
MEETING	DECISION SESSION - EXECUTIVE LEADER
DATE	27 JANUARY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR WALLER (EXECUTIVE LEADER)

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Executive Leader was invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests he might have in the business on the agenda. He confirmed that he had none.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Decision Session of the Executive Leader, held on 5 January 2010, be approved and signed by the Executive Leader as a correct record.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/OTHER SPEAKERS

Representations had been received from Unison with regard to agenda item 4 (Revenue Budget Estimates 2010 –11 – Chief Executives).

The Unison representative advised the Executive Leader that he had submitted a written representation which contained his full statement (attached as Annex A) but reiterated that he disagreed with the potential redundancy situation that would occur if one full-time equivalent Democracy Officer post was deleted and stated that losing a post would have an adverse effect on services. He voiced his concern that there had been a lack of consultation so far and asked that discussion take place with Unison to find a solution.

11. REVENUE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010/11 - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S

The Executive Leader considered a report which presented the 2010 -11 budget proposals for Chief Executive's Directorate which included:

- The base revenue budget for 2010-11 showing existing budgets;
- The cost of pay and price increases, increments and settlement of pay and grading appeals for the portfolio;
- Proposals for budget service pressure costs and savings options for the portfolio area;
- Fees and charges proposals.

The Finance Manager updated the Executive Leader in relation to the services pressures listed in Annex 2 to the report.

With regard to the savings proposal ref CEXES16 as listed in Annex 3, and taking into account the comments made by the speaker, the Executive Leader proposed that the Director of People and Improvement be requested to look at alternatives to the deletion of the one full-time equivalent Democracy Officer post.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That it be confirmed that the budget proposals are in line with the Council's priorities.
- (ii) That the report be referred to the Executive for consideration.
- (iii) That the written and verbal representations made to the Executive Leader be taken into consideration when the Executive considers the final budget proposals.
- (iv) That the Director of People and Improvement be requested to investigate alternatives to the deletion of one full time Democracy Officer post.

REASON:

As part of the consultation on the Chief Executive Directorate's budget for 2010-11.

12. REVENUE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010/11 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Leader considered a report which presented the 2010-11 budget proposals for Economic Development which included:

- The base revenue budget for 2010-11 showing existing budgets;
- The cost of pay and price increases, increments and settlement of pay and grading appeals for the portfolio;
- Proposals for budget service pressure costs and savings options for the portfolio area;
- Fees and charges proposals.

The Finance Manager updated the Executive Leader in relation to the services pressures listed in Annex 2 to the report, including the roll out of the Kingsway West Initiative.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That it be confirmed that the budget proposals are in line with the Council's priorities.

- (ii) That the report be referred to the Executive for consideration.
- (iii) That the roll out of the experiences from the Kingsway West Project be strongly supported for widening the impact of the Council campaign on financial and economic inclusion across the city.

REASON:

As part of the consultation on the Economic Development budget for 2010-11.

Councillor A Waller, Executive Leader
[The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 4.10 pm].

This page is intentionally left blank

Decision Session – Executive Leader

Wednesday 27 January 2010

Annex of Additional Comments received from Members and members of the public since the agenda was published

Written representations in respect of Annex 3 to agenda item 4 (Revenue Budget Estimates 2010/11 – Chief Executive’s)

Received from:	Comments:
Peter Weck, Unison	<p>Savings proposal no. CEXES 16 proposes the deletion of one full time Democracy Officer post, reducing the number of Democracy Officers from 5 to 4.</p> <p>The Democracy Officer team provides support for the Council’s decision-making process, servicing a wide range of meetings from Executive Decision Sessions to Overview and Scrutiny Committees. All five Democracy Officer posts are currently filled and each Officer has a full portfolio of meetings to service. Predominantly, the work of Democracy Officers is a statutory service.</p> <p>The proposal, if accepted, would result in a redundancy - very likely a compulsory redundancy. As well as the adverse effect on the person made redundant, this would place a great deal of pressure on the remaining members of the team. The abolition of EMAPs and the Shadow Executive are noted, but EMAPS have been replaced with public Executive Member Decision Making Sessions and more Scrutiny Committees. In addition, 2 more Working Groups are now being serviced by the team.</p> <p>The report to the Executive Leader states that the savings proposals have been subjected to ‘a <i>rigorous assessment process</i>’. However, there has been no prior consultation with unions on this</p>

particular proposal and no information is provided in the report to explain the assessment process. The potential impact of the cut on service delivery is mentioned but not explained. Neither does the report evidence that there is less work to be covered by the team. There is also the effect on the wider team to consider. The Democracy team works closely with Scrutiny and Member Services. A proposal to delete the vacant Scrutiny Assistant post has also been put forward, when plans were in place to fill the post following the increase in scrutiny committees arising from the Council restructure in May 2009. Losing a vacant post in this very tightly resourced team is bad enough but to potentially make an existing member of staff redundant as well, when there are clearly pressing work needs across all the areas which make up Democratic Services, does not make for effective work planning.

In summary:

- this proposal has been poorly thought through in the context of the current and future workload of Democratic Services (incorporating Democracy, Scrutiny & Members Services) as a whole
- there has been inadequate consultation on the proposal with unions and staff; and
- not enough thought has been given to alternative proposals which could achieve the required saving without creating a redundancy.