



**SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL
JOINT COMMITTEE
15th September 2009
RECORD OF THE MEETING
10:04 am to 11.03 am**

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Councillor John Morris (Swale Borough Council)
Janine Boughton (South Thames Gateway
Building Control Partnership)
Stephen Gaimster (Medway 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 RECORD OF THE MEETING

The record of the Meeting held on 9th June 2009 was signed by the Chairman as correct, subject to the inclusion of a note of thanks to the previous Chairman, Councillor Chitty.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Snelling declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 5 (A) as he was a non-Executive Director on various Kent County Council local authority companies.

4 SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL BUSINESS PLAN 2010/2011

Discussion:

The report set out the initial proposals for the South Thames Gateway Building Control Business Plan and sought approval for the Draft Business Plan to be sent for consultation to Partner authorities.

The Director of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership set out the background to the report and the changes made to the 2010/2011 Business Plan from the previous years. Members requested a copy of the changes which the Director of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership agreed to circulate to the Joint Committee.

The Chairman drew attention to the tabled paper, which reflected amendments to the budget information contained on page six of the report. Members discussed the current budget deficit and options being explored by Officers to reduce the deficit.

Members discussed the proposal to investigate a business case for transferring the Building Control consultancy service to a Local Authority Company. Members considered that appropriate wording to reflect the proposals and potential costs should be included within the draft Business Plan for consultation with partner authorities. The Chairman also requested a preamble setting out the current deficit position for this financial year.

The Director of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership confirmed that paragraph 5.6 would be re-worded and that an amended Quality Performance Matrix would be included under paragraph 5.11.

Members agreed the importance of including a three-year financial projection in all future Business Plans to consider alongside each local authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The Chairman considered that the Business Plan was well presented. He suggested that Members highlighted the success of the Building Control Partnership in their local authorities and encouraged business for the Partnership. He suggested that Members explored how much their authority was previously spending on Building Control as a point of comparison.

Decision:

The Joint Committee approves the Business Plan for consultation as set out in the summary of the report.

Reason for decision:

The Constitution of the Joint Committee states that before 1st October each year the Joint Committee is required to approve and send its Business Plan for the following year to each Partner Authority for comments.

5 NOTE OF THANKS

Members thanked the South Thames Gateway Building Control Officers for their hard work and continued good practice, as reflected by the positive statistics in the report. The Chairman agreed to send a letter, on behalf of the Joint Committee, to all Building Control staff.

Chairman

Date

Joanne Hammond

Senior Democratic Services Officer

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