

COUNCIL
26th June, 2006

PRESENT – The Mayor; Councillors Baldwin, Bristow, Mrs. Brown, Copeland, Dixon, Flowers, Foster, Francis, Harker, Mrs. Hart, Hartley, Haszeldine, Holmes, Hughes, Johnson, B. Jones, S. J. Jones, Lawton, Lewis, Long, D.A. Lyonette, Maddison, Maybrey, McEwan, Newall, Nutt, Dr. Reynolds, Richmond, F. S. Robson, S. Robson, Ruck, A. J. Scott, Stenson, Mrs. Swift, Thistlethwaite, J.C. Vasey, L. Vasey, G. B. Walker, Wallis, Williams and Wilson. (42)

APOLOGIES – Councillors Armstrong, Galletley, Hutchinson, Mrs. Jones, Lee, J. Lyonette, Roberts, Mrs. Scott, Swainston and Vasey-Smith. (10)

ABSENT – Councillor Heaney. (1)

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Mrs. Hart declared a personal and non-judicial interest in Minute 23 below, as a Governor at Longfield School.

23. CORPORATE PLAN 2006-2009 – The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking approval for the adoption of the Corporate Plan 2006-2009 (also previously circulated), which included the Council's statutory requirements for the 2006/07 BVPP.

The submitted report detailed the background to the compilation and publishing of an annual Best Value and Performance Plan; indicated that the draft document had been produced to ensure compliance with audit criteria and technical accuracy of year-end data; and stated that all performance indicators had been collated and were reported.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Corporate Plan 2006-2009, as appended to the submitted report, be approved for adoption.

(b) That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to oversee any more amendments in the final print production of the Corporate Plan 2006-2009.

REASONS – (a) To meet statutory obligations to produce a Best Value Performance Plan

(b) To ensure the content is as accurate and up to date as possible.

24. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005-2006 – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval of the Council's draft Statement of Accounts 2005-2006 (also previously circulated), prior to audit by the Council's appointed auditor, PricewaterhouseCooper (PwC), and requesting that consideration be given to the application of the £2.5m Single Status Reserve to meet backdated costs in 2005-2006.

The submitted report outlined the requirement in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 for local authorities to approve their 2005-2006 Statement of Accounts by 30th June 2006, and the reasons for the provision of the £2.5m Single Status Reserve to meet backdated costs in 2005-06.

Following a number of questions raised by Members, the Director of Corporate Services stated that he would give a written response to all Members thereon.

RESOLVED – (a) That the draft Statement of Accounts for 2005-2006, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the application of the £2.5m Single Status Reserve to meet backdated costs in 2005-2006, be approved.

REASON – To meet statutory requirements for formal approval of the Council’s accounts prior to Audit and to comply with proper accounting practice.

25. STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval to the Council’s Statement on Internal Control (also previously circulated).

The submitted report stated that Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations required local authorities to publish, each year, a Statement on Internal Control (SIC), which formed part of the overall Statement of Accounts for 2005-2006 and that it must be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

RESOLVED – That the Statement on Internal Control, as appended to the submitted report, be approved.

REASON – It comprises part of the Council’s corporate governance arrangements.

26. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting approval to the revision to the membership of Committees for 2006/2007, following the resignation of Councillor Maybrey from the Conservative Group.

The submitted report detailed the political composition of the Council in relation to ‘Counting Committees’, and the number of seats the Conservative Group was entitled to following Councillor Maybrey’s resignation.

RESOLVED – That the revised membership of Committees for 2006/2007, as detailed in the appendix to the submitted report, be approved.

REASON – To ensure the political make-up of the Council is reflected in the Council’s ‘Counting Committees’.