

THE EXECUTIVE

Tuesday, 24 January 2006
(7:00 - 7:10 pm)

Present: Councillor C J Fairbrass (Chair), Councillor T G W Wade (Deputy Chair), Councillor J L Alexander, Councillor G J Bramley, Councillor H J Collins, Councillor S Kallar, Councillor M A McCarthy, Councillor M E McKenzie and Councillor L A Smith

Apologies: Councillor C Geddes

232. Minutes (17 January 2006)

Agreed

233. The Institute of Revenues Ratings and Valuation Annual Conference 2005 - Feedback

Noted the attendance of two officers from Revenue Services at the Institute of Revenues Ratings and Valuation Conference, and the benefits to the Council of their attendance.

234. The Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Annual Housing Benefits Conference 2006 - Officer Attendance

Agreed the attendance of the Revenues Business Unit Manager (Rents & Benefits) and the Benefits Manager at the Institute of Revenues, Ratings and Valuation Annual Housing Benefits Conference and Exhibition 2006 at an estimated cost of £1,305, (excluding travel and subsistence expenses), which will be met from existing budgets.

235. Budget Monitoring April to November 2005

Received a report detailing the Council's revenue and capital position from the beginning of April to the end of November 2005, and details of the action being taken by Chief Officers to ensure a balanced position by the year end.

Agreed, as a matter of good financial practice, to:

- (i) Note the current position of the Council's revenue and capital budget;
- (ii) Note the action being taken by Chief Officers to ensure a balanced position by the year end;
- (iii) The one-off (budget transfer) virement of £273,000 from interest on balances for unavoidable one-off costs in the Leisure and Community Services Division as detailed in the report;
- (iv) Note the position and projected out-turn for the Housing Revenue Account;
and

- (v) The reprofiling of capital programme schemes as identified in Appendix E to the report.

236. Revised Budget 2005/06 and Base Budget 2006/07

Received a report setting out the position of the Council's revenue budgets for 2005 / 2006 and a base budget position for 2006 / 2007.

Agreed, in order to reflect decisions made during the year and set an initial position fore deciding the overall 2006/2007 budget, to:

- (i) The revised budget for 2005 / 2006 and the base budget for 2006 / 2007 as set out in Appendix A (i) of the report.
- (ii) The budget virements for the 2005 / 2006 revised budget as set out at Appendix A (iii) of the report; and
- (iii) To note the position on the projected outturn for 2005 / 2006.

237. Draft Final Report of the Improving Employment Prospects Policy Commission

Received the draft final report of the Improving Employment Prospects Policy Commission on the key findings.

The Commission had made a number of recommendations covering:

- tackling the low skills base
- the barriers to employment
- the development of the local and regional economy
- the development of the local existing and future workforce
- strengthening the leadership role of the Council on employment

There were no additional comments made and it was noted that the report would be submitted to the Assembly on 1 March 2006.

238. Private Business

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

239. Contract for New Children's Centres Sensory Play Equipment

Received a report seeking authority to award a contract without tender to provide purpose built sensory play equipment for four sensory playrooms to support new children's centres, located on or adjacent to primary school sites.

Agreed, in order to support the educational development needs of young children in children's centre settings and to make the resource available to the wider community, especially to children of all ages with special needs, to:

- (i) Waive tendering requirements under the provisions of paragraph 4.1(e) of the Council's Contract Rules (Part D of the Constitution) for the contract to purchase purpose built multi-sensory play equipment to fit out sensory play rooms in Children's Centres and infant and primary schools with specialist onsite provision;
- (ii) That the Director of Education, Arts and Libraries enter negotiations with Mike Ayres Design to manufacture and install purpose built multi-sensory play equipment in the Children's Centres and schools with specialist provision; and to train all staff to use the equipment.
- (iii) Waive the requirements of paragraph 10.1 of the Contract Rules and authorise the Director of Education, Arts and Libraries, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Solicitor to the Council, to award the contract for the custom designed and built multi-sensory play equipment to Mike Ayres Design.

240. Acquisition of Properties and Authority to Use Compulsory Purchase Order Powers - Cadiz Court, Dagenham

Received a report seeking authority to compel owners and occupiers of properties in Cadiz Court, to provide information about the nature of their interest in the properties to establish whether, and to what extent, the Council may need to exercise its compulsory purchase powers to secure the land needed for re-development.

Agreed, that in order to assist the Council in achieving its Community Priorities of "Improving Health, Housing and Social Care", to assist in meeting the Decent Homes Standard by 2010 and to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area, to:

- (i) Authorise the Director of Housing & Health to serve notices under section 16 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and section 330 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the purposes of identifying all of the legal interests;
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Housing & Health, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to negotiate with the identified leaseholders and take the necessary measures to secure acquisition by private agreement; and
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Housing & Health, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, to make the Compulsory Purchase Order(s) (CPO) pursuant to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) in respect to those legal interests where it has not been possible to secure acquisition by private agreement of properties at Cadiz Court