

EXTRACT FROM

EMPLOYEES' CONSULTATIVE FORUM MINUTES

26 JANUARY 2010

Chairman: * Councillor Paul Osborn

Councillors: * David Ashton * Tony Ferrari (4)
* Mrs Camilla Bath * B E Gate (1)
* Bob Currie * Graham Henson

**Representatives
of HTCC:** Ms L Snowdon

**Representatives
of UNISON:** * Ms L Ahmad * Mr G Martin
* Mr D Butterfield * Mr A Shola-Gbade
* Mr S Compton * Mr R Thomas

**Representatives
of GMB:** † Mr S Brooks * Ms K McDonald

* Denotes Member present
(1) and (4) Denote category of Reserve Members
† Denotes apologies received

RESOLVED ITEMS

190 Consultation on the Draft Revenue Budget for 2010-11 and MTFS for 2010-11 to 2012-13 and Draft Capital Programme for 2010-11 to 2012-13

The Forum received a report and presentation from the Corporate Director Finance to enable consultation with the Trade Unions on the proposals in the Draft Revenue Budget for 2010-11 and MTFS (Medium Term Financial Strategy) for 2010-11 to 2012-13 and Draft Capital Programme for 2010-11 to 2012-13, agreed by Cabinet on 17 December 2009. It was noted that the Leader of the Council would be meeting with the Trade Unions to discuss the budget the following week.

In response to questions from the Trade Unions, it was noted that:

- the costs of consultation cross-council were not quantified and would be difficult to identify. The Corporate Director Finance undertook to determine whether a broad estimate could be captured;
- the Council Tax freeze for 2010-11 was as a result of the challenging situation faced by residents;
- the Council was investigating the optimisation of revenue where appropriate. Items considered by Cabinet as a response to a study on revenue raising opportunities two years previously, which had included looking at other authorities, were outlined. It was proposed to revisit this framework and to explore other avenues. This would include a future operating model to ascertain whether services could be offered to other authorities as part of a business case;
- the appointment of consultants took place where they added value to the organisation and provided costs were justified. Any clawback of monies on performance would depend on the contractual arrangements. The measure of delivery of individual consultants varied and was dependent on the outcome of a business case or the work they were expected to undertake. Any concerns regarding consultants could be pursued through other established channels;
- with regard to investment in services, the composition of the £4.5m was detailed in the main report. It was noted that the investment in services did not relate to the Transformation Programme, the results of which would not impact until 2011/12.

An Employee Representative suggested that the Council consider becoming a waste disposal authority. The Corporate Director Finance stated that the Council could not opt out of the West London Waste Authority (WLWA). However the WLWA was identifying the availability of disposal sites in the region. In addition, the Council was working with the six Local Authorities in West Waste in bidding for new refuse disposal facilities.

It was suggested that consideration be given to renting surplus Council land to local businesses. The Chairman stated that revenue implications would need to be considered in any business case.

The Chairman stated that any ideas regarding revenue raising opportunities would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the comments of the Trades Unions be reported to Cabinet.