

Executive – 20 March 2007

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman).
Councillors Bishop, Mrs Bradley, Cavill, Clark, Edwards, Hall and Mrs Lewin-Harris.

Officers: Ms S Adam (Strategic Director), Mr J J Thornberry (Strategic Director), Ms J Wishlade (Strategic Director), Mrs S Barnes (Project Director) and Mr G P Dyke (Democratic Services Manager).

Also Present: Members of the ISiS Project Team together with Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Miss S Cavill, Coles, Davies, Denington, Floyd, Guerrier, Hayward, Henley, Hindley, House, Lisgo, Meikle, Morrell, Mullins, Paul, Phillips, Prior-Sankey, Slattery, Mrs F Smith, P Smith, Vail, Watson, Wedderkopp, Mrs Whitmarsh and Mrs Wilson.

(The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.)

36. Apologies

Councillor Leighton.

37. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 26 February 2007 and 7 March 2007, copies of which have been circulated, were taken as read and were signed.

38. Public Question Time

Ian McCullough, Nigel Behan and Richard Antliff all asked questions in connection with the ISiS Project on behalf of Unison.

Councillor Williams thanked the Unison representatives for their questions and stated that he was pleased they had been able to take part in the various consultation opportunities and had engaged with this process. He emphasised that the ISiS Project was about working in partnership and was not an outsourcing of Council facilities. He also stated that the Council would not be making an irrevocable decision at this stage. Consideration was to be given as to whether the Council would enter negotiations with a preferred bidder and he hoped that Unison would continue to make any points they felt relevant during this process.

39. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Prior-Sankey, Paul, Govier and Henley declared personal interests as members of Somerset County Council. Councillor Hall declared a personal interest as a BT pension holder and Councillor Mrs F Williams declared a personal interest as an employee of Somerset County Council.

40. Improving Services in Somerset Programme

Submitted report and full presentation on the process towards the development of a major strategic services partnership. The partnership would cover corporate and transactional services and organisational transformation and was being undertaken jointly by this Council, Somerset County Council and Avon and Somerset Police Authority together with a private sector provider as a founding partner in the new strategic partnership.

41. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Clause 7 of Schedule 12(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

42. Improving Services in Somerset

A further confidential presentation was given to Members which made recommendations in respect of the proposed preferred bidder.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended:

- (1) To accept the variant A/B bid by IBM for the purposes of allowing further clarification, evaluation and negotiation with a view to the Council entering into a contract at the conclusion of the process (subject to due diligence), value for money and suitability for arrangements for transition. This effectively appointed IBM as preferred bidder to the Council subject to recommendation 4 below.
- (2) To agree that, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder (Resources), the Strategic Director (Shirlene Adam) be authorised to take forward such negotiations as may be necessary with IBM to enable the contract to be finalised.
- (3) To agree that, on satisfactory conclusion of the further negotiations which may be necessary and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder (Resources), the Strategic Director (Shirlene Adam) would bring details of the commercial option to the Executive for final approval prior to contract signature.
- (4) To agree that, in the event of the Council being unable to reach an acceptable commercial framework agreement with IBM within eight weeks, the Strategic Director (Shirlene Adam), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder (Resources), may jointly, with Somerset County Council, revise the priorities and expectations of its requirements and seek to reengage with all three bidders on the basis of best and final offer. This would ensure the continuance of a commercially competitive process.

- (5) To agree that, subject to Avon and Somerset Police Authority decisions on 21 March 2007, a joint negotiating team drawn from representatives of the three authorities be formed to pursue the negotiations outlined above.
- (6) To agree that the Strategic Director (Shirlene Adam), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder (Resources), be authorised to enter into such interim agreements with the preferred bidder as she considered appropriate in order to further the objectives of the ISiS Project and facilitate the finalisation of the contract and commencement of the partnership with the preferred bidder.

(The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.)