

MEETING OF THE UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL CONTRACTS BOARD held at COUNCIL OFFICES SAFFRON WALDEN on 29 JANUARY 2001 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillor R D Green – Chairman.
Councillors R P Chambers, R A E Clifford, Mrs E J Godwin, D M Jones, Mrs C M Little and R C Smith.

Also present:- Councillor R P Chambers.

Officers in attendance: - Mrs D Burridge, J B Dickson, A Farrow, M Ribbans, D Rivers and R G Tyler.

CB54 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M L Foley.

CB55 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 20 November 2000 were received as a correct record.

CB56 MATTERS ARISING

Leptospirosis - Environmental Health officers had confirmed that there had been no official report or change to date in respect of transmission but would remain vigilant for further updates.

RESOLVED that Environmental Services be requested to note Member's concerns regarding the volume of rural rats, and to place articles within appropriate Council and Housing newsletters advising residents how they can contribute to discouraging rats.

CB57 DRAFT REVENUE ESTIMATES

The Acting Principal Accountant presented the draft revenue estimates and outlined the inefficiency of the DSO Reinvestment Reserve. This was due to the requirements of the relevant Accounting Code of Practice. It was therefore suggested that the DSO Reinvestment Reserve and the DSO Reserve, which had amounted to £129,000 and £407,000 respectively at 31 March 2000, be merged.

The report also suggested that a sum of £30,000 be transferred to the Council's General Fund in 2000/01 and the sum of £50,000 in 2001/02 and annually thereafter subject to a yearly review. Councillor R P Chambers presented a case for increasing the annual sum transferred to £80,000 with effect from 2001/02.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the revised estimates for 2000/01 and the original estimates for 2001/02 be approved
- 2 the DSO Reinvestment Reserve be merged with the general DSO Reserve
- 3 a report be presented to the next meeting of the Board on issues relating to the use of agency drivers.

It was further

RECOMMENDED that a sum of £30,000 be transferred to the Council's General Fund in 2000/01 and the sum of £80,000 in 2001/02 and annually thereafter subject to yearly review.

CB58

RENEGOTIATION OF HOUSING REPAIRS CONTRACT

The Board received a report recommending that Contract Services accept an extension of the Uttlesford Housing Repairs Contract for a further one year (2001/2) on adjusted terms and review/negotiate the arrangements for 2002/3 in the autumn of 2001. The proposal offered by the Housing Client would set this year's annual inflationary rise at a mid point between the industry index and RPI, and next year's by RPI only. For the Council to move forward in this bid to obtain better value, it was necessary for all contractors to agree the financial mechanism.

To gain some payback, a package of adjusted working arrangements had been agreed with the Housing Client. On this basis, the first year's extension was acceptable to Contract Services. It had also been mutually agreed to defer negotiations on the arrangements for second year until late 2001. The projected impact upon the trading account for 2001/2 was £6,000.

RESOLVED that the offer of an extension of the contract on the revised terms, with a further review prior to the commencement of the second year, be accepted.

CB59

HEALTH & SAFETY ACTION PLAN

The Contract Services Manager re-presented the proposed Health & Safety Action Plan with six options for resourcing to allow completion on a shorter timescale than originally suggested. Members debated the options and implications.

RESOLVED that the Action Plan be funded to allow an early conclusion as outlined in option 3 of the report to a maximum of £22,000.

Councillor R A E Clifford voted against the motion and requested that his objection be recorded.

CB60

PROGRESS REPORTS BY OPERATIONAL MANAGERS

The Board received oral reports from the two Operations Managers.

Newport operations

UDC housing repairs were currently limited to emergency work (no kitchens and bathrooms etc) due to exhausted funds within the Client Department. Two larger projects for Property Services were being undertaken.

- 1 Painting of Dunmow offices.
- 2 Thaxted Community Information Centre refitting.

Dunmow operations

Staffing resource was fully committed on core contracts. Dunmow Town Council had awarded works with a value of £12,000 much of which had been sub-contracted out.

RESOLVED that

- 1 Environmental Services be asked to indicate what preventive measures are being undertaken to minimise depositing of litter through the district, particularly the "black spots" of A120, Ugley, Birchanger and East Herts Civic Amenity Point
- 2 the concerns of Members associated with the purchase of a third vehicle for recycling collection that is no smaller than current vehicles be referred to Environmental Services
- 3 the Contract Services Manager prepare a report on resourcing Contract Services.

CB61

SCHEDULE FOR CONTRACTS BOARD MEETINGS

RESOLVED that subject to there being no clash with meetings of the Development Control Sub-Committee, the meetings of the Board be held on the following dates:

11 June 2001
 10 September 2001
 26 November 2001
 11 March 2002.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm.