

# EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES AND ADVISORY PANEL

TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2006

## 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, 12 September 2006. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

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

### 6. 2006/7 FIRST INTERIM REPORT - FINANCE & PERFORMANCE

- (i) That the draft financial position be noted;
- (ii) That the interim performance achievements and comments be noted.

### 7. 2008 PENSION REFORMS - GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

That the Director of Resources be given delegated authority to respond to the consultation supporting:

- (i) The continuation of a final salary pension scheme under Option A (paragraph 9 of report – effectively a continuation of the current Scheme);
- (ii) The increase in death benefit from 2 to 3 years pay;
- (iii) The introduction of cohabitees' pensions;
- (iv) The increase in employee contribution rates to between 6-7%;
- (v) A single contribution rate for all employees;
- (vi) The review of ill health retirements;
- (vii) Option C – Treat all accrued service as a benefit payable on retirement under the terms of the current scheme. Because these benefits have already been funded this is likely to prove cost neutral.
- (viii) No extension to employer discretions;

- (ix) The overall context of early and flexible retirement;
- (x) The idea that future reviews of the employee contribution rate should only occur when fundamental changes to Scheme benefits are made.

## **8. UPDATE ON EFFICIENCY SAVINGS**

- (i) That the progress against efficiency targets be noted;
- (ii) That it be noted that the Council is expecting to achieve its government set efficiency target one year early.

## **9. DDA (DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT) PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

- (i) That the Council's response to the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) be acknowledged.
- (ii) That this report be passed to Members of the Social Inclusion Working Group for information.

## **10. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES, SUNDRY DEBTORS, COUNCIL TAX AND OVERPAID HOUSING BENEFIT ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED FOR WRITE-OFF**

- (i) That the write-off of the amount of £228,300, as shown in paragraph 4 of the report (with individual debts listed in the appendices to the report), be approved, taking note that each debt has a value greater than £2,000;
- (ii) That the write-off of £143,600 of accounts valued at less than £2,000 for the 6 month period to 20 March 2006 (as shown in paragraph 4 of the report), under the Head of Finance's delegated authority, be noted.

## **11. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S FRAUD AND CORRUPTION PROSECUTION POLICY**

Members requested the following alterations to be made to the detail of the policy; that

- (i) the words "before the courts" be deleted from the final sentence in paragraph 2.1 of the policy;
- (ii) the first clause of the first sentence of paragraph 4.3 should

read, "Where the perpetrator (and/or their partner in HB/CTB cases) is suffering from prolonged ill health or has a serious disability or other incapacity where illness is a material factor,".

In addition, Members requested that the policy need to have numbered or lettered bullet point for ease and accuracy of reference.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That the revised fraud and prosecution policy be approved with the alterations (i) and (ii) listed above.

**12. STAFF WARNING REGISTER: EXTENSION OF ACCESS AND SCOPE**

- (i) That access to the Staff Warning Register be granted to all elected Members and suitable training be arranged.
- (ii) That use be made of a future pre-Council seminar to deliver the training.

