

EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND ADVISORY PANEL

TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2008

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive Member for Corporate Services and Advisory Panel held on Tuesday, 18 March 2008. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in a decision, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group no later than 4pm on the second working day after this meeting.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Tracy Johnson.

6. RESOURCES DIRECTORATE PLAN

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That the revised Directorate Plan be approved.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To provide strategic direction for the Directorate and to act as a consolidated reference point for Service Managers.

7. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES, SUNDRY DEBTORS, COUNCIL TAX AND OVERPAID HOUSING BENEFIT AND CAR PARK CHARGES ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED FOR WRITE-OFF

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (ii) That the amount of £628,849 shown in para. 4, (the individual debts are listed in the attached annexes), taking note that each debt has a greater value than £2,000, be approved for write off;
- (iii) That the amount of £503,639 (shown in para. 4) of accounts valued at less than £2,000 written off in the 2007/08 financial year under the Head of Finance's delegated authority be noted.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASONS: (i) To allow prudent management of the Authorities debt portfolio.
(ii) To inform the Executive Member.

8. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S COUNTER FRAUD POLICIES

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That the adoption of the Counter Fraud and Corruption Policy as set out in Annex 1 to this report be approved;
- (ii) That the adoption of the re-freshed Fraud and Corruption Prosecution Policy as set out in Annex 2 to this report be approved.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASONS: (i) To ensure the Council has robust arrangements in place to counter fraud and corruption.
(ii) To enable appropriate action to be taken in response to acts of fraud and corruption committed against the Council.

9. AUDIT & FRAUD SHARED SERVICE - BUSINESS OPTIONS

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That the progress which had been made in developing the shared service initiative to date, and the outcome of the options appraisal as set out in the Outline Business Case be noted;
- (ii) That the options for the future direction of the project, as set out in paragraph 19 be noted, and the officer recommendation to proceed with the project as originally defined (Option 4) be approved;
- (iii) That the officer recommendation to proceed with option E, as the long term organisational structure of the shared service be approved in principle;
- (iv) That the intention to report back to this Committee for final Member approval, before progressing to full implementation of the chosen option, be noted.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASONS: (i) To enable Members to consider the progress made with the shared service initiative to date, and the outcome of the options appraisal undertaken by the Project Board.
(ii) To enable Members to agree the next steps in the development of the shared service.

10. UPDATE ON THE LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE (LHA)

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That the content of this report be noted with concern;
- (ii) That the establishment of a safeguard protocol be noted and welcomed;
- (iii) That the financial assessment of the likely impact of the LHA scheme on tenants be noted.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To keep the Executive Member informed of changes in legislation that impact on the processing and payment of Housing Benefit.

