

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Corporate Policy Overview Committee

MEDIUM TERM PLAN (MTP) INFORMAL MEMBER GROUP

NOTES of a meeting of an Informal Member Group to consider Corporate Services MTP held on Wednesday, 19 November 2008 in Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone.

PRESENT: Mr E Hotson (Chairman), Mr R Burgess, Mr J Scholes and Mr D Smyth.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ms A Beer, Director of Personnel and Development, Mr P Bole, Head of I C T Commissioning, Mr D Cockburn, Executive Director, Strategy, Economic Development & ICT, Mr P Kennedy, Resources Manager, Mr M Lemon, Head of Policy, Ms L McMullan, Director of Finance, Ms T Oliver, Director Of Strategic Development And Public Access, Mr A Wood, Head Of Financial Management and Ms D Fitch, Assistant Democratic Services Manager (Policy Overview),

APOLOGY: Mrs T Dean

1. Medium Term Financial Plan – 2009-12 - CED

- (1) Mr Hotson reminded Members of the debate on this item at the meeting of the Corporate POC on 14 November 2008.
- (2) Mr Wood gave Members a brief update and referred to the key parts of the paper circulated for the POC meeting.
- (3) Members then asked questions in relation to specific budget items and put forward potential areas for further consideration.
- (4) The importance of making it clear in finance reports opportunity for Directorate savings behind projects such as Gateways and use of the Contact Centre so that a balanced decision can be taken on the phasing of their roll out, was emphasised. Also consideration should be given to reporting the funding of the International office compared to the amount of money secured should be shown.
- (5) The issue of roundabout sponsorship was raised and it was suggested that District Councils should be encouraged to co-operate with this which would not only have financial advantages but also would make areas look tidier.
- (6) Reference was made to greater partnership working as expressed in the Kent Commitment.
- (7) Mr Lemon gave details of the budget of the Public Health unit
- (8) It was noted that Mr Kennedy was producing a paper on property maintenance across the authority.

(9) Members put forward a number of suggested areas for further consideration a copy of this list is attached as an appendix.

AREAS SUGGESTED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

Area for review	Potential target cost / saving (-) £'000	Notes
Healthwatch	-300	Mark Lemon to provide one-page briefing note on role and objectives of Healthwatch
Kent TV	-400	Tanya Oliver to provide one-page briefing note
IT Asset Maintenance reserve contribution	-500	Peter Bole to provide one-page briefing note
Workforce reduction	-500	Andy Wood to provide one-page briefing note
Debt Charges	-500	Needs to be considered as part of the wider strategy for treasury management.
Corporate Communications	-500	There is an on-going review of 'publicity' costs and this will be considered as part of that review. The review is on target to complete before Christmas
Pay	-900	Theoretical saving if nil cost of living increase. Amanda Beer to consider in her pay negotiations
Gateway	?	Accelerate or slow-down the programme? Tanya to provide summary paper of costs/benefits of Gateways
In-source property functions	?	Paul Kennedy to provide an options paper
Joint Sea Fisheries	?	Denise Fitch to investigate if this is a statutory function
Income generation	-1,000	Andy Wood to provide a one-page briefing note on potential increase in net income by Unit
Localism	-400	Consider reduction in either second homes money or Member Community Grant, or combination of both. Andy Wood to provide analysis of budget for local decision
Maintenance of assets	?	Paul Kennedy to provide a copy of the paper currently being written (due by end of November)
General efficiencies	-100	All to examine potential for 'looking after the pennies'
Total	-5,100 (+/- ?)	