

***56 Exemption from Contract Standing Orders – purchase of mechanical sweeper**

Members considered the report of the Streetscene Manager seeking exemption from Standing Orders to purchase a Scarab Merlin XP Hydrostatic Mechanical Sweeper for reasons included within the report.

RESOLVED that exemption from Contract Standing Orders be granted to allow the purchase of a specified Mechanical Sweeper from the Scarab Fayat Group for the reasons set out in the report.

REASON The Streetscene service has used this machine for a number of years and found it satisfactory. There is only one supplier able to supply the particular sweeper and provide service locally.

***57 Performance Management report June/July 2012**

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive setting out performance information for the 2012/13 financial year for June/July 2012. The only measure raising particular concern was in respect of working days lost due to medium and long term sickness absence. The report set out actions being taken to address this increase and Members were advised that the measure would be kept under close review.

RESOLVED that the progress and proposed improvement action for performance measures for the 2012/13 financial year for June/July 2012 be noted.

REASON The monthly monitoring was to highlight performance and help identify any trends. Additional information to support this monitoring was provided on line – a monthly snapshot report and SPAR performance indicators and systems thinking measures in key service areas – Streetscene, Housing, Development Management and Revenues and Benefits.

***58 Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing the items in private session (Part B).

***59 Office relocation – revision of budget to financial viability gateway**

Members considered the report of Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive and the Relocation Manager. Work undertaken to date included a refined task list with costings for the relocation project. Members were asked to approve the refined budget for the work needed to determine the viability of the possible office relocation.

Councillor Moulding, Strategic Development and Partnerships Portfolio Holder confirmed that the budget included a contingency fund and also the in-house client costs so that Councillors had a clear overall picture of budget expenditure.

Budgets now refined and realistic would be closely monitored.

***59 Office relocation – revision of budget to financial viability gateway (continued)**

- RESOLVED**
- (1) that the details of project spend to date be noted;
 - (2) that approval be given to an extension to the Office Relocation Budget to the Financial Viability Gateway up to the total set out in the confidential report to Cabinet.

REASON To satisfactorily continue the project through to the Financial Viability Gateway. The increased budget cost would be factored into the Council's overall commitment to a cost neutral outcome.

***60 Office relocation project – planning advice – exemption from Standing Orders**

Members considered the report of Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive and the Relocation Manager seeking approval to engage an expert planning advisor to provide a range of advice in respect of the Outline Planning Application process relating to the office relocation project. The cost to be met from within the Transformation Fund allocated to the relocation project budget.

RESOLVED that the appointment of Bell Cornwell, Chartered Town Planners, up to the sum specified in the confidential report to Cabinet, to provide advice to the Council in its role as applicant for outline planning permission for development on the Knowle be approved together with approval (for the reasons set out in the report) of an exception to Standing Orders in respect of their appointment.

REASON The Council must have a clear separation between its role as planning authority and as applicant and landowner. To this end the Council needs to bring in its own planning adviser to assist through the process and provide reassurance that applicant planning issues, Planning Authority engagement, external challenges, and so on, can be addressed.

Exemption to Standing Orders was required to appoint the recommended advisors who had already been used on a short term basis.

***61 Science Park – Shareholder Underwriting**

The Head of Finance presented the report which set out details of the progress of the Science Park and sought Member approval as shareholder in the Exeter Science Park Company to commit to underwriting a proportion of the loan application, a share of any cost over-run on the construction of the Science Park Centre to a predetermined sum and to enter into a further agreement with the Exeter Science Park Company and other stakeholders to oversee the future long-term development and operation of the site.