

CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Hugh Mason, at his meeting held on Thursday, 3 October 2013 at 9.00 am at the The Executive Meeting Room - Third Floor, The Guildhall

Present

Councillor Hugh Mason (in the chair)

Councillor David Horne

Officers Present

Jon Bell, Head of HR, Legal & Performance

Susan Page, Finance Manager

Councillor Hugh Mason welcomed the opposition spokesperson and officers to the meeting.

29. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

30. Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

31. Twinning Matters (AI 3)

The Cabinet Member for Resources provided an update on twinning activities. With regard to the Caen twinning link, he reported that the twinning link is being used more effectively and that there will be a full presence at the Caen International Festival in November 2013.

The Cabinet Member said that there was nothing to report concerning the twinning link with Duisburg or Haifa at this time.

With regard to sister cities, he reported that the Lord Mayor had received an excellent and enthusiastic reception at Portsmouth, Rhode Island which she had visited at her own expense.

The Cabinet Member for Resources reported that two applications for a friendship link had been received, one from Zhuhai and one from Ningbo. He reported that a delegation was coming to Portsmouth from Ningbo at the beginning of November 2013. The Cabinet Member also reported that university students from Zhuhai were coming to study at Portsmouth University. He said that a twinning link with this city had considerable promise both cultural and economic.

The Cabinet Member for Resources reported that grant applications had been received from the Caen Committee which he was minded to accept. Councillor Horne said that he felt all three applications for grants were worthwhile. The report was noted.

DECISION:

That the portfolio holder

- (1) considered the grant applications received taking into the account the views of the Twinning Advisory Group; and***
- (2) approved the value of each grant application***
 - (i) to the Caen Committee £100 for the Caen l'international weekend - provision of small gifts***
 - (ii) to the Caen Committee for the Great South Run 2013 hospitality of the Caen team of £115***
 - (iii) to the Caen Committee for the reimbursement of the French fire service visit to Portsmouth hospitality costs of £300.***

The following item was for information only.

32. Monitoring of the First Quarter 2013/14 Revenue Cash Limits and Capital Programme (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Sue Page introduced the report which was to inform the Cabinet Member and opposition spokespersons of the forecast revenue expenditure for the year compared with the cash limited budget and the forecast capital expenditure against the revised capital programme for the Resources portfolio. She said that excluding windfall variances gives a net overspend on the portfolio of £21, 900 ie 0.18%.

With regard to the forecast overspend in HR, Legal & Performance, he said that he was reasonably comfortable with where his service is as matters had already moved on since the report was written. Much activity was taking place in order to reduce costs.

The Cabinet Member for Resources said that he was pleased with the turnaround in Legal Services which was now working within budget. He was also impressed by the quality of legal advice being given by the new team. He reported that other members had commented on the clarity and consistency of legal advice being given.

With regard to benefits administration, the Cabinet Member for Resources was aware of all the recent changes and said it was

important to minute that PCC is keeping a close eye on the pressures these changes brought to staff.

33. Date of Next Meeting (AI 5)

The date of the next scheduled meeting is Thursday 5 December 2013.

The meeting concluded at 9.17 am.

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Councillor Hugh Mason
Cabinet Member for Resources