

EXTRAORDINARY EXECUTIVE

Executive
6th November 2017
Agenda Item No. 4(C)

Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of the Executive held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 1300 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor A.M. Syrett in the Chair

Councillors M.J. Dooley, S.W. Fritchley, B.R. Murray-Carr, K. Reid, M.J. Ritchie and B. Watson.

Officers:-

D. Swaine (Chief Executive Officer), D. Clarke (Assistant Director – Finance and Revenues & Benefits), S. Sternberg (Assistant Director – Governance and Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer), L. Hickin (Strategic Director) and D. Cairns (Governance Manager - Acting)

0317. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

0318. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

0319. BUSINESS RATES PILOT

Executive considered a report of the Assistant Director – Finance, Revenues and Benefits which sought approval to submit an expression of interest to enter into a Derbyshire Business Rates Pilot arrangement for 2018/19.

The Council had been part of a very successful Derbyshire Business Rates Pool since April 2015 which had helped to secure approximately £0.5m additional income per annum.

A pilot programme for 100% business rates retention had started in April 2017, however the scheme was being expanded in 2018/19 to include pilot programmes in two-tier areas.

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The report outlined the requirements for the scheme proposals, which had to be submitted to Government by 27 October 2017. The Council had held preliminary discussions with the other members of the Derbyshire pool who had expressed an interest in forming a 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot for 2018/19.

Members were advised that when further details of the proposal were known, a further report would be brought to Executive to seek approval for formal commitment to the scheme.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) Executive notes the contents of the report and the requirements of the invitation to pilot 100% Business Rates Retention in 2018-19.
- (2) Executive grants approval for the Assistant Director – Finance, Revenues & Benefits, in her capacity as the Council's S.151 Officer and in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to submit an expression of interest to enter into 100% Business Rates Pool Pilot in 2018-19.
- (3) That a further detailed report is brought back to a future meeting of the Executive once more information is available.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To enable the Council to pursue the financial advantages through the retention of a higher proportion of business rates income and to gain additional benefits from further growth.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

The option not to enter an expression of interest to join a potential Derbyshire Business Rates Pilot was rejected as this would have resulted in losing out on the opportunity for additional income and would also have jeopardised any piloting possibilities for other authorities in Derbyshire.

0320. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Moved by Councillor M. J. Dooley and seconded by Councillor M.J. Ritchie.

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (paragraph number is stated below each item) and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

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0321. TRADE UNION NEGOTIATIONS

Exempt Paragraph 1, 2, 4 and 5

Executive considered a report of the Chief Executive Officer which provided an update on the current situation regarding outstanding equal pay claims faced by the Council and sought endorsement of the recommended approach to resolve the claims.

RESOLVED That Executive:

- (1) Supports the recommended approach outlined in the body of the report,
- (2) Agrees the use of reserves to pay for the immediate settlement of the 42 traditional claims based on them being 'rated as equivalent',
- (3) Endorses the approach agreed to resolve the 79 none traditional claims as agreed between all parties,
- (4) Requests a further report of the Chief Executive detailing costs of settlement for the 79 none traditional claims once more detailed negotiations have been completed,
- (5) Agrees to the use of external HR support to the Chief Executive during the further negotiations and the administration process for the current settlements and the future settlements,
- (6) Requests that the Chief Executive formally updates Executive in due course as the negotiations progress; and
- (7) Considers the matter urgent and notes that the Chairman of Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the matter is urgent and it is reasonable in the circumstances for Call In not to apply.

REASON FOR DECISION:

In order to ensure a managed approach to resolving the outstanding claims in a timely manner.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Settling the claims without negotiation or proceeding with the hearings were rejected due to the risks and costs involved.

(Chief Executive Officer)

The meeting concluded at 1330 hours.