

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2002 AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Ellis (Chairman), Councillors Boaden, Mrs Crookdake (as substitute for Councillor J Mallinson), Mrs Fisher, Knapton, Toole and Weber.

ALSO

PRESENT: Councillor Bloxham attended the meeting as the Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being to answer questions in relation to the call-in of Minute EX.028/02 of the Executive meeting of 28 January 2002 relating to the Leisuretime Externalisation.

COS.23/02 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

COS.24/02 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor J Mallinson.

COS.25/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations affecting any item on the Agenda.

COS.26/02 CALL-IN – LEISURETIME EXTERNALISATION

Councillors Boaden, McMillan and Weber had called in for scrutiny Minute EX.028/02 of the Executive of 28 January 2002 regarding the Leisuretime Externalisation. Copies of the Executive Decision Notice and the prospective weightings evaluation matrix had been circulated to Members.

The call-in related to that part of the Executive decision which set the overall weightings split at 80% quality and 20% finance, and which authorised the Portfolio Holders for Health and Well Being, and Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Director of Leisure and Community Development, to determine the weightings for the individual criteria in the evaluation matrix.

Councillor Bloxham, Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being, was present at the meeting and, together with the Director of Leisure and Community Development, Head of Legal Services and Head of Personnel Services responded to Members' questions.

During discussion the following issues were raised:

(i) Members questioned why the overall weightings split had been set at 80% quality and 20% finance. The Portfolio Holder advised that the Executive felt that the emphasis should be on quality of service and, if that could be achieved, the finance would follow.

(ii) Item 12 – Human Resources – Members felt that this was an important issue and consequently the weighting attached to the item, as detailed in the evaluation matrix, should be increased to 6.

(iii) Item 22 – Best Value – Members expressed the following concerns:

(a) the continuing importance of Best Value, notwithstanding a contractual relationship;

(b) that there would be two Best Value Reviews during a 15 year contract;

(c) that the Council would retain responsibility and therefore risk associated with delivering any future Best Value Action Plan.

It was therefore suggested that the weighting be increased.

The Portfolio Holder undertook to consider the Committee's requests as set out above in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources and the Director of Leisure and Community Development.

RESOLVED – (1) That this Committee does not object to that part of Executive decision EX.028/02 which relates to the overall weightings split set at 80% quality and 20% finance.

(2) That the Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources and the Director of Leisure and Community Development, be requested to consider increasing the weighting attached to item 12 (Human Resources) to 6.

(3) That the Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources and the Director of Leisure and Community Development, be requested to take account of the views expressed regarding item 22 (Best Value) and consider increasing the weighting attached thereto.

[The meeting ended at 11.00 am]