

Minutes of a Meeting of the Economy Overview Committee
held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 28 January 2004

Present:

Councillors:

B C J Hughes (Chairman)
B O Ingham (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs M Boote
P W Burrows
J E D Falby
D R A Key
Mrs A E Liverton
G K Liverton
Ms S M Merritt

R Mudge
J B Nicholson
T G Reeves
Mrs L A Roden
P C Townsend
A J Toye
B J Toye
Dr H W Waterworth

Also Present:

Councillors:

D Cox
P A Diviani
M J L Green
A J Wilkinson

Apologies:

Councillors:

D G Button
B H Clark
K W George
A S Pascoe

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and terminated at 9.50pm.

*20 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Economy Overview Committee held on 19 November 2003, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*21 The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom

Members received a presentation by Mr G Myers, Managing Director, Exeter and Devon Airport Ltd on "The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom" and asked questions arising from this presentation

RESOLVED

- (1) that Mr Myers be thanked for his presentation;
- (2) that the Economic Development Officer arrange a visit to Exeter International Airport for Members of the Overview Committee together with the local MP's, on an evening in late March/April

*22 CCTV Task and Finish Forum

The reports of the meetings of the CCTV Task and Finish Forum held on 27 November 2003 and 8 January 2004 were received and noted. Members were advised that a further meeting of this Forum would be held on 5 February 2004.

23 Service Plans 2004/07

Consideration was given to the report of the Policy Manager, which set out Service Plans for Economic Development & Property, Finance, ICT, Legal & Member Services and Organisational Development for the years 2004/07. The plans had been prepared differently to those of previous years. Standard templates had been used for every plan and a greater level of staff involvement had taken place. Given the level of detail in the plans and the number of questions Members wished to ask, it was considered appropriate that a separate meeting be held specifically to consider the service plans.

RECOMMENDED that the Service Plans for Economic Development & Property, Finance, ICT, Legal & Member Services and Organisational Development for the years 2004/07 be considered at a special meeting of the Committee.

24 Draft Revenue and Capital Estimates 2004/05

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director – Economy, which set out the proposed revenue and capital estimates for 2004/05 relevant to the Economy Overview Committee. Members were advised that the estimates had been drawn up mindful of the financial concerns of the Council, resultant from the fall in interest rates and capital receipts, the requirements for new services imposed by legislation, the reluctance in previous years to increase Council Tax in line with spending and changes in service levels.

- RECOMMENDED** (1) that the Executive Board approve the draft Revenue and Capital Estimates for 2004/05 relevant to the Economy Overview Committee, subject to the following amendments:
- a) the Rural Aid Fund be set at £60,000, with the maximum grant to any one parish being reduced from £5,000 to £4,000;
 - b) the Exmouth Exe Estuary Project being reinstated at a cost of £11,000;
- (2) that the funding for the above being found from:
- a) no free car parking in December;
 - b) the Car Parking Working Group being requested to investigate generating income from car parks which are currently free and also increasing the period of charging for those car parks which only charge during the summer period;
 - c) part of the extra income from increasing the council tax on second homes being diverted to the above two projects;
 - d) deletion of the proposal to make an additional payment of £7,500 to TJW in return for a package of innovations to enliven the 2004 Business South West exhibition and mark the 10th anniversary;
 - e) the costs of introducing audible ticket be deleted from the budget.

(Cllr B C J Hughes declared a personal interest in the bid for grant aid submitted by the Exmouth Exe Estuary Project as he was Chairman on the Advisory Committee)#

25 Procurement Best Value Report

Consideration was given to the report of the Policy Manager in respect of the Best Value Review of Procurement which included a proposed Procurement Strategy, contained in a separate booklet provided with the agenda.

- RECOMMENDED**
- 1) that the Executive Board approve the recommendations of the Best Value Review Team as set out on page 9 of the report contained in a separate booklet;
 - 2) that Cllr Ms S M Merritt be appointed as a second Member champion for Procurement to provide a scrutiny role on progress with the implementation of the Procurement Strategy.

26 Business South West

Consideration was given to the report of the Economic Development Manager. A commitment had previously been made to the organisers of the event to provide sponsorship in 2004 of £7,500. The organisers had asked the Council if it wished to increase the level of sponsorship to enable TJW to provide a package of incentives to mark the 10th anniversary of the event.

- RECOMMENDED**
- 1) that the outline terms of the 2002 contract with the event organisers TJW be adhered to and a payment of £7,500 be made for 2004;
 - 2) that the Head of Economic Development & Property and Portfolio Holder for Economy be given delegated power to agree the detailed terms of the District Council's sponsorship for Business South West 2004.

*27 East Devon Business Forum

Consideration was given to the report of the Economic Development Manager which updated Members on the first meeting of the East Devon Business Forum, which took place on 22 January 2004.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

28 East Devon Economic Development Strategy: The Process

Consideration was given to the report of the Economic Development Manager which informed Members of the proposed process for producing a revised East Devon Economic Development Strategy.

RECOMMENDED that the process for producing a revised East Devon Economic Development Strategy as outlined in the report be approved.

*29 Tourism Activity Update

Members considered the report of the Economic Development Manager which gave a progress report on tourism work carried out so far by the Economic Development Section.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

Chairman Date.....