

CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

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

WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2006

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

Councillor Mrs. Thomas	Deputy for Councillor Morris Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor Rushton	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Mrs. Ronson	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. B. Knight	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Mrs. M. Stoney	Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Legal)
Mrs. A. Fitton	Superintendent Registrar
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

21. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which monitored the progress of decisions within the portfolio of the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance.

The Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance NOTED the progress on the decisions taken at previous Executive Member meetings.

22. AUDIT COMMISSION - VALUE FOR MONEY PROFILES

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which provided an analysis of the Authority's performance in comparison to that of other metropolitan districts and the

statistical nearest neighbouring authorities.

The comparisons were based upon the value for money profiles produced by the Audit Commission which would be used to assist in the judgement of use of resources as part of the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA).

It was explained that this was the second year that the Audit Commission had produced the value for money profiles and details were provided with respect to the following areas;

- (1) analysis of the VFM profiles;
- (2) council tax;
- (3) education;
- (4) Social Services;
- (5) Environmental Services, planning and transport;
- (6) community housing;
- (7) housing management;
- (8) culture;
- (9) Home office services; and
- (10) Central Services and other services.

The Executive Member NOTED the report and that more detailed reports would be submitted to individual Executive Members on the specific indicators relevant to their portfolios.

23. BOLTON, ROCHDALE, HEYWOOD AND MIDDLETON (BRAHM) LIFT PROJECT - EVALUATING AND AGREEING A PREFERRED PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNER

The Chief Executive submitted a report which provided the Executive Member with an update with respect to developments in the Bolton, Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton

Local Improvement Finance Trust (BRAHM LIFT) and requested the Executive Member's authority to authorise the Head of Strategic Projects (or nominee) to act on behalf of the Council in the choosing of the preferred private sector partner following evaluation and scoring of the three short-listed bidders.

LIFT had been identified as the procurement vehicle for improving and developing local primary and community health services and was a joint venture between the Department of Health, Partnership for Health, Primary Care Trusts, other public sector stakeholders and the private sector.

The Head of Strategic Projects was a member of the Project Board as the Council's representative and the process of selecting the preferred private sector partner was entering the final evaluation stage.

The Executive had previously agreed that the Head of Strategic Projects be authorised to approve, on behalf of the Council, the approval of the procurement document, pre-qualification questionnaire and the shortlist of bidders and the report sought further authority to agree the final selection of the preferred partner based upon the recommendation of the Evaluation Team to the BRAHM Project Board.

The Executive Member NOTED the current developments of the BRAHM LIFT programme and AUTHORISED the Head of Strategic Projects (or her nominee) as the Council's representative on the BRAHM LIFT Board to approve the final selection of the preferred partner, based upon the recommendations of the Evaluation Team.

24. AGGREGATE FINANCIAL MONITOR FIRST QUARTER 2006/07

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which advised the Executive Member of the outcome of the first quarter's Aggregate Financial Monitoring exercise for 2006/07 and which considered:-

- General Fund Revenue monitoring;
- Aggregate Capital monitoring; and
- monitoring of the Prudential Guidelines.

Overall there was a net increase in revenue balance of £441,000, compared to the outturn report to the Executive's meeting held on 12th June, 2006.

Projected Capital Expenditure had increased by £18,765,000 which was made up of scheme slippage from 2005/06 of £17,208,000 and new approvals with external funding of £1,557,000; expenditure at the projected level could be fully funded.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

25. VAT MONITOR 2005/06

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which advised the Executive Member of the VAT resources situation in 2005/06 and the prospects for the current and future years.

A full VAT recovery was achieved in 2005/06 and appeared secure for the current and future years.

The Executive Member NOTED that:-

- (i) a full VAT recovery was achieved in 2005/06;**
- (ii) a full VAT recovery was anticipated in the current and future years;**
- (iii) action may be required to manage the VAT position when the Council becomes involved in property acquisition for future development, expenditure on replacing or upgrading crematorium equipment or providing premises for onward letting; and**
- (iv) future changes in expenditure projections, service delivery methods or VAT regulations may effect VAT**

recovery and these would be monitored and subject to further reports at the appropriate time.

26. NATIONALITY CHECKING SERVICE

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which advised the Executive Member of the increase in the usage of the Nationality Checking Service with Bolton Registration District and the need to appoint an additional member of staff to undertake such functions.

It was explained that the Registration Services was becoming increasingly busy as a result of the impact of the Nationality Checking Service and that the additional post of co-ordinator, initially on a one year fixed term contract at Scale 3, would be reviewed after 12 months.

The new post would be funded entirely from income generated from the Nationality Checking Service and it was estimated that a dedicated service would generate income of up to £30,000.

A job description and person specification was attached to the report.

The Executive Member APPROVED (i) the establishment of a post of National Checking Service Co-ordinator on Scale 3, initially on a fixed term contract to be reviewed in 12 months time, subject to the concurrence of the Executive Member Human Resources; and

(ii) that a suitable press release be produced to publicise the service.

27. CORPORATE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 1 2006/07

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which provided the Executive Member with information on the Corporate Resources performance indicators for quarter 1 of 2006/07.

The report set out any significant variations together with an explanation.

The report concluded that performance of the BVPIS were generally better than the same period last year and all targets were expected to be met in 2006/07; local indicators were performing well.

The Executive Member NOTED the report and the action being taken.