

CORPORATE RESOURCES, STRATEGY AND HEALTH POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 11TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Present – Councillors Morris (Chair), Ashcroft, Harkin (as deputy for Councillor Adia), Hayes, Iqbal, Kay, Shaw and J.Walsh.

Also in Attendance

Mr. S. Harriss	-	Chief Executive
Mr. A. Eastwood	-	Director of the Chief Executive's Department
Mr. J. Rowlands	-	Assistant Director
Mr. M. Devargas	-	Assistant Director
Mrs. B. Newman	-	Policy Accountant
Mr. A. Jennings	-	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Adia and Mrs. Thomas.

Councillor Morris in the Chair

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 26th August, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

18. CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS STRATEGIC RESOURCE OPTIONS 2010/11 TO 2011/12

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that reminded members that the Executive, at its meeting on 29th June, 2009, agreed that financial guidance be set for 2010/2011 and the following 3 years as follows:

- i) that services prepare plans to achieve efficiencies/savings of 30% over the next 4 years, with a specific target of 5% in 2010/11;
- ii) that any growth will be very limited and would need to be offset by further savings; and
- iii) that in terms of capital, services be requested to draw up proposals for the next 4 years based upon reduced levels of capital funding being available than in the last few years.

Additionally, services would have to meet their own demand led growth.

Consequently, the report detailed the financial implications for the Central Departments of the guidance set out in (i) above and detailed proposals to comply with the Council's Financial Guidance.

The savings target of 5% recommended by the Executive amounted to £1,255,900 and the suggested options to meet this target were as follows.

	£000
• Area working	40
• Policy Performance and Partnerships	28
• Human Resources	65
• Legal	30
• Regulatory Services	90
• Marketing and Communications	200
• Directorate management team	100
• Customer services income	30
• Summons income	30
• Housing benefits staffing	32
• Access Bolton	22
• Printing costs	55
• Housing benefits overpayments	100
• Oracle business case savings	45
• Procurement savings	80
• Rationalisation of payroll function	40
• Rationalisation of accounts payable	20
• Cash limited budgets	35
• FM contract extension negotiations	90
• Corporate ICT post	40
• Income generation	20
• Property Services management	55
• Accommodation	9

The Corporate Resources Department had identified several areas where work would be ongoing, which it was anticipated would enable savings in future years to be achieved.

- i) it had identified a series of Value For Money reviews, which should lead to further savings in future years; and

- ii) it was continuing to explore opportunities for reviewing and revising business processes. Over the 2 years, the Department would be looking to achieve more savings in the major production areas, such as Tax and Benefits, Customer Services and Financial Services.

The Chief Executive's Department had also planned Value for Money reviews which it was anticipated would meet the savings targets for 2011/2012 and beyond.

The PDG noted the proposed strategic resource options for submission to the Executive Member.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and finished at 2.10pm)