

## Special Policy & Service Review Scrutiny Committee



### Call In

Date	14 December 2006
Venue	Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Raymond Norsworthy (Chairman) Martin Taylor (Vice-Chairman)  Maxine Chew, Elizabeth Clarkson, Kevin Eastham, John Longstaff, Peter Hardy, Dawn Prestwich, Fabian Wilson
Other Councillors	John Coombes, Howard Henshaw, Karen Henshaw, Elizabeth Oades, Barbara Pagett, Paul Rigby, Hilda Wilson, Ron Wilson, Stephen Wall, Keith Wright
Officers	Dave Joy, Ian Curtis, Tracy Scholes, Lyndsey Lacey, Annie Womack , Hazel Wood

#### 1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

#### 2. Substitute members

The following substitutions were reported under council procedure rule 25.3:

Councillor Kevin Eastham for Councillor Stephen Carpenter

Councillor Peter Hardy for Councillor Elizabeth Oades

#### 3. Call-in request - accommodation report

The meeting was convened to discuss a call in request made by ten councillors in accordance with the constitution. The request related to item 11 of the Cabinet held on 15 November relating to accommodation.

Councillor Raymond Norsworthy (Chairman) explained the background to the item and made reference to the call-in procedure. Councillor Norsworthy

clarified that a call-in should relate to decisions of Cabinet and requested the Council's Solicitor to clarify what in terms of the Cabinet decisions made on 15 November 2006 relating to the accommodation could be described as decisions. It was confirmed that the decisions were the four resolutions as set out in the Cabinet minutes but not the question submitted to the Portfolio Holder and his answer on this matter as included within the minutes.

Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Oades was invited to speak as a representative of the group of councillors requesting the call-in. Councillor Oades had requested that the future issues relating to funding should be considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and thereafter full Council as per the call-in request. Councillor Oades explained the reason for submitting the call-in and outlined her concerns regarding the potential effects that any capital or revenue spend on funding the accommodation project might have on the Council's future budget requirements.

Councillor Paul Rigby (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency) explained the Cabinet's position regarding this matter in that the project was being pursued at no additional cost to the council tax payer and endorsed the decision made at the Cabinet as the correct way forward in pursuing this matter. The accommodation issue was within the legitimate remit of the Cabinet.

However, both Councillor Paul Rigby and Councillor John Coombes (Leader of the Council) went on to explain that it was the Cabinet's intention to bring a final report to council for endorsement on accommodation.

Dave Joy (Executive Director) reminded the committee that essentially officers had been asked to proceed to commission work on the detailed business case and procurement strategy and obtain valuations from the portfolio of sites agreed by the Council for disposal. Therefore, no financial or budgetary information was available at this stage.

The Chairman indicated that he had recently been notified of the intention to recruit consultants to give definitive valuations on the land and buildings earmarked for sale. He anticipated that this would firm up the process.

Following a full debate the committee RESOLVED:

1. To take no further action on the call-in request
- 2.To note the constitutional position that any budgetary effects of the accommodation project would have to be endorsed by full council.
- 3.To welcome the commitment by the cabinet member to bring the accommodation issue before the full council when any substantive decision needs to be made.

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