

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

31st January 2002

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Wilkins (Chair), Brooks and Whyman.

Conservative Group

Councillors Bale and Hood.

Employees Side Representatives

Messrs. R. Nobbs, G. Sanderson, A. Winson (D. Summers was also in attendance).

Trade Union Representatives

Mr. D. Todd (Area Official, Electrical, Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union), Mr. J. Milligan (Union of Construction and Allied Trades Technicians) and Messrs. B. Jones and K. Mason (Vice-Chair) (Unison).

The Chair introduced Mr. D. Dorman, the Council's recently appointed Buildings Maintenance Manager.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Mr. W. Dicken (Employees Side-Representative), Mr. J. Purkis (Regional Organiser, General and Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union), Mr. E. Bratt (Regional Organiser, East Midlands Unison) and G. Coates (Unison).

JC/16. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2001 were received.

JC/17. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2002/03**

The Committee received a detailed report on the Capital Programme for 2002/03 focusing on the Single Capital Pot and the Council's Capital Strategy. It was noted that in view of the level of capital resources, the programme would rely heavily on bidding for external funds to generate extra capital resources. This could be both expensive and time consuming, with no guarantee of success. Accordingly, it was important that the programme focused on those schemes that scored well within the evaluation process.

The report on the Capital Programme was noted.

JC/18. **REVENUE BUDGET 2002/03**

The base budget position for 2002/03 and the position for the following two years were outlined. Comparison was also made with the expected budget position at the end of the current year 2001/02. The key points for the medium term financial strategy were outlined and it was noted that the figures reported were only provisional and could still be affected by the final Government Grant Settlement and the Council Tax Collection Surpluses and Deficits.

The base budgets for all Council services were circulated together with total new spending proposals amounting to £240,847. These were outlined and included one-off items totalling £40,282. The cost of the new spending was offset by ongoing savings of £168,125 as identified in a document circulated. The net increase in costs was therefore reduced to some £72,722. Due to the one-off items referred to above, the extra ongoing costs reduced to some £32,000 after the first year.

In addition, the budget also accommodated the ongoing costs of certain capital schemes that were anticipated to rise from £7,000 in 2002/03 to £55,000 in 2004/05. The budget figure circulated also accommodated a contribution to be made to the Pension Fund in order to help reduce long-term pension costs in accordance with the Fund's current revaluation. Councillor Whyman explained the detailed approach which had been taken when preparing the budget and the Chair of Unison praised the presentation made to Area Meetings in order to consult with the public on budget proposals. Mr. G. Sanderson queried whether Single Status implications had been included within the budget proposals presented and was advised by the Chief Finance Officer that it was understood that the implications of Single Status would be contained within existing budgets and no extra resources would be required.

The Chief Executive referred to the Refocusing and Reprioritisation exercise aimed at utilising resources to generate savings to meet new spending pressures.

Councillor Whyman advised that he had attended a meeting at Derbyshire County Council the previous day with regard to the Pension Fund contribution required and talked about its affect on the Council's balances.

The Committee received the comments on the Council's budget proposals for 2002/03.

JC/19. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2001 were received.

STAFFING ISSUES

The Committee received a detailed report with regard to staffing related proposals contained within the budget process and agreed a formal consultation period to end on 8th February 2002.

HOUSING DLO PAY NEGOTIATIONS

The Committee received a detailed report on the Housing DLO Pay Negotiations and agreed to delay formal acceptance of the report to enable further discussions and negotiations to take place.

P. J. WILKINS

CHAIR