

Runnymede Borough CouncilREVIEW BOARD13 October 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

Members of the Board present: Councillors J. Broadhead (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), Ms D.V. Clarke, J.B. Dean, J.R. Furey, Mrs L.M. Gillham, C. Knight, R.J. Ray, and P.B. Tuley.

Member of the Board absent: Councillor J.E. Haas.

309. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The following Group had notified the Chief Executive Officer of their wish that the changes listed below be made to the membership of the Board. The changes were for a fixed period ending on the day after the meeting and thereafter the Councillors removed would be reappointed.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Remove From Membership</u>	<u>Appoint Instead</u>
Conservative	Councillor Mrs C.E. Gant	Councillor C. Knight
Conservative	Councillor C.J. Norman (Chairman)	Councillor J.R. Furey

The Chief Executive Officer had given effect to these wishes in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

310. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J.E. Haas.

311. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Review Board meetings held on 12 May 2005 and 14 July 2005 were confirmed and signed as correct records.

312. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

In respect of the item entitled "Net Revenue Reductions – Further Proposals", Councillors J.R. Furey and P.B. Tuley declared personal interests by reason of being Members of the Corporate Management Committee on 8 September 2005 which had taken the decision on this issue. The interest was judged to be only prejudicial if the original decision itself was debated. As the original decision was not debated, Councillors J.R. Furey and P.B. Tuley remained in the room.

313. NET REVENUE REDUCTIONS – FURTHER PROPOSALS

One of the items agreed in the Board's Work Programme of July 2004 was progress made by the Council in achieving net revenue reduction targets. The Board accordingly considered the report to the Corporate Management Committee on 8 September 2005 on "Net Revenue Reductions - Further Proposals" and a minute of the Committee's decision. The Committee, having noted the views of UNISON, had decided that the Chief Executive Officer and Directors be authorised to implement proposals for net revenue savings, subject to third party agreement and to consideration of detail where necessary, with any such additional matters to be dealt with by appropriate Committees. The Corporate Management Committee had also agreed that the policy Committees and Review Board be asked to note the proposals and monitor progress via their Service Plan reporting mechanisms, where appropriate. The Board noted the proposals for net revenue savings agreed by the Corporate Management Committee.

The proposals, which had emerged after a challenging and rigorous exercise, were consistent with the policy guidance on potential reductions agreed in March 2005 and had been formulated with regard for existing policy priorities, legislative obligations, the external efficiency targets set by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and an internally devised ranking mechanism developed for prioritisation purposes. The reductions arose from the rebasing of budgets, increases in discretionary fees and charges, the rescheduling of, and reductions in, special works, the restructuring, refocusing or reduction of service provision and re-engineering and efficiency savings. The reductions were planned for delivery in the current year where possible, or otherwise during 2006/07 - 2007/08. The total reductions now identified stood at £2.623m, a sum which would satisfy most of the requirements of the Council's medium term financial strategy.

The Committee noted that staff redundancies and pension and superannuation costs would be minimised and, if possible, avoided. However, as some of the proposals involved potential redundancies, full consultation would take place with UNISON (which had already submitted a constructive response to initial discussions) and affected staff prior to any final decisions being implemented. All staff had received a detailed briefing on the proposals, their implications and timing. Consultation was also being undertaken with users on various topics, at the Queen Elizabeth House Day Centre on proposals to revise service provision, at the Eileen Tozer Day Centre regarding the withdrawal of weekend meals and at the Literary Institute, Egham, on proposals to lease the premises to Strode's College.

The Board noted the policy guidance for the revenue reduction exercise recommended at the Corporate Management Committee on 6 January 2005 and subsequently agreed at the Council meeting on 8 March 2005. The proposals agreed by Corporate Management Committee on 8 September had been the subject of detailed briefings for the party groups. The proposals had been drawn up so that they were consistent with the policy guidance agreed in March 2005 by the Council and also so that they were achievable. They had now been included in the Council's five year Financial Forecast. It was the intention that the implementation of the proposals should be completed as quickly and sensitively as possible.

The Board agreed that the process appeared to have been thorough and consistent with the previous policy guidance approved by Council on 8 March 2005 and that the arrangements for achieving the various measures, including consultation with staff and UNISON and, where applicable, service users, appeared satisfactory.

In addition to receiving reports in future on progress in achieving the net revenue savings, the Board requested to be advised of any major variations in the financial targets for each of the proposals, of any new revenue reductions which were identified and of the details of any substitute proposals that might become necessary.

314. ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTROL - PROGRESS REPORT

The Board noted the progress report on the enforcement of planning control as at 30 September 2005. The Board agreed that, if it were possible to do so, Officers should provide more dates in the history column in these reports in future and group the cases in date order by site rather than by date and file reference.

In particular the Board noted the following:-

i) Padd Farm, Hurst Lane, Egham

In relation to the Padd Farm site, a number of potential courses of legal action were being contemplated by Officers.

ii) Crockford Bridge Farm, New Haw Road, Addlestone

Prosecution would ensue, unless the operators removed the unauthorised structures.

iii) Thorpe Water Ski, Thorpe Road, Chertsey

Officers were currently looking at a composite planning application, and an environmental impact assessment.

iv) Land adjacent to Stroude Road and Clockhouse Lane West, Egham

A stop notice had been issued against hardstandings.

v) Thorpe Car Sales, 262 – 264 Chertsey Lane, Staines

A Member would be apprised of the latest position at this site.

vi) 41 Jubilee Crescent, Addlestone

An appeal had been lodged against the Enforcement Notice.

315. REPORTS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Board agreed that a progress report on their Work Programme would be submitted to their next meeting. In addition the Board would receive a report on liaison arrangements with Surrey County Council, which would also be considered by the November meeting of the Corporate Management Committee.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.05pm).