

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Resources Portfolio Cabinet Member, Councillor Hugh Mason, at his decision meeting held on Thursday 22 January 2009 at 4.00 pm in the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Councillor David Horne (Opposition Spokesperson, Labour Group) and Officers were welcomed to the meeting by Councillor Mason.

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declaration of Members' Interests in accordance with Standing Order No 14 (AI 1)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Budget Monitoring 2008/09 – Revenue Cash Limit and Capital Programme (AI 2)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The portfolio holder for Resources asked that it be noted that where a request is made to carry forward the budget provision into the next year, there needs to be a specific reason to do so and it should be noted that there is no guarantee that this will happen. Any such request should be noted and brought to the attention of the Chief Finance Officer.

HFF

DECISIONS:

- (1) That the provision regarding the revenue forecast for 2008/09 and progress towards meeting the shortfall on the portfolio as set out in the report be noted.
- (2) That the forecast capital programme expenditure be noted.

4 The Lord Mayor and his role as President or Patron of the various local groups and associations

HDCE

Stewart Agland, Local Democracy Manager, introduced the report and advised that the Lord Mayor has not had any input into this but that there is no policy in place at present. The Cabinet Member for Resources was assured that it is within the remit of this portfolio to consider the report. Councillor David Horne mentioned that Portsmouth Music Festival had been omitted from Appendix 1 and it was agreed that this would be updated. Councillor Horne also said that there is nothing to indicate in the Appendix that any of the current associations in Appendix 1 would be removed by anything in this report and this is confirmed. Councillor Horne also made the point that Appendix 1 mentions the need for annual renewal.

It was agreed that the sentence in the report about organisations being made aware of the need for annual renewal would be deleted and that recommendation 3 would be amended to make clear that this applies only to future invitations and not to current organisations. The City Solicitor advised in relation to recommendation 5 of the report that where any member is appointed to an outside body they will probably be covered by insurance. However, if they are appointed as a Trustee the insurance does not cover them and they will need to arrange for insurance.

DECISIONS:

The Cabinet Member agreed

- (1) that as a matter of principle future invitations to the Lord Mayor to become President/Patron of a local organisation be accepted by the Lord Mayor of the day on an individual basis to be fulfilled during that Lord Mayor's year of office.**
- (2) that acceptance of a Presidency/Patronage is on the understanding that the organisation concerned is locally based or has clear local connections to a national organisation and in any particular case the organisation/group must be of a non-party political nature.**
- (3) that organisations to which an invitation is extended in the future submit a request for Presidency/Patronage in January of each year (this should be up to a maximum of 50)**
- (4) the manager of the service will advise the Lord Mayor on the suitability of an organisation upon which the decision can be made, that following the decision a letter is sent to notify organisations of the outcome by the end of April of each year.**
- (5) that a review is undertaken to ensure that insurance provision can be made for any member or officer when appointed to an outside body.**

5 Tell us 2 things pilot

(TAKE IN REPORT)

HCF

The Head of Customer Services presented the report and said that if the Tell us 2 things initiative is to continue then some funding will be necessary. The Head of Customer Services reported that there had not been much feedback from staff in response to a request to submit suggestions for achieving efficiency savings. However, requests through Flagship have received a good response from the general public. The Cabinet Member for Resources said that it was note worthy that the general public had responded well to the Tell us 2 things initiative. He was assured that there had been a reasonable response from Flagship and that although there are no cost implications in using this as the vehicle to obtain responses, there are implications in dealing with those responses.

Councillor David Horne asked about the MORI survey and the Place survey and the Head of Customer Services said that these tend to ask specific questions whereas under the Tell us 2 things initiative feedback can be given on anything. This means that broader information can be collected which complements the MORI survey and the Place survey. It also provides greater insight on how successful the council is in communicating with people. The Head of Customer First said that there is an issue about identify the comments, which come back as there is no corporate database to handle the responses. Setting up a database would make the system more efficient. The city council needs to learn from feedback and therefore needs to do something with the information received.

Of the 26 responses from PCC staff, none would result in efficiencies. The Head of Customer Services said that although using Flagship to ask for feedback from the general public with a relatively small cost, the second stage ie making sense of the responses, will require funds. The Head of Customer Services said that these costs could be absorbed within her own section for a short period of time. However, in order to deal adequately with responses, they would have to go to other departments and funding in other departments may not be available.

DECISIONS:

- (1) The Cabinet Member for Resources noted the matter for consideration in the report.**
- (2) The Cabinet Member for Resources agreed that Flagship should be used to canvass suggestions/complaints/compliments and comments from the general public.**
- (3) The Cabinet Member for Resources requested that a paper be brought to the next meeting of this portfolio holder dealing with**
 - (a) means by which complaints/compliments received may most effectively be dealt with to produce benefits to the organisation and**
 - (b) to recommend ways in which members of staff can be encouraged to make suggestions for running the service more efficiently.**

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm.

.....
Councillor Hugh Mason
Cabinet Member for Resources

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

NAME OF ORIGINATOR VICKI PLYTAS
WORD CODE res20090122m
NO OF PAGES 3
DATE CREATED 23 January 2009
CREATED BY Caroline
DATE LAST AMENDED
AMENDED BY
STORED w:\bts\docs\minutess

FINALISED FOR WEB

DO WE HAVE FINAL VERSION?

This document will automatically be deleted three months from the date of last update - if you require this document to be kept longer you must let us know

When this piece of work is no longer required please sign below and return to Supervisor

.....

NOTE: This document was printed on MFD00028. Due to circumstances beyond our control, you may experience some problems with page layout if saved to disk and printed on a different model printer.