

MEETING	URGENCY COMMITTEE
DATE	9 MARCH 2006
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR S F GALLOWAY (in the Chair) COUNCILLORS MERRETT, MACDONALD (substituting for Cllr Reid), WALLER AND WILDE (substituting for Cllr Kind)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS KIND and REID

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point any personal or prejudicial interests which they might have in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

17. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of part of agenda item 3 (exempt Minute 14 of the Minutes of the Urgency Committee meeting held on 27 September 2005), on the grounds that it contains information relating to an individual, which is classed as exempt under paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Urgency Committee, held on 27 September 2005, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

19. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

20. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESTRUCTURE FOR SCIENCE CITY YORK

Members considered a report which sought approval for a proposed organisational development and restructure within the Science City York (SCY) partnership, in order to implement the new Action Plan funded through the Sub-Regional Investment Plan.

The report was presented as an urgent item because the funding agreement required progress to be shown on the restructure before the end of March. There was also a need to ensure certainty for staff as soon as possible, given previous delays on securing the funding from Yorkshire Forward (YF).

A key requirement of the Action Plan was to ensure that the team resources could deliver the required 800 jobs and 40 new business opportunities over the next four years. In accordance with YF's contractual requirements, Hay consultants had undertaken an independent assessment of SCY, resulting in the restructure proposals outlined in Annex B to the report and detailed in paragraph 16. Briefly, these involved upgrading the SCY Manager post to Project Director (scale PO 17-20), creating new posts of Head of Development and Delivery, Cluster Co-Ordinator (x3), Communication Manager and Office Manager and upgrading the three existing Business Promoter posts. Some existing posts would be deleted, resulting in three current postholders being "at risk". They would be able to access the Council's redeployment process. The proposals had the support of the SCY Strategy Board and had no costs implications for the Council.

During their discussions, Members queried the basis of the salary proposed for the Project Director post and asked a number of questions relating to the content of the Action Plan, in particular the 800 new jobs. Officers confirmed that the salary scale for the Director's post was based upon the higher level activity to be undertaken by the postholder and the move towards a more national focus for the team. With regard to jobs, £80k per year would be invested in developing skills for local residents, thus enabling them to benefit from the team's work. However, there were currently no targets within the Plan for the recruitment of local people. It was suggested that the matter be considered further at the next meeting of the Economic Development Board.

Councillor Merrett indicated that he was happy to support the proposals, subject to local employment targets being included in the new Action Plan.

- RESOLVED:
- (i) That the proposed structure, as set out in Annex B to the report, be agreed.
 - (ii) That approval be given to establish the new posts as set out in paragraph 16.

- (iii) That the proposed job functions and related pay grading set out in paragraph 16 be approved, pending the outcome of the City of York Council's job evaluation process.
- (iv) That immediate action be authorised to fill the posts, as outlined in the report.

REASONS: In accordance with the implementation requirements of the new Action Plan and the recommendations of the independent consultants who assessed the SCY's resources.

- (v) That a brief report on the Action Plan be tabled at the next meeting of the Economic Development Board (EDB), on 14 March, and circulated to Members before that meeting.

REASON: To ensure that the EDB is made aware of the issues within the Action Plan that relate to their remit, and in particular the links between the City of York's workforce and the jobs to be created by the Action Plan.

S F GALLOWAY

Chair

[The meeting started at 4:30 pm and finished at 4:50 pm]