

ACTION NOTES FROM STAR CHAMBER HELD ON 11 JULY 2007

PRESENT: Councillors R Mace (Chair), E Archer, J Barry, E Blamire, J Gilbert
M Cullinan, J Donnellon, P Loker, R Muckle, N Muschamp, J Barlow

1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2 NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Noted.

3 COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Work was ongoing on the two options agreed by Council which would be reported into Cabinet and then Council in September. Members would be briefed prior to this in order that issues could be fully considered before decisions were made. It was noted that homeworking and hot desking would be considered in the report.

4 MARKET SQUARE FOUNTAIN

There was no capital provision at present for this. The consultation revealed a majority view for removing the existing fountain but no clear consensus for what should replace it. Star Chamber would reconsider when looking at the capital programme later in the budget process.

5 REVIEW OF BRIDGE MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The latest position was noted. Discussions had started with County Council re formal adoption of bridges but no decisions would be made until reports from structural engineers had been received and these were expected at the end of August. There would be a report back to Star Chamber once the financial implications were known of what work was required to make ready for formal adoption by County.

It was noted that the liability for the work required at the Storey Institute was still being pursued with County.

6 OUTTURN SUMMARY

The draft Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn 2006/07 Cabinet report was considered. Members noted that the Cabinet PRT meetings would have an opportunity to consider outturn variances and requests for carry forwards as would the Budget & Performance Panel.

7 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Star Chamber considered various options for delivering savings targets and agreed :

25 July -

- Review of growth already included in 2008/09 and 2009/10 budgets.
- Review previous savings options that have so far not received support from members.
- Review of Capital Receipts.
- Consider existing Capital Programme to assess support for the schemes included and also to consider possible rescheduling options.

29 August

- Consider a timetable for reviewing the component strategies within the current Efficiency Strategy to identify potential savings.
- Services to prepare a vfm review of their functional areas and options for efficiency savings calculated as a % of controllable expenditure (options to exclude increases in charges). Paperwork to be available for this meeting.

September

To receive a review of budget policies as part of the scheduled review of the MTFS.

8 BEST VALUE PLANNING AUTHORITY

The draft report going to Cabinet on 24 July was considered and its recommendations were generally supported.

9 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Decisions were required before the next budget setting process on the position of existing temporary posts. A further report was requested to be prepared for consideration prior to the September Cabinet. Star Chamber to reconsider the report and other options at Star Chamber on 25 July.

10 Date of Next Meeting

25 July 2007, 10.00 a.m.