

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 29 July 2003
(7:15 - 9:18 pm)

Present: Councillor C J Fairbrass (Chair), Councillor C Geddes (Deputy Chair), Councillor S Kallar, Councillor M E McKenzie, Councillor B M Osborn, Councillor J W Porter, Councillor L A Smith and Councillor T G W Wade.

Apologies: Councillor J L Alexander and Councillor G J Bramley.

63. Minutes (22 July 2003)

Agreed.

64. Performance Monitoring

Received the end of year Best Value Performance Plan monitoring report for 2002/03. The Management Team gave a presentation on, and we discussed, performance against a range of key Performance Indicators within the Plan.

65. Budget Monitoring

Received a monitoring report covering the Council's revenue expenditure from the beginning of April to the end of May 2003. Members noted the potential budget pressure of £729K in the Education and Housing General Fund Budget and that action plans were in place to address the position. The position on the HRA was also noted and that the June 2003 position was projecting a lower overspend.

66. Recruitment and Selection Monitoring

Noted the annual Recruitment and Selection Monitoring report, which reviewed recruitment and selection activities and indicators for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

67. Fees and Charges: Careline Service 2003/04

Received a report seeking to ensure that the Careline service, which provides vulnerable residents with a speedy, telephonic assistance for emergency situations and aids independent living, is correctly targeted to those in need using transparent assessment criteria. The report also set out proposals to ensure that charges for the service are appropriate, recovering the full costs of the service, in line with the Council's Policy on charging and providing care services.

Agreed the following in order to implement the Council's Charging Policy and assist the Council in achieving its Community Priority of *"Improving, Health, Housing and Social Care"*:

1. A charge of £169 per year (£3.25 per week) for the Careline service, to take effect from 1 October 2003 for 2003/04;
2. The new Careline Service Statement (in accordance with Fair Access to Care) for access to the service; and
3. The Lead Member to lobby the Secretary of State for Health seeking a change to the fairer charging guidelines to allow charges to be made for services such as Careline where an individual chooses to pay for the service.

68. Private Business

Agreed to exclude the public and press for the remainder of the meeting, as the business was confidential.

69. Corporate Programme Management Office - Capital Programme 2003/04

Deferred.

70. Revenue Improvement Plan and IT Systems Replacement

Received a report providing a comprehensive situation statement on current performance standards, targets, aims and objectives for the Revenue Services. The report also identified the need and funding required for the replacement of existing IT systems and the introduction of a document management system.

Agreed, in order to ensure that the Revenue Service has the capacity to improve and sustain service delivery to customer and stakeholders and move towards Best Value Performance Indicator upper quartile performance, that:

1. The Revenues systems be replaced;
2. A document management system be introduced;
3. The quick wins, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be implemented;
4. The Barking outreach office and office extension at 90 Stour Road be deferred, using £300,000 of the budget for the IT system replacement, but retaining £300,000 for the refurbishment of the reception area at 90 Stour Road to include visitor toilets;
5. £2.2m be added to the capital programme for this project (funded as set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report);
6. £870k be released from the new technology reserve to fund this project;
7. Capital funding from the Department of Work and Pensions be used if available;
8. The improvement plan as set out in Appendix B to the report be implemented;

9. The option of using an external partner, to provide a back fill service during the system implementation, be explored; and
10. Councillors Geddes and Wade be appointed to the tender evaluation panel.

A further report on the staffing restructure will be presented to the Executive in September 2003

71. Major Adaptations / Disabled Facilities Grant Application

Received a report setting out an application for a Disabled Facilities Grant, which exceeds the £25,000 ceiling for officer approval.

Agreed the application, as it represents value for money and optimises care arrangements by providing facilities in the home for a person who would otherwise require residential care.