

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 19 August 2003
(7:00 - 7:17 pm)

Present: Councillor C J Fairbrass (Chair), Councillor C Geddes (Deputy Chair), Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor G J Bramley, 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.

83. Minutes (12 August 2003)

Agreed.

84. Cemetery Charges - 2003/2004 and 2004/2005

Received a report proposing to set cemetery charges for 2003/04 and 2004/05 in line with the fundamental principals set by the Charging Policy Commission.

Agreed, in order that relevant charges are set to cover the full cost of the cemetery services provided, that:

1. Cemetery charges be increased by an average of 12.5%, as set out in Appendix 'B' to the report, for the financial year 2003/2004 to commence from 1 October 2003;
2. The new rates coincide with the opening of 'The Field' extension at Chadwell Heath Cemetery (anticipated to open in summer 2005);
3. The next review of cemetery charges be presented to the Executive in February 2005, and accordingly:
 - (a) The 2004/05 income be increased on 1 April 2004 by inflation, and,
 - (b) The Head of Leisure and Community is authorised to adjust individual Cemetery Fees and Charges for 2004/05 in order to meet the revised income target and views of the services stakeholders.

85. Private Business

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

86. Refurbishment of the Town Hall

Further to Minute 239, 4 December 2003, received a report seeking the acceptance of an enhanced scheme for the refurbishment of the Town Hall Foyer, containing a series of additional optional features requested by the members Steering Group (Accommodation).

Agreed, in order to enable the improvement of facilities for the public and so assist in achieving the Community Priorities of “*Raising General Pride in the Borough*”, “*Developing Rights and Responsibilities*” and “*Promoting Equal Opportunities and Celebrating Diversity*”, to:

1. The enhanced scheme and works as submitted by the Members Steering Group (Accommodation);
2. Allocate the full £5m of the budget for these works with an additional £212,000 to be allocated from capital resources;
3. Re-profile the Town Hall spend as £2,000,000 in 2003/04 and £242,000 in 2004/05 as detailed in paragraph 3.2 and Appendix A of the report;
4. The Programme of works, as set out in Appendix B of the report, which will provide for completion in mid April 2004;
5. Authorise the Director of Leisure and Environmental Services to negotiate and accept a tender from InSpace Interiors in accordance with the Constitution Contract Rules 4.1(e) and 10.1 (a); and
6. Allocate a capital budget of £2m for the Customer First elements of the refurbishment programme for both the Civic Centre and the Town Hall.

87. Progress on the Capital Programme 2003/04 and Corporate Programme Management Office

Received a report providing an update on the re-profiling of the Capital Programme since the Assembly approved it on 5 March 2003. A number of changes and approvals have been made. As a result the Programme for 2003/04 has been reduced to £84.18m from its original £96.7m.

The report also sought approval for the extension of a contract with Scott Wilson Business Consultancy, with whom the in house team have set up a Partnership approach to improve the delivery of the Capital programme.

Agreed, in order to enable continuity and ensure the delivery of the Capital Programme and to assist the Council in achieving the Community Priorities of “*Regenerating the Local Economy*”, “*Better Education & Learning for All*”, “*Improving, Health, Housing and Social Care*”, “*Making Barking & Dagenham, Cleaner, Greener & Safer*” and “*Raising General Pride in the Borough*”, to:

1. Note the amended Capital Programme baseline figure of £84.18m; and
2. The extension of contracts (a), (b) and (c) as detailed in the report with Scott Wilson Business Consultancy until 31 March 2004, in accordance with the Constitution Contract Rules 4.5, for a total additional sum of £60,000.

88. Staffing Matter

Further to Minute 435, 29 April 2003, received a report seeking approval for the regrading of the Solicitor to the Council following a full job evaluation by the Hay Group regarding the additional role as Monitoring Officer.

Agreed, to recommend the Assembly to approve the recommended salary, as set out in the report, for the Solicitor to the Council payable from 1 April 2003.

89. Re-tendering of Legal Services

Received a report seeking approval of the selected Contractor Panel for additional Legal Services for the period 1 October 2003 to 31 September 2006.

Agreed the Panel of firms, as set out in Appendix A of the report, for the period 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2006, with the option to extend by two further periods of 2 years, in order to provide comprehensive legal cover and to ensure that quality and cost of legal cover is tailored according to the various different types of specialist cases.

90. * Thames View Neighbourhood Nursery

Further to Minute 410, 15 April 2003, received a report seeking approval for the award of a contract following negotiations with a single tenderer.

Agreed to award the contract, in principle, to Tendring Construction to a maximum value of £1,100,000, and receive a further report once the contract value has been notified, in order to progress the construction of the Thames View Neighbourhood Nursery without undue delay.

* Item considered as a matter of urgency with the consent of the Chair under Section 100 (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.