

## **ACTION NOTES FROM STAR CHAMBER HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2008**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R Mace (Chair), E Archer, J Ashworth, J Barry, E Blamire, A Bryning, J Gilbert, D Kerr, T Johnson, M Whitelegg  
M Cullinan, R Muckle, N Muschamp, G Cox (Part), J Barlow (notes)

### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Peter Loker.

### **2 ACTION NOTES OF LAST MEETING**

#### Capital – Uncommitted Projects

Amendments to the notes were that the Salt Ayre climbing wall had been withdrawn by the Service; Star Chamber supported proceeding with the Salt Ayre pool side seating, albeit cost neutral.

#### Concessionary Travel

The Head of Finance reported that there should be a concession available before 9.30 am and that operators were aware of this. Star Chamber agreed to promote the new scheme before it started.

#### Revenue – Festivals and Events

The report requested re further clarification on Festivals and Events would be circulated electronically as soon as it was available.

### **3 CAPITAL UPDATE**

#### Property Review – G Cox

Responses to questions previously circulated to the Head of Property Services were discussed.

Star Chamber requested a special informal meeting of Cabinet to review the Corporate Property Strategy at some future date.

Supplementary questions to the Head of Property Services to be made in writing and answers to be circulated to all Cabinet and Management Team.

#### Properties for Potential Disposal

Members supported the marketing of land at Kellet Road Industrial Estate, Carnforth; and land and garage at Oxford Street, Morecambe and these would be added to the Capital Receipts schedule. Further consideration to be given to Edenbreck Farm.

The Head of Finance clarified that White Lund Depot car park improvements had been taken out of the draft Capital Programme.

#### Capital Programme

There was a shortfall of £210K over the 5-year period of the Programme less the capital receipts identified.

A revised figure for the municipal buildings backlog of repairs would be ready for Cabinet on 19 February.

Councillor Johnson requested details of the Middlewood Wood scheme.

#### Public Toilets

A note submitted by the Corporate Director (Community Services) clarified that the £110K removed from the Programme at a previous meeting was correct. The Head of Finance confirmed there was no provision in the draft Programme for toilets at Regent Road and that a further report on this would be prepared.

## **REVENUE UPDATE**

The draft Savings and Growth Proposals Schedule was discussed. There was a surplus of £53K. Political Groups should make their individual proposals for the use of this money to Cabinet.

### Car Park Permits

The issue of free or subsidised parking for other agencies was being investigated by the Budget and Performance Panel.

Remaining and future risks were Fair Pay and a revised Pay and Grading structure – a 1% increase in the overall pay bill amounted to approximately £100K; Treasury Management and uncertainty of the markets; changing interest rates, Concessionary Travel although the new pooling arrangements shared the risk; LAA – Area Based Grants needed clarification.

Certainties were the Council had received a 3-year Settlement.

Everyone was reminded that savings of £1M were required over the next two years.

Councillor Mace thanked everyone for their contributions to the Star Chamber process over the period of eight months leading up to the Budget Council.

**JEB/13 February 2008**