
SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL JOINT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Committee Room, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Thursday, 10 December 2015 from 10.00 - 10.52 am

PRESENT: Councillors Jane Chitty, John Cubitt and Gerry Lewin (Chairman).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andrew Barnett, Financial Services, Gravesham Borough Council
Janine Boughton, Head of Administration and Business Development
Philippa Davies, Democratic Services Officer, Swale Borough Council
James Freeman, Head of Planning, Swale Borough Council
Stephen Gaimster, Assistant Director, Housing and Regeneration, Medway Council
Sarah Kilkie, Assistant Director (Communities), Gravesham Borough Council
Andrew Lawson, Finance Business Partner, Medway Council
Tony Van Veghel, Director, South Thames Gateway Building Control Partnership

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The record of the meeting held on 23 September 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

4 URGENT MATTERS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There were no urgent matters.

5 DEVELOPMENT OF CONSULTANCY AS A LOCAL AUTHORITY TRADING COMPANY

The Director of South Thames Gateway (STG) Building Control Partnership introduced the report which sought agreement from the Joint Committee for funding to develop a business case to deliver the consultancy through a Local Authority Trading Company.

The Director highlighted the main points in the report.

Members spoke in support of the proposal.

Resolved:

- (1) That it be recommended that the respective partner authorities provide £2,000 each to secure the delivery of the Business Plan objective.**

6 ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

The Finance Business Partner introduced the report which presented the external auditor's certificate and opinion in respect of the Joint Committee's accounts for 2014/15.

The Finance Business Partner confirmed that no errors had been identified, and reported that it was no longer a requirement for joint committees to have their accounts audited. He asked Members if they wished to continue the audit services and confirmed, that in any case there would be a periodic review by internal audit.

Members were happy to dispense with the separate audit.

Resolved:

- (1) That the external auditor's certificate and opinion as presented be noted.**
(2) That the joint committee audit ends and an effective financial and governance framework is maintained for STG Building Control.

7 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

(1) That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act:

3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

8 MONITORING REPORT: AUGUST 2015 TO OCTOBER 2015

The Director of STG Building Control Partnership introduced the report which set out updates on the current forecast for the 2015/16 financial year, and gave details against the progress of the objectives of the Business Plan 2012/17.

Members requested that positive aspects of the report be presented in a bullet point format which could be forwarded to all Members, and that a briefing takes place to provide details of where building control sat in the planning process.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.**

9 SOUTH THAMES GATEWAY BUILDING CONTROL BUSINESS PLAN 2016/2019

The Director of STG Building Control Partnership introduced the report which set out revised proposals for the STG Building Control Draft Business Plan and Delivery Plan for 2016/19 following consultation, and sought agreement to refer the revised documents to the Cabinet of each partner authority.

A Member requested that the percentage of non-chargeable work is included in the report.

The Director explained that the report would be updated prior to it being considered by the three Cabinets.

Resolved:

- (1) That the updated version of the Business Plan be approved and referred to the Cabinet of each partner authority to approve the Final Draft Business Plan.***
- (2) That the final contributions figures, which will be included in each authority's budget planning process for 2016/17 be noted.***

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel