

RESOURCES TASK GROUP

4th December, 2008
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RESOURCES TASK GROUP

Minutes of Meeting of Resources Task Group held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, on Thursday 4th December 2008 at 2.30 p.m.

In the Chair The Mayor, Cllr J Finlay

Present Ald F Campbell, Ald H Connolly,
Cllrs: A Cavlan, M McCamphill, E Robinson

Apology Ald J Simpson (Chair), CE.

In attendance: DBS, DCLS, HCDS.

1. Minutes

The Head of Corporate & Development Services drew attention to the footnote to the minute record, detailing the additional motion passed by Council at its meeting on 6/10/08 arising from consideration of RTG Minutes, as follows:

“that, at the Chairman’s request, the information sought in relation to the members’ queries on certain variances be provided, in writing, by the Director responsible for the service. Members’ queries to be sent to the Chief Executive who will ensure responses are issued to members.”

She advised that Councillor Robinson had recently written to the Chief Executive, with the agreement of the Chair, detailing the queries and upon receipt of responses from the relevant officers the Chief Executive would respond in writing. Councillor Robinson questioned the need for the information to be requested in writing and stressed the importance of receiving the information prior to setting of the rate for the incoming year. She indicated that she would also be seeking clarification as regards Council process with regard to adjudication on and sanctioning of overspends in advance of occurrence. During the ensuing discussion it was noted that it was Council’s decision (as recorded above) that details of the queries and response should be in writing.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of the last meeting on 24th September 2008, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

2. Variance Reports

The Director of Central and Leisure Services spoke to the Six Months variance report, April – September 2008, copy circulated, drawing attention to the fact that the actual figures for salaries and wages includes new rates of pay arising from the job evaluation exercise but that these had not yet been paid. Other issues drawn to members attention and discussed included, substantial increase in electricity costs with projected overspend in this utility charge; proposal to apportion utility

charges against various elements of the JDLC operation; budgets where there was 100% cost recovery; spend profiling issues; seasonal facilities/working; reduction in building control income; additional courtesy visits approved by Council; costs arising from flooding and emergency planning grants paid; impact on consumer confidence in current economic climate.

3. Trading Accounts

3.1 – JD Leisure Centre

Six month trading accounts, April – September, 2008, circulated, were received. Issues considered included increased manpower costs arising from job evaluation exercise, review of opening hours, food offering; benefit of soft play area food bookings and proposal to apply energy costs to future accounts.

3.2 – Drumaheglis Marina & Caravan Park

Six month trading accounts, April – September, 2008, circulated, were received. Issues considered included good level of income over expenditure, grounds maintenance costs to be applied, wind and flood damage suffered, need for action on tree planting/maintenance, benefits of new booking system, availability of debit/credit card payments.

4. Vehicle Fleet Profile

The Director of Borough Services circulated schedule of environmental services and amenities vehicles, including age profile.

5. Date of next meeting - 12th January 2009

This concluded the business of the meeting the time being 4.00 p.m.