

**COMMERCIAL & HUMAN RESOURCES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

20 April 2004  
4.30pm – 6.00pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Adigun-Harris, Boyce, Dryden, Howell, Liddle (Vice Chair), Stebbings, Ward and White (Chair)

Also present: Councillor Hughes for minute number (04/CHR/23).

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Sian Reid, Executive Councillor for Commercial & Human Resources

<b>FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL</b>
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04/CHR/16 **MINUTES**

The minutes of 20 January 2004 were corrected to include Councillor Ward in the list of those present at the meeting and then signed by the Chair.

04/CHR/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Bradnack, Downham and Ellis-Miller.

04CHR/18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following made declarations of personal interest:

In relation to minute number 04/CHR/21: Councillor White as a member of Smokefree Cambridge and Peterborough.

04/CHR/19 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No members of the public wished to address the meeting.

04/CHR/20 **GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS, CARRY FORWARDS AND SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES FOR 2003/04**

In relation to the Committee Management System TIF bid, Councillor Liddle said that accessing agendas and reports on the website was not working satisfactorily and Councillor Ward said that the £20,000 was important to ensure that the system could be made to work effectively.

The Executive Councillor commented that Committee Services had been understaffed and were aware that the webwork had sometimes not been accessible on the day after publication as planned. That situation was set to improve as the result of recruiting a new member of staff in the near future.

The Committee agreed with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

**04/CHR/21 CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL'S HEALTH AND SAFETY WORK  
PLANS 2003/04 AND 2004/05**

The Chair suggested that the "Review and revise the Smoking at Work Policy" include consideration of a ban on smoking in vehicles.

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

**04/CHR/22 IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT COUNCIL-OWNED SHOPS/SHOP  
PARADES**

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

**04/CHR/23 PROPOSED LIGHTING SCHEME COMMITTEE ROOMS 1 AND 2**

The Director of Central Services introduced the report outlining the long history to this proposal due to the need to find a system that met modern standards and was acceptable to the Conservation Officer and English Heritage.

Councillor Dryden asked if the Council's visual disability adviser had been consulted to see if the proposal would meet the Disability Discrimination Act guidelines. Councillors Hughes and Adigun-Harris endorsed the need for this.

The Building Surveyor said that the visual disability adviser had not been consulted but that the consultants had used the guidelines from the Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineers which showed that the committee rooms were below that recommended level.

Councillors Liddle, Ward and Howell were concerned about the cost given the pressure on budgets and the amount of use that was made of the committee rooms. Councillor Stebbings thought that air conditioning was more of a priority.

The Executive Councillor acknowledged that she had been in two minds about the decision at first. However she was firmly of the view that going ahead with the scheme was right because

1. the current level of lighting gave an old-fashioned, dreary feel to the rooms which gave a poor impression to the public

2. that the Council's environmental policy tried to encourage good design and quality and this was an opportunity to demonstrate this in looking after the Council's own assets
3. that there was a duty to look after the Guildhall as a listed building in the city centre
4. that extensive professional advice had been taken and she was very happy to include consultation with disabled persons at this stage
5. that the cost would have been about £12,000 if not for the need to take into account the listed building requirements.

Councillor Howell asked about the expected lifespan of the new system.  
The Building Surveyor said it would be a quality installation lasting about 20 years.

Councillor Howell proposed that the decision be deferred to the next meeting to allow time for the visual impairment adviser to be consulted.

On a show of hands the motion was defeated by 4 votes to 2.

The Chair proposed that the recommendation be amended by adding the words "subject to consulting with the visual impairment adviser" at the end.

On a show of hands the amended recommendation was defeated by 4 votes to 3.

The Executive Councillor decided to defer her decision.

#### 04/CHR/24 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

##### **Resolved -**

To exclude members of the public from the meeting on the grounds that, if they were present, there would be disclosure to them of information defined as exempt from publication by Categories 3, 7 and 9 as defined in the Council's Constitution part 4B (pages 181/3).

#### 04/CHR/25 **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES IN BURLEIGH STREET, CAMBRIDGE**

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 1) with the recommendation for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendation.

#### 04/CHR/26 **DISPOSAL OF LAND, WULFSTAN WAY, CAMBRIDGE – KING STREET HOUSING SOCIETY**

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/CHR/27 **EXCHANGE OF LAND, CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL AND  
CAMBRIDGE HOUSING SOCIETY**

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

04/CHR/28 **GENERAL DEBTS - BAD DEBTS FOR WRITE OFF**

The Committee agreed (by 6 votes to 0) with the recommendations for the Executive Councillor.

The Executive Councillor agreed to the recommendations.

The meeting ended at 6pm.

**CHAIR**