

REPORT OF COMMERCIAL SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

(Meeting held on 8th September 2005)

1. DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2005

(a) Financial Position

Consideration was given to the Director's Report which covered the period 1st April 2005 to 30th June 2005. Financial information for the period was presented under section 2, and included summary income and expenditure by section, accompanying notes to the accounts, summary income and expenditure split between internal and external works, and outstanding debtor accounts.

The financial performance of the New Forest business units reflected the change to recharging at cost for all internally charged services. Surpluses were no longer being sought. This change was reflected in the reduction of £88,000 in the surplus target to £52,000 for the year. This related mainly to externally generated work. Service budgets have correspondingly also been reduced by the £88,000.

A small overall deficit had been returned for the first quarter. A supplementary budget request was being submitted for the refuse and street cleansing service.

The Test Valley business units had returned a surplus of £142,000 for the first quarter, the majority of which was generated by the grounds Maintenance section. This high level of surplus reflects the seasonal nature of the work and that surpluses need to be high in the first two quarters of the year to offset reduced work in the winter period.

(b) Operational Issues

- An operator's licence had been obtained for the proposed new depot site at Yokesford Hill. A schedule of conditions had been prepared and the lease was waiting to be signed once a security tenure had been received. It was anticipated that the transfer to the new site would be carried out over the weekend of the 1st/2nd October.
- A consultant had been engaged jointly by NFDC and TVBC to review the options for the future provision of common core systems for the partnership. The consultant was finalising his recommendations and following discussions with the Chief Executives of both TVBC and NFDC, a report would be distributed to members of the Committee for discussion at a special meeting of the Joint Committee.
- It was anticipated that the Raynesway contract would be extended for an additional year. As the quantity of highways works was continuing to be lower than anticipated, this would need to be monitored and plans made accordingly.
- The engineering works team were continuing to experience high levels of demand for repairs to and replacements of street nameplates.

- The newly formed in-house gas servicing team were on target to service all properties by the end of the financial year.
- Preparations were underway for the formal tendering of the NF grounds maintenance work currently undertaken by the external contractor. Adverts were being placed in September with a new contract start date planned for January.
- A new sickness management policy had been agreed by Personnel and the Employee Side to address the problem of high levels of absence with some NFDC staff. Members agreed that, although there were no significant problems at TVBC, common terms and conditions of employment should be followed by both NFDC and TVBC. This would be flagged up as an objective.
- The possibility of a portable CCTV system was being investigated in order to secure evidence for use in the prosecutions of flytipping incidents. An expenditure plan bid of £10,000 had been submitted for 2006/07. A demonstration of the likely system would be held shortly.
- The TV waste and recycling review was now nearing completion with the recommended option being Alternate Bin Collection (ABC). The recommendation would be presented to Executive on 28th September. If all goes to plan the implementation programme would see the first new rounds commencing in January 2006 with a further two phases coming on stream in September and December.
- Following the fire at Andover Transfer Station, all waste service vehicles were being diverted to the Chineham incinerator in Basingstoke. Hampshire County Council and Onyx had advised TVBC that this site would not be running until the first week in December. Vehicles were having to make 2/3 trips per day to the site in Basingstoke, however TVBC would claim for extra mileage and staff time. Additional vehicles had been hired to carry the waste to Basingstoke as the existing fleet were not used to travelling such distances and required a high level of maintenance.
- The target for customer satisfaction with cleaning standards and service (TVBC) for 2005/06 should be 60%, and not 70% as stated in the report.
- Work was in its final stage to add furniture and equipment to the Joint Stationery Contract which would achieve further savings for TVBC and NFDC.

(c) Members resolved :

That the content of the report be noted.

**Cllr M H Thierry
CHAIRMAN**