

CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

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

WEDNESDAY, 9TH JULY, 2007

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

Councillor Morris	Executive Member Corporate Strategy and Finance
Councillor J. Walsh	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Hayes	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. A. Eastwood	Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Mrs. B. Newman	Policy Accountant
Mr. P. Marsh	Assistant Director Corporate Property Services
Ms. L. Burnett	Principal Policy and Improvement Office
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

14. 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 Corporate Strategy and Finance.

The Executive Member Corporate Strategy and Finance NOTED the progress of the decisions taken.

15. CENTRAL DEPARTMENTS PERFORMANCE AND OUTTURN 2006/07

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that presented the key service performance data and financial outturn for 2006/2007 for the Central Departments, Corporate Resources, Chief Executive's and Legal & Democratic Services.

A dashboard provided an overview of service and financial performance from the 3 Departments which showed that performance was good and improving well on last year on a range of management information and performance indicators. More information about each was detailed in the following appendices :-

Appendix A	BVPI Exception Report 2006/07
Appendix B	Corporate Strategy & Finance Revenue Outturn 2006/2007
Appendix C	Contributions made to Reserves
Appendix D	Reserve Balances as at 31 st March 2007
Appendix E	Legal Services Trading Account Outturn 2006/2007
Appendix F	Gershon Efficiencies
Appendix G	Budget Growth 2006/2007
Appendix H	2006/2007 Capital Expenditure, Actual compared to Projected
Appendix I	Corporate Strategy & Finance 2007/2008 to 2008/2010 Capital Programme

With respect to performance the following information was provided :-

- Just over half of BVPIs were on target (52%)
- 76% of indicators were improving on last year
- Almost two-thirds (63%) of indicators fell within the top two performing quartiles

- 3 indicators fell within the bottom quartile (BV8, 10 and 156)

It was considered that overall performance within the three Central Departments was positive and that the Central Departments were performing very well on last year as well as against the overall organisational results.

The key actions proposed were to

- Improve the rate of PIs that were achieving against target.
- Conduct a review of target setting and outline areas where improvement was necessary
- Ensure all targets for 2007/08 were robust, challenging and realistic.

The Executive Member AGREED –

- (i) the Central Departments' service and financial performance, as detailed in the report ;**
- (ii) that full quarterly updates on progress be submitted in order to improve the three bottom quartile indicators identified in 2006/07 that have been outlined in Appendix A ;**
- (iii) the transfers to and from reserves made in 2006/2007 and noted the balances on reserve accounts as at 31st March 2007 ;**
- (iv) the revenue outturn for the Legal Services Trading Account ; and**
- (v) the capital spend for 2006/2007 and the roll forward of the capital programme for 2007/2008 onwards.**

16. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT- PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which informed the Executive Member of the Corporate Resources departmental performance for 2006/07 along with the targets and actions for 2007/08.

Performance for all indicators in 2006/07 indicated that 70% of indicators were meeting the target ; a list of all the performance indicators was attached at Appendix A.

Although performance was generally good and improving further 'stretch' targets had been set for 2007/08 and a range of actions were being put in place to achieve these targets which were detailed in Appendix A.

With respect to the planned target areas the Director explained that improvements to the process were already in place with respect to BVPI 8 and that BVPI 9 and 10 had been affected this year by a large local firm being in administration.

The Executive Member AGREED –

(i) the targets for 2007/08 in the light of the 2006/07 performance and the actions that are planned to achieve those targets ; and

(ii) the planned action in the following areas:

- **Improvement in creditor payments (BVPI8) ;**
- **Improve collection of Council tax and Business Rates (BVPI9&10) ;**
- **Accessibility of public buildings (BVPI156) ; and**
- **Improvements in the Contact Centre and One Stop Shop.**

17. SMART CARDS AND E-MONEY – URGENT ACTION

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which reminded the Executive Member of the urgent action taken in agreeing to appoint sQuid to provide the e-Money facility on the Council's Smartcard.

It was explained that a key service enabler was to offer an e-money application on the Council's smart card which would allow more council services to reduce cash handling which would allow savings and reduce risk.

Following a review of potential developments / developers within the e-money sector, the Council had been contacted by sQuid who were interested in putting an e-money purse on the Bolton Smart Card which would enable low value transactions, typically under £10, to be made using the card.

There were initial set up costs of up to £40,000 and shared on going costs for the internet portal of up to £17,000 which were the subject of further negotiation. The costs would be off set by the revenue generated from the 5-6% commission sQuid would pay Bolton Smart from the 1.5% transaction charge it would receive from merchants accepting the card for payments.

The Executive Member had agreed that the Director of Corporate Resources, in conjunction with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised, using the Council's powers under the Local Government Act 2003, to negotiate with and issue a licence to sQuid to enable the loading of an e-money purse onto the Bolton Smart Card.

The Executive Member NOTED the action taken.

18. TRACKSIDE APPROACH WESTHOUGHTON – URGENT ACTION

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which explained the use of the emergency powers procedure to grant a lease of an area of land to a local taxi firm, Timewise Travel as an alternative location for the firm following their displacement owing to redevelopment of their current location.

The Executive Member NOTED the action taken.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of each case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

19. CAPITAL RECEIPTS PROGRAMME 2007/08

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted the latest figures relating to the capital receipts programme.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

20. FARNWORTH MARKET PRECINCT

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which apprised the Executive Member of the current position regarding the redevelopment of Farnworth Market Precinct.

A planning application had been received by the Council and a number of options were considered to provide a temporary market facility throughout the construction period.

It was felt that the best option involved the re-siting of the existing stalls to land adjoining Asda during the construction period.

The report also proposed that prudential borrowing be used to secure the additional capital required for the capital works for the fitting out of the market.

The Executive Member AGREED –

- (i) that prudential borrowing be used to bridge the funding gap identified ;**
- (ii) to the grant of a 250 year lease, preceded by a building agreement, as detailed in the report ;**
- (iii) to the provision of a temporary market facility as detailed in option c of the report.**

21. LAND AT LEVER STREET, LITTLE LEVER

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which detailed the provisional terms agreed with Wainhomes for the lease of an area of land at Lever Street, Little Lever for use as a landscaped entrance into their development at Bradley Mill.

The Executive Member AGREED the terms and conditions, now detailed, and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation.

22. ODEON CINEMA, ASHBURNER STREET

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report that advised the Executive Member of negotiations undertaken to include an additional area of land to the rear of the Odeon Cinema to allow a proposed development to be serviced.

The additional land was currently part of the management agreement with APCOA and details of discussions between the Council and the company were detailed.

The Executive Member AGREED – to the additional area, now indicated, within the proposed lease of the cinema site on the terms outlined and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to complete the necessary formalities regarding the revised lease and revised management agreement with APCOA.

23. BUSINESS RATES WRITE OFFS

The Executive Member AGREED the write offs as detailed in the report.

24. WRITE OFF OF UNCOLLECTABLE DEBT

The Executive Member AGREED the write offs as detailed in the report.