

PORTFOLIO:
CORPORATE RESOURCES
Report of
Portfolio Holder:
COUNCILLOR
JACQUELYNE GEDDES

1. KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS

1.1 Review of Charges 2002/2003 – Local Land Charges and Search Fees

Under the proposal Option 2, the cost of standard search increases from £71.50 to £82.50 – an increase of £11.00. This decision was taken to reduce the shortfall in the surplus due to increased charges by CAPITA dbs.

1.2 DECISION REF EX 33/01 – New Spending Bids 2002/2003

A non-recurring bid of £25,000 + recurring costs £3,500 for Committee Servicing Software has been made. This will rationalise and standardise committee report retrieval.

2. NON KEY ISSUES – PROGRESS

2.1 DECISION REF EX 35/01 – DTLR Consultation Papers on Travel and Subsistence Allowances and Pensions for Members.

Views were sought from the Executive, the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee and other members of Carlisle City Council.

The City Treasurer in consultation with myself a Portfolio Holder co-ordinated the City Council's response to the DTLR.

3. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

3.1 KD 22/01 Review of Member Support Needs

A decision on the outcome of the review will be taken on 26 November 2001.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Personnel Services Contact

Following the announcement of me being allocated the Corporate Resources Portfolio I visited the department for the purpose of familiarising myself with the activities within the department. These meetings took place on 11 and 18 September and I was shown Recruitment and Training databases and other aspects of Personnel Services.

I was involved in future members' training and development generally and also enlisting support from members for the Cumbria Training Officers Group event which was held at Newton Rigg on the subject of E government for Elected Members.

The Head of Personnel Services and I attended the Northern Personnel Briefing which was held in Harrogate on 27 and 29 September 2001. This is an annual event organised by the North West, North East and Yorkshire and Humberside Employers Organisations for the purpose of bringing together the Chief Personnel Officer and the relevant Elected Member of each authority to be briefed on a range of topical issues in the area of human resources in Local Government.

On 31 October 2001 North West Employers Organisation is hosting a reception to launch the first of the awards for the Charter for Member Development within the North West. The event is being held at the Lowry Centre, Salford and the Head of Personnel Services is attending with myself as Portfolio Holder. As part of the event, other authorities that have reached the standard for the Charter in Member Development will make presentations. They will brief those attending on how they achieved the standard.

Disability Discrimination Act requirements for 2004

Discussions have taken place to try to prioritise the work necessary to implement the requirement for access to the City Council's property over the planned maintenance. A further report will be taken to the Executive on 5 November 2001.

Emergency Planning

Discussions have taken place with a view to formalising existing generic plans to deal with any type of disaster. Training needs were identified and will be put in place.

Customer Contact and E Governance

Discussions have taken place with a view to improve customer contact and to meet the government target of 2005 to deliver E Government. A Best Value Review Team has been set up to look at Customer Contact and Risk Management.

A presentation was given, at the Sands Centre on Tuesday 16 October 2001, by Northgate, on the solution by Halton authority who have achieved some success in linking CRM Customer Resource Management with the back office. Further information can be found in the Member's information files.

APSE National Conference at Birmingham

The new Portfolio Holder and I attended a two-day conference on 12 and 13 October 2001; City Council officers were also in attendance. Carlisle was awarded Grounds Service Team of the Year at the Civic Dinner. Les Tickner of Carlisle Works and I, on behalf of the Environmental Service staff collected the award. The full submission is available on the APSE web site. Publicity has been placed in Direct News, Horticultural News and the next edition of Carlisle Focus. Copies will be placed on file for member's information, as they become available.

APSE Regional Seminar

Carlisle hosted the APSE Regional Seminar on Friday 21 September 2001 in the Civic Centre. I attended this seminar and the above conference, as they were commitments in connection with my previous role as Chairman of the DSO Board; they took place during the roll over period of the new political structures.

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

National Association of Councillors

Members of the Executive considered that the programme of training courses were inappropriate at the time therefore no action was taken.

Stanwix Community Association

I have attended the AGM and the first meeting. The Community Association continues to do well and has received £4,000 additional lottery funding through Sports For All.

North West Employers Organisation

Meetings attended:

- Regional Human Resources Committee
- Regional Overview & Scrutiny Committee – elected as Chairman
- Regional Joint Council

East Cumbria Community Health Council

I attended a meeting of the East and West Community Health Councils held at the Moota Hotel at Cockermouth.