CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Corporate Strategy and Finance:-

WEDNESDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 2008

following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor Morris	Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor. J. Walsh	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor. R. Hayes	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. D. Grogan	Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services
Mrs. B. Newman	Policy Accountant
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

86. CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE STRATEGIC BUDGET 2008/09

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which considered the 2008/09 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for the Corporate Strategy & Finance portfolio and detailed recommended budget savings to be submitted to the Executive following revised financial guidance as agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 9th January, 2008.

The revised guidance now resulted in a savings target of £643,000 for the Corporate Strategy and Finance portfolio, which was £150,000 less than that originally advised, and the three central departments were continuing to explore opportunities for reviewing and revising business processes. Over the following two years further efficiencies would be examined relating to the major processing areas such as

Taxation & Benefits, Customer Services, Financial Services, the Human Resources Shared Services and future Shared Services.

The Portfolio's proposed 2008/09 to 2010/11 Capital Programme was set out in Appendix E. The revenue consequences of this programme were included within the 2008/09 Original Budget. Some of the schemes listed were currently bids for corporate funding and so their inclusion in the programme was subject to approval by Council on 20th February 2008.

With respect to the proposed budget savings the original budget savings identified in 2007 were detailed in Appendix B as follows;

	Total
Corporate Resources	
	£
External audit fees	34,000
ICT contract savings	146,000
Tax & Benefits system savings when Business Case is repaid	105,000
Printing & stationery	40,900
Insurance savings	10,000
Cashiers' Service	49,000
Accounts Payable efficiencies	55,000
Corporate Property staffing changes	85,000
Council Tax and NNDR Summons costs	80,000
Benefits recovery income	20,000
Amount required to fund demand led growth	-76,300
Total Corporate Resources savings options	**548,600**
Legal & Democratic Services	
Democratic Services post and reorganisation	40,000
Mayoral Attendant post and reductions in hospitality	20,000
Town Twinning	10,000
Registrars' cash limited budgets	6,600
Count Venue	15,000
Legal Services cash limited budgets	44,000

Transfer of Overhead costs to Trading Accounts	20,000
Amount required to fund demand led growth	-56,100
Total Legal & Democratic Services savings options	**99,500**

Chief Executive's Department

Administrative Support	20,400
Review of recruitment advertising - share of efficiency savings	25,000
External funding - Community Cohesion	10,000
Redeployment staffing funded from corporate budget	25,000
Savings in rent grant support	17,900
Strategic Services - review of current arrangements	30,000
Departmental HR team - deletion of post	25,000
Health & Safety team - deletion of post	20,000
Translation Services - deletion of post	20,000
Corporate OD - deletion of 50% of a post	10,000
Amount required to fund demand led growth	-58,400
Total Chief Executive's savings options	**144,900**
Grand total of savings options	**793,000**
Reduced target from Executive	**150,000**
Savings to be determined by the Executive Member	**643,000**

Following the revised guidance issued by the Executive , and the recommendations from the Corporate Strategy and Finance PDG the Executive Member indicated that he was minded not to take the savings relating to the following;

- corporate property staffing changes;
- departmental HR team – deletion of post
- health and safety team – deletion of post
- translation services – deletion of post

The Executive Member AGREED –

(i) the Corporate Strategy & Finance 2008/2009 Revenue Budget before budget savings;

(ii) the 2008/09 to 2010/11 Capital Programme, subject to bids for corporate capital resources being successful; and

(iii) the proposals to meet the savings target as set out in Appendix B except for the proposals relating to the following ;

Corporate Property staffing changes	**£85,000**
Departmental HR team - deletion of post	**£25,000**
Health & Safety team - deletion of post	**£20,000**
Translation Services - deletion of post	**£20,000**
Total	**£150,000**