

DECISION LIST

RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.	ITEM	DECISION	REASON	OFFICER
4 (i)	Item referred Rent Deposit Scheme	RESOLVED that Members note the report and that £25k be budgeted for a Rent Deposit Scheme in 2005/06 subject to further consideration in the 2005/06 budgetary process, and a scheme being approved at a future meeting of the Health and Housing Committee.	To enable further work to be undertaken and help to prevent homelessness in the district.	PO
5	Audit Commission Report on 2003/04 Accounts.	RESOLVED that Members note the contents of the letter from the Audit Commission.	To enable the Audit Commission to conclude the audit and issue a qualified audit opinion on the financial statements.	PO
6	Resources Committee Service Plans Budget and Council Priorities.	RESOLVED that Members: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the revised 2004/05 budget and draft 2005/06 budget for submission and further consideration during the next cycle. 2. Approve charging £50k in relation to the Judicial Review of the Government White Paper to the external legal fees earmarked 	To enable the committee to continue to monitor existing and future budgets in accordance with existing policy	PO

		<p>reserve.</p> <p>3. Approve the draft Service Plans relating to the Resources Committee's activities and note the new spending pressures identified.</p> <p>4. Note the prioritisation analysis contained in Appendix 3.</p>		
7	Resources Committee Capital Programme	RESOLVED that Members approve in principle the 2005/06 capital programme and forward it through to the next stage of the financial cycle.	To progress the Capital Programme.	PO
8	Council Capital Programme.	RESOLVED that Members approve in principle the 2005/06 capital programme and forward it through to the next stage of the financial cycle.	To progress the Capital Programme.	PO
9	Executive Programme Office Resources	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <p>1. The post of PA/Programme Assistant be created on a permanent basis at an estimated cost of £25k p.a. from 2005/06 and that pro rata cost of appointment in 2004/05 (approximately £6,000) be funded from reserves.</p> <p>2. A revenue budget of £60k be created to meet the cost of employing additional capacity to carry out the work to develop feasibility studies /options</p>	To provide support to the Executive Programme Office and help to deliver projects emerging from the new Corporate Plan.	SM

		<p>appraisals associated with projects in the new Corporate Plan.</p> <p>3. All of the above to be subject to full consideration in the 2005/06 budgetary process.</p>		
10	Cinema at Saffron Walden County High School.	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subject to the establishment of a satisfactory partnership agreement with SWCHS to implement an independent trust to manage a cinema, the council contributes £80k from its Capital Programme for the purchase of equipment for the Cinema at SWCHS and negotiates a tapering revenue contribution up to a maximum of £5k per annum from September 2005. 2. The Council appoints a member representative to the Independent Trust to operate the Cinema facility 3. Officers, together with the trust, explore further initiatives to provide improved access to the cinema across the rest of Uttlesford. 	To fulfil a Council objective in it's Quality of Life Corporate Plan to provide a cinema facility in Saffron Walden	SM
11	Counter Fraud Partnership.	RESOLVED that Members do not proceed with the proposed partnership	To enable the Council to handle fraud cases efficiently	MP

		at this stage and continue with the provision of the Benefit Fraud Service in house.	cost effectively.	
12	Employee Development	<p>Part 1 RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members approve the purchase of a competency framework from Essex County Council (EEC) for £4k, and 2. Up to two days consultancy time from ECC be purchased to align the framework to Uttlesford District Council. At £450 per day 3. Members noted the success of the ODPM bid and agreed an additional £2k be made available to support middle managers/future leaders to attend the new Essex wide programme. 4. Members approve consultancy support, at £450 per day for up to 10 days, to support the cohorts of leaders undertake a skills audit of their teams. 5. All of the above to be subject to full consideration in the 2005/06 budgetary process. <p>Part 2 RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members support the creation of an £12k education fund and 	To develop and support the employees and leadership within the authority.	CH

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Chief Executive and Executive Managers be tasked to identify the core areas for 100% funding during 2005/06 and to create an assessment panel, reporting to Members on outcomes. 3. Members support the use of Reserves to provide interest free loans, following the Inland Revenue rules in support of Life Long Learning and 4. Where the Inland Revenue rules prevent an employee accessing an interest free loan Members support the use of Reserves to offer a loan on the same interest rate as car loans. 5. All of the above to be subject to full consideration in the 2005/06 budgetary process. 6. That a report on the total use of the training budget be forwarded as part of the 2005/06 budgetary process. 		
13	Partnership in Performance Improvement Statement	RESOLVED that the 'Partnership in Performance Improvement' statement be agreed for adoption by Council.	To encourage partnership working specifically between employers, employees and trade unions in the pursuit of performance improvement.	CH

14	TUPE Transfer of Staff	RESOLVED that Members note the report and would advise the Executive Manager - Human Resources if they require any further updates in due course.	To inform Members of the termination of the Highways Agency LSA and the transfer of two members of UDC staff to Essex County Council.	CH
15	Corporate Capacity and Central Staffing Resources	RESOLVED that Members: 1. Note the agreed arrangements for officer support to the Strategic Development Advisory Group. 2. Note the proposals for changed support arrangements in the corporate core, and requested a further report.	To address the staffing issues in support of the Strategic Development Advisory Group and the staffing issues at the centre of the organisation.	AB
16	Staff Communication and Morale	RESOLVED that Members: 1. Agree and support the action plan set out in paragraph 19 of the report 2. That the Chief Executive brings regular reports updating the committee on the progress of the actions and the impact they are having on staff opinions.	To up-date the Members on the two parallel exercises that were carried out in the autumn, which assessed the staff's opinions and attitudes and to enable Members to comment on the proposed Action Plan.	AB
17	Home Computing Initiative	RESOLVED that the Council introduce a Home Computing Initiative Scheme with the initial cost being met from reserves on the understanding that these costs will return back to the reserves.	To develop and support the employees.	PO
18	Amended Travel Plan	RESOLVED that the following proposals be implemented as soon as is	To help attempt to increase other modes of travel and to	CH

		<p>practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Service Targets. • A car-share register for members • A Green Target Mileage Scheme for Members. • To agree that further work is undertaken to identify the cost/effect of an incentive payment to encourage conversion to remote payments. • Greater publicity for on-line payments of Council Services. • Short-stay parking time-limit notices be posted in the visitors parking area if further problems arise. • Lockers for use of cyclists, walkers, bikers, be installed. • Allocate a Lead Member and a Lead Officer, for co-ordination/lobbying of an integrated transport resolution. <p>That any of the following, plus any of the above not implemented at this stage, be reviewed on a six-monthly basis, with a view to considering its implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Green Bank Scheme. • For major meeting, a mini bus collection of Members along 	<p>decrease/reduce personal travel and work-related travel.</p>	
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		<p>major routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a 'staff car-park waiting list' for newly recruited employees. • Green Vehicles with specified CO2 emissions to be inbuilt as part of formal Council Policy. • Travel Expenses Incentives, for members, to bias towards car-sharing and away from single occupancy. 		
19 (i)	Financial Strategy and Service Planning Process.	<p>RESOLVED that Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the revised 2004/05 base budgets for Committees. 2. Approve the financial consequences of the Corporate Plan. 3. Agree the Service Prioritisation contained in Appendix 4. 4. Agree the strategy outlined in paragraphs 19-23 as the basis for determining how the spending pressures can be met and how budget reductions are to be made, and instruct officers in consultation with the Prioritisation Working Group of Members, to take reports to the committees in January giving options to achieve the overall budget required. 	To provide Members with the latest position on the Councils General Fund Budget for 2005/06 and a strategy for agreeing the budget and council tax level.	PO

		<p>5. Instruct officers to take a report to the Council meeting on 14 December notifying Members of the savings targets for individual services.</p> <p>6. Agree to lobby the Government for additional funding, dependent on the outcome of the local government finance settlement.</p>		
19 (ii)	Changes to the Pension Scheme	RESOLVED that further consideration is to be given and this item is to be discussed at the next Leadership meeting.	Requested by the Local Joint Committee to provide Members with a briefing on the changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme.	CH
20	Request for Early Retirement	RESOLVED that Members agree to the early retirement of the Chief Accountant at 1 June 2005, with an additional one and a half year's pensionable service, allowing him to draw his pension from that date.	To enable the Chief Accountant to retire on efficiency and compassionate grounds and enable a restructuring of the Financial Services.	PO