
MEETING	EXECUTIVE
DATE	29 JULY 2008
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS WALLER (CHAIR), STEVE GALLOWAY, SUE GALLOWAY, JAMIESON- BALL, REID AND VASSIE
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR RUNCIMAN

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL

51. WEB-CASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which examined the feasibility of web-casting meetings of full Council and other Council meetings, as requested in a motion approved by full Council on 10 April 2008.

The report examined the background to web-based multi-media tools (otherwise known as web-casting) and presented the following options for Members' consideration:

Option 1 – do not introduce a web-casting facility.

Option 2 – introduce a web-casting facility either by leasing a system on an 'out-hosted' basis, or by purchasing a system to run in-house.

If Option 2 were chosen, Members were invited to consider whether to test the market by means of a tender process (**Option 2a**) or to seek a negotiated contract (**Option 2b**). They were also invited to agree whether or not to proceed on the basis of a one-year pilot period should they decide to lease an 'out-hosted' system.

Information on other authorities using web-casting, together with costing comparison figures and an example of data protection information, was annexed to the report (Annexes A, B and C). Information requested by Members regarding the impact on staff resources of introducing web-casting was included in a further annex added to the agenda after publication (Annex D).

Having noted the advice of the Shadow Executive on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That Officers be asked to produce a report into the piloting of a scheme which would utilise the Council Chamber for web-casting, using an 'out-hosted' system, this report to identify the revenue and resource implications of such a scheme.

REASON: On the basis that an out-hosted system would not require ICT to support the system and to ensure that the advantages, disadvantages, costs and resource implications of web-casting are fully understood before committing the Council to its introduction.

52. UPDATE ON CARRY FORWARD ISSUES AND KEY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE ALLOCATION OF SURPLUS RESOURCES

[See also under Part A Minutes]

Members considered a report which provided an update on the carry-forward issues deferred by the Executive on 30 June 2008, together with information on the level of the Council's reserves over the next three years. A decision was sought as to whether any of these reserves should be used for specific purposes in 2008/09.

The Executive had requested further information on the following carry-forward proposals:

- Unexpected social care costs of £275k - further work was on-going in this area and a report would be brought back in September.
- Compensation payment requests to the Guildhall Orchestra and two other users of the Barbican – further information was set out in Annex 1 to the report.
- £38k set aside in contingency for 2008/09 to include further schemes in the IT Development Plan that were on a reserve list – summaries of the updated business cases for these bids were presented in Annex 2.

A forecast position on the level of the Council's reserves for the current financial year through to 2010/11 was attached at Annex 3 to the report. This indicated a decline in the 'headroom' figure above the minimum level of reserves in each successive year, falling from £9,845k in the current year to £1,937k by the end of 2010/11. The report advised that it would not be prudent to organise a separate allocation process to spend a one-off amount of reserves at this early stage in the year. However, the Executive's approval was sought in principle to create a separate fund for 'invest to save' schemes that would contribute to meeting the Council's efficiency target. This would enable high levels of reserves to be used early in the period, on the basis that they were repaid from efficiencies made as levels of reserves began to fall.

Having noted the advice of the Shadow Executive on this item, it was

RECOMMENDED: That an 'invest to save' fund of £1m be established from the General Reserve.

REASON: To build capacity in the Council to deliver the increased efficiency target.

A Waller, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.05 pm].