



SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL JOINT COMMITTEE

9th June 2009

RECORD OF THE MEETING

10:07 am to 11:10 am

PRESENT:

Committee members: Councillor Chitty (Medway Council)
Councillor Lewin (Swale Borough Council)
(Chairman)
Councillor Snelling (Gravesham Borough Council)
(Vice-Chairman)

In attendance: Katherine Bescoby (Swale Borough Council)
Janine Boughton (South Thames Gateway
Building Control Partnership)
Paula Charker (Medway Council)
James Freeman (Swale Borough Council)
Jo Hammond (Swale Borough Council)
Sarah Kilkie (Gravesham Borough Council)
Tony Van Veghel (South Thames Gateway
Building Control Partnership)
Kevin Woolmer (Medway Council)

1 NOTE OF THANKS

The Joint Committee thanked the support Officers and Councillor Dyke for their work over the previous municipal year.

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Gerry Lewin was elected as Chairman for the 2009/2010 municipal year.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Snelling was elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2009/2010 municipal year.

4 RECORD OF THE MEETING

The record of the Meeting held on 17 March 2009 was signed by the Chairman as correct.

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Morris (Substitute Member (Swale Borough Council)).

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Snelling declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 6 D (trading through a local authority company) as he was the lead Member for the Commercial Services Division at Kent County Council.

7 SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL BUSINESS PLAN 2009/2010

Discussion:

The report sought approval for the South Thames Gateway Building Control Business Plan 2009/2010. Attention was drawn to the tabled paper which set out an update to the Building Control Partnership Structure Chart. The Director of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership agreed to provide a note on the new arrangements to Members of Gravesham, Medway and Swale's Planning Committees.

Decision:

The Joint Committee adopted the 2009/2010 Business Plan.

Reason for decision:

The Constitution of the Joint Committee requires approval of the business plan for the following year at the Annual General Meeting.

8 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/2009

Discussion:

The report addressed the requirement for the Joint Committee to approve the draft Statement of Accounts for the 2008-2009 financial year.

Decision:

The Joint Committee noted the outturn for 2008-2009 and approved the Statement of Accounts as presented.

Reason for decision:

There is a legal requirement for the Joint Committee to approve the draft Statement of Accounts.

9 HARMONISATION OF CHARGING

Discussion:

The report set out proposals to harmonise the charges for property searches that are made to the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership under the requirements of the

Local Authorities (England) (Charges for Property Searches) Regulation 2008. Attention was drawn to the tabled paper which provided details of the proposed charges as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the main report.

Members discussed how the costs were quantified and it was confirmed that the charges could be adjusted on an annual basis according to the costs incurred by the Partnership in undertaking property searches.

Decision:

The Joint Committee approved the unit charge for 2009/10 for all property searches governed by this legislation but requested that this be monitored closely by Officers.

Reason for decision:

The Constitution requires the Joint Committee to agree charges to be levied by the Partnership other than those delegated to the Director.

10 TRADING THROUGH A LOCAL AUTHORITY COMPANY

Discussion:

The report set out proposals to investigate a business case for transferring the consultancy service to a Local Authority Company.

Members discussed the proposals and the Joint Committee welcomed the offer of a visit to meet Officers in Kent County Council's Commercial Services Department. The Director of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership agreed to make the necessary arrangements.

Decision:

The Joint Committee approved the investigation into the setting up of the consultancy as a Local Authority Company and the presentation of a business case/plan, if appropriate, to the next Joint Committee.

Reason for decision:

The Joint Committee has a key role in developing the potential of the partnership and monitoring its progress.

11 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/2010

Discussion:

The report updated the Joint Committee on the current forecasts for the 2009-2010 financial year.

Members discussed the report and it was agreed that the monthly financial reports would be circulated to all support Officers and Joint Committee Members.

Decision:

The Joint Committee noted the report and that further reports would be submitted throughout the year.

Reason for decision:

The Joint Committee has a key role in monitoring the budgetary control of the Partnership.

12 ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS 2009/2010

Discussion:

The report set out administrative arrangements for the 2009/2010 municipal year.

Decision:

- (a) The Joint Committee agreed the timetable of meetings for the 2009/2010 municipal year.
- (b) The Joint Committee noted the appointment of the officers listed in paragraph 4.2 as Monitoring and Deputy Monitoring Officers, and as S151 and Deputy S151 Officers.
- (c) The Joint Committee agreed to select Swale Borough Council to provide secretarial support to the Joint Committee for the 2009/2010 municipal year.

Chairman

Date

Katherine Bescoby

Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

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