

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING 15 APRIL 2008

Part I

To deal with written questions to and receive recommendations to the Council from the Executive.

1. Councillor Henley

Q3 Budget Monitoring Issues

The Q3 budget monitoring exercise has highlighted the need for Supplementary Estimates from reserves for the following overspends:

- Job evaluation appeals £140k
- O2 Mast planning compensation £40k

The Council has now completed the appeals process arising from the recent job evaluation exercise. Some of the appeals have been successful and therefore this will increase the overall salary cost of the Council.

It is estimated that the cost of successful appeals will be in the region of £140k. This will be split between the General Fund (£110k) and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (£30k).

In 2005, O2 obtained deemed consent for the erection of a telecommunication mast at Shoreditch Road Taunton. Attempts to negotiate with O2 to re-locate the mast to an alternative site were unsuccessful and a mast was erected. It was however not the mast for which deemed consent had been granted and the Council therefore resolved to take enforcement action.

This led to a Public Inquiry in September 2007 as a consequence of which a Planning Inspector found the mast as erected unacceptable and upheld the Enforcement Notice requiring its removal. He however confirmed that there was a valid deemed permission, which could be implemented. O2 had again been invited to consider re-locating the mast with assistance from the Council, but had refused to consider this.

At its meeting on the 27 February the Planning Committee were advised of the position but further recommended not to take steps to revoke the deemed permission because of the potential financial liabilities such action would incur.

However, even the erection of the deemed mast was likely to have a detrimental impact on the immediately adjacent residential property and the Council was likely to face compensation claims. The sum of £40k is therefore sought in order to deal with any claims for compensation.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that Supplementary Estimates from the General Fund and HRA reserves be agreed as outlined above.

Councillor Henley

2. Councillors Richard Lees and Mullins

Review of Highways and Horticulture Service – Deane DLO

The Executive have considered a report regarding the proposed restructure of the management of the Highways and Horticultural service within the Council's Direct Labour Organisation. Under the proposal, one management post at the DLO would be made redundant. The proposal requires one off funding of £35,079. These one off costs will be paid back within 2 years with annual revenue savings of approximately £40,000 thereafter.

It is therefore **RECOMMENDED** that a Supplementary Estimate of £35,079 from reserves, be agreed.

Councillors Richard Lees and Mullins