report 36/07 of the Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer.

23. **Property Matters**

To consider any property matters.