



**SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL
JOINT COMMITTEE
18th March 2010
RECORD OF THE MEETING
10:07 am to 10:25 am**

PRESENT:

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

In attendance: Janine Boughton (South Thames Gateway
Building Control Partnership)
Paula Charker (Medway Council)
Philippa Davies (Swale Borough Council)
Stephen Gaimster (Medway 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 26th November 2009 was signed by the Chairman as correct.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Chitty (Medway Council) and James Freeman (Swale Borough Council).

3 URGENT MATTERS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There were no urgent items.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

5 (a) SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2010/2011

Discussion:

The Chairman reminded Members that Gravesham Borough Council would Chair and clerk the meetings in the next municipal year.

Decision:

The Annual General Meeting would be held at Medway Council on 3rd June 2010, where future meetings dates and venues would be decided for the remainder of the municipal year.

Reason for decision:

The Constitution for the South Thames Gateway Building Control Joint Committee specifies that the Schedule of Meetings shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, the press and 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 paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

5 (b) MONITORING REPORT OCTOBER 2009 TO FEBRUARY 2010

Discussion:

The Director of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership brought Members' attention to the tabled paper, which provided additional information to the Monitoring Report which updated the Joint Committee on the current forecasts for the 2009/10 financial year and gave details against the progress of the objectives of the Business Plan 2009/10. He explained that during the downturn, there had been an increase in the amount of non-fee work. The original budget had set 26 per cent of non-fee work; the actual amount had been 34 per cent, which meant that the forecast shortfall (£216,072) could be mitigated by additional contributions for non-fee work totalling £115,717. This would reduce the deficit funding required by a similar amount, so there would be no change in the total amount payable.

Discussion ensued on whether the three Local Authorities should be expected to contribute more in this way. Concerns were raised that this could set a precedent but it was hoped that this situation was a 'one-off'.

Decision:

The matter be delegated to Officers to determine the best way of reporting last year's activity, noting that Option 2 in the tabled report (that the partner authorities pay an increased amount for these services, although the total amount payable by each authority would remain the same) be the Committee's preferred option.

Reason for decision:

The Constitution requires the Joint Committee to maintain a monitoring role on the progress of the partnership.

5 (c) SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL CONSULTANCY 2010/2011

Discussion:

The Director of the South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership introduced the report, which set out three options for delivering additional products to compliment the building control service in securing another income stream and ensuring South Thames Gateway remained competitive in the market.

Decision:

Option C be decided upon - it explores the possibility of enhancing the existing service provision so as to compete over a wider range of products.

Reason for decision:

Members are required to closely monitor the activities of the Partnership to ensure the best use of resources and the generation of additional income.

Record of Thanks

The Chairman thanked Officers for their work during the past year.

Chairman

Date

Philippa Davies

Democratic Services Officer

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