

Draft minutes subject to approval at the next meeting
Taunton Deane Borough Council

At a meeting of the Taunton Deane Borough Council held in the Principal Committee Room, The Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton on 20 March 2007 at 9.00 pm.

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Hindley)

Councillors Mrs Allgrove, Beaven, Bishop, Bowrah, Mrs Bradley, Cavill, Miss Cavill, Clark, Coles, Davies, Denington, Edwards, Floyd, Govier, Guerrier, Hall, Hayward, Henley, Mrs Marcia Hill, House, Mrs Lewin-Harris, Lisgo, Meikle, Mullins, Paul, Prior-Sankey, Miss Priscott, Slattery, Mrs Smith, P Smith, Vail, Watson, Wedderkopp, Mrs Whitmarsh, Williams and Mrs Wilson.

1. Apologies

Councillors Mr Biscoe, Bone, C Cluff, Mrs Cluff, Croad, Garner, C Hill, Mrs Marie Hill, Lees, Leighton, Phillips and Weston.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Prior-Sankey, Paul, Govier and Henley all declared personal interests as Members of Somerset County Council. Councillor Hall declared a personal interest as a BT pension holder and Councillors Mrs Smith and Mrs Marcia Hill both declared personal interests as employees of Somerset County Council.

3. Improving Services in Somerset

Following the meeting of the Executive, that had taken place immediately preceding this meeting of the Council, Councillor Williams drew attention to the recommendations that had been made by the Executive.

4. 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.

5. Improving Services in Somerset

Having considered the recommendations made by the Executive, on the motion of Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Hall, it was RESOLVED:

- (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 9.10 pm.)