

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 2 December 2003
(7:00 - 8:00 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 and Councillor J W Porter.

Also Present: Councillor A G Thomas and Councillor Mrs P A Twomey.

Apologies: Councillor L A Smith and Councillor T G W Wade.

210. Minutes (25 November 2003)

Agreed.

211. LEA Expenditure from the Schools Block of the Education Formula Spending Share 2004/2005

Received a report outlining details of a proposal by the Department of Education and Skills (DfES) to restrict the increase in the Local Education Authority element of the Schools Block 2004 / 2005 to that of the percentage increase in the Individual Schools Budget (ISB) in order to meet its minimum guarantee made to schools. Authorities wishing to apply for an exemption from this restriction must make their case to the DfES by the new deadline of 13 February 2004.

Agreed, to delegate to the Director of Education, Arts and Libraries and the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, permission to seek exemption by the DfES from this restriction if deemed necessary.

212. Contract for the Supply of Cleaning Materials

Received a report seeking to extend a joint contract with members of the London Contracts & Supplies Group (LCSG) for the supply of cleaning materials.

Agreed, in order to continue to obtain competitive prices and improved service levels from a range of suppliers and increase partnership working with members of the LCSG, that the supply of cleaning materials be undertaken through an agreed 12 month extension, as allowed for in the original contract, from 1 June 2004 to 31 May 2005.

213. New Conditions of Tenancy

Received a report setting out proposals to introduce new Conditions of Tenancy in order to strengthen the Councils fight against Anti Social Behaviour and to modernise the existing tenancy agreement, which has become dated since its original launch some years ago.

Agreed, in order to modernise the Conditions of Tenancy to take account of issues that have become relevant in recent years and assist in tackling Anti Social Behaviour, to:

1. The wording and content of the new Conditions of Tenancy, as set out in Appendix A of the report;
2. The document being illustrated and prepared with corporate branding prior to a draft copy being sent to every tenant in the Borough as part of the required consultation process;
3. Additional costs for the implementation of the new Conditions of Tenancy, to a maximum of £116,000, to be met from existing budgets of the Housing Revenue Account; and
4. Officers progressing the gathering of photographic ID evidence, as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report, based on tenants providing their own passport sized photographs.

214. Client Planning Team

Further to Minute 357 (18 March 2003), received a report describing the process of selecting a partner to provide high level advice and training within the client side construction planning team, together with other changes to develop the Best Value procurement, programme and project management activities of client side staff.

Agreed:

1. The appointment of MACE plc as client planning team advisor. MACE plc has been selected after a rigorous and transparent procurement exercise; and
2. That Councillor B Osborn be appointed to the Project Steering Board. The project board, as described in section 4 of the report, will ensure that the client partnering arrangement delivers agreed outputs and outcomes.

215. Private Business

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

216. Consideration of Support for the Alcohol Advisory Service

Further to Minute 118 (23 September 2003), received a report providing a summary of the issues surrounding alcohol treatment services in the Borough in light of the request to the Council for financial support to relocate the Service.

The report recognises the key role of the Alcohol Advisory Service as currently the only provider of alcohol treatment in the Borough but acknowledges there are significant factors that limit the continuation of support for the Alcohol Advisory Service.

Agreed:

1. Not to make a capital investment into accommodation for the Alcohol Advisory Service under the current contract;
2. That revenue support is provided only to the end of the current contractual obligation of March 2005; and
3. That a further report is made to the Executive once the National Alcohol Strategy is available in the spring.

The Drug and Alcohol Action Team will compile a local alcohol strategy based on the national strategy; having reviewed the current service, it would be premature to recommend either capital investment or continued revenue investment at this stage.

217. * Decent Homes Standard - Kitchens & Rewire Programme

Further to Minute 112 (16 September 2003), received a report describing the difficulties encountered on the Kitchen and Rewire programme. The report provided an analysis of the operation of each contract under the current programme, the potential risks to the Council and describes the preferred method of bringing the current arrangements to an end. The report also outlined changes to the proposed procurement method in order to facilitate customer focussed delivery in the future.

Agreed, following independent advice recommending the negotiated cessation of certain contracts as the best option for controlling the delivery of the Decent Homes programme, to:

1. Delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Health to negotiate an end to the current kitchen installation and rewire contracts in accordance with the terms set out in section 2 of the report; and
2. Approve the transfer of £7.3m from the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) budget to Shape Up for Homes, in order to reverse the under spend for Shape Up in 2000 / 2001 that was originally rolled-over into the MRA budget as detailed in section 7 of the report.

218. * University of East London

Received a report setting out the University of East London's (UEL) intentions regarding their Longbridge Road site and matters affecting the Council's interest in this site.

Agreed to:

1. The Council taking various steps regarding this site as set out in the report;
2. Budgetary provision to be made in the sum of £100,000 from the Revenue Contingency to meet the Council's costs regarding this matter, which will be replenished if appropriate as detailed in the report; and

3. Officers to report back if the sum of £100,000 is likely to be exceeded and further budgetary provision is required.

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