

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS ON  
TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2008 AT  
7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J O Ranger (Chairman).  
Councillors R Beeching, R N Copping, K Darby,  
R Gilbert, A M Graham, J Mayes, M Pope,  
J Warren.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Clark, N P Clark, J Hedley,  
A P Jackson, M J Tindale, M Wood.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Freimanis	- Chief Executive
Linda Bevan	- Committee Secretary
Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Philip Hamberger	- Director of Internal Services
Marian Langley	- Scrutiny Officer
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services

523 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of  
Councillor S Rutland-Barsby.

524 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman asked all Members to concentrate on  
matters on the agenda rather than peripheral issues in  
order to expedite the business of the meeting.

He also informed the Committee that it would be considering a review of the Council's budgetary process as part of the forward plan for the Committee in 2008/2009.

**RECOMMENDED ITEM**

**ACTION**

**525 CONSOLIDATED BUDGET REPORT - PROBABLE  
OUTTURN 2007/08: REVENUE BUDGET 2008/09 AND  
(MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN) 2008/09 TO 2011/12**

**The Executive Member for Resources and Internal Support submitted a report detailing the Probable Outturn for 2007/08 and the proposed Revenue Budget for 2008/09.**

**The report consolidated information on the Capital Programme, Round 2 Service Estimate, Fees and Charges and Service Options 2008/09.**

**The Executive Member explained that this was a new report for Members to help explain the budget process more clearly. The revenue support grant settlement had been set by the Government at only 1% for 2008/09 and 0.5% for the following two years. Proposed efficiency savings were also shown in the report.**

**The Chairman referred Members to the revised sheet that had been tabled correcting the figures in paragraph 8.1 of the report now submitted.**

**It was noted that the comments and/or recommendations of the Committee would be referred direct to Council on 20 February 2008.**

**Some Members raised items for inclusion in the budget for 2008/09. These included an additional Dial-a-Ride service, additional Energy Efficiency Officer, financial support for playschemes, the provision of a cycle path through the Meads, Bishop's Stortford, tennis courts and an eco house in an urban area.**

ACTION

Some Members were concerned in particular that lack of play provision would lead to anti-social behaviour as there was a lack of time for private schemes to take the place of Council ones this year. The Leader assured the Committee that this was being addressed.

The Committee was informed that Executive Members were considering some of the issues raised in overall reviews of transport, leisure provision and energy efficiency. A sum was proposed for inclusion in the budget to help with playscheme provision. The Council was aiming to enable and facilitate rather than provide services. It was investigating partnership working with other authorities and agencies to provide staff for some areas and to share other resources.

The Committee agreed that the matters raised should be considered during the next year and that the budget proposals should be approved.

**RECOMMENDED** - that the budget proposals, as submitted by the Executive, be supported subject to consideration of the following in the next year:

- (1) provision of a second Dial-a-Ride service or alternatives and the employment of a second Energy Efficiency Officer being investigated during the next year;
- (2) £20,000 being included in the budget to give assistance to voluntary sector playschemes or people needing assistance to join private playschemes where appropriate;
- (3) the provision of a cycle path through the Meads, Bishop's Stortford being considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee;

ACTION

- (4) the provision of improved access to tennis facilities being investigating as part of the new arrangements for leisure facilities and Officers investigate whether grants to local facilities have improved access to them.**

RESOLVED ITEMS526 MINUTES

Councillors D Clark and N Clark raised concerns under this item but the Chairman stated that these did not concern the accuracy of the minutes and the Councillors should seek redress elsewhere.

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

527 SERVICE PLANS 2008/09

The Leader of the Council submitted a report on the service plans 2008/09 which had been approved by the Executive.

Members raised the issue of providing continental style notice boards for events in the District and the Committee decided to consider this as part of the Forward Plan for the Committee.

The Committee agreed to note the service plans as now detailed and to consider signing of events.

RESOLVED - that (A) the 2008/09 service plans as now detailed be noted; and

(B) signing of events in the District be added to the Committee's Forward Plan.

CE

ACTION

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Chairman	.....
Date	.....

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