

**CABINET
(SPECIAL MEETING)**

AGENDA ITEM: 8A
HELD: 16 DECEMBER 2009
Start: 7.00pm
Finish: 7.10pm

PRESENT: Councillor Grant (Leader of the Council, in the Chair)

Councillors	I Ashcroft M Forshaw A Fowler P Greenall Mrs V Hopley A Owens D Westley	Human Resources Planning and Transportation Community Services and Health Street Scene Management Housing Deputy Leader & Regeneration and Planning Finance and Performance Management
In attendance Councillors:	C Ainscough J Baldock Mrs M Blake P Cotterill Mrs R Evans N Furey P Gartside J Kay	I D McKay J Mee Ms M Melling R A Pendleton D Phythian E Pope T Rice
Officers	Chief Executive (Mr W Taylor) Council Secretary and Solicitor (Mrs G Rowe) Assistant Chief Executive (Ms K Webber) Executive Manager Housing & Property Maintenance Services (Mr R Livermore) Executive Manager Community Services (Mr D Tilleray) Treasurer (Mr M Taylor) Member Services Manager (Mr G Martin)	

79. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

81. SPECIAL URGENCY (RULE 16 ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES)/URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

82. PROTOCOL FOR PROVISION OF MUTUAL AID

Councillor Fowler introduced the report of the Executive Manager Community Services, as contained on pages 919 to 927 of the Book of Reports, seeking approval to sign a countywide protocol for the provision of mutual aid between local authorities during a major emergency. The report explained that this would give the Chief Executive authority to seek and/or provide personnel and equipment to or from local authorities in Lancashire.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED: A. That the Chief Executive be authorised to sign the Protocol for the Provision of Mutual Aid, on behalf of the Council.
- B. That the Chief Executive be authorised to provide and receive mutual aid to/from Lancashire local authorities during an emergency, in accordance with the Protocol.

83. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act and as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption under Schedule 12A outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

84. HOME CARE LINK: INVESTMENT OPTIONS FOR THE CONTROL CENTRE

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, as contained on pages 929 to 974 of the Book of Reports seeking direction from the Cabinet on the future of the Council's Home Care Link Control Centre.

The report outlined a number of factors that had led the Executive Manager to undertake a fundamental review of the service, including:

- The relocation of the Control Room from Westec House, arising from the ongoing project to build new Council office accommodation on land at Wigan Road, Ormskirk;
- The expiry of the agreement for the maintenance of the Control Room software system in April 2010; and
- The ongoing Organisational Downsizing exercise.

The Executive Manager went on to report that he had appointed Tribal Consulting to conduct an independent review of the service and to produce costed alternatives for the future provision of the service. A copy of the report produced by Tribal Consulting was appended to the report, in which Tribal identified the options available to the Council

together with estimated costings (which had been based on a number of assumptions to provide a "stand alone" financial basis for the service).

The Executive Manager, in his report, concluded that he was in agreement with Tribal's view that disposal of the service was the most appropriate way forward, after taking into account the risks associated with the alternatives suggested.

At the meeting, the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs Hopley, circulated a motion which sought further information in relation to a possible Partnership/Shared Service arrangement and revised these so as to identify the source of funding for the continuation of the existing software system beyond 1 April 2010.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and the motion from Councillor Mrs Hopley and accepted the reasons contained therein.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services present a further report to Cabinet (and Council, if appropriate) on the advantages and disadvantages of a Partnership/Shared Service arrangement option for the Home Care Link service.
 - B. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be authorised to seek tenders for a Partnership/Shared Service arrangements,
 - C. That the Executive Manager Human Resources, in consultation with the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services, be given authority to commence discussions/consultation with Unions and relevant staff about voluntary transfer to other jobs in the Housing and Property Services Division.
 - D. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be authorised to extend the contract with our existing specialist computer provider to allow the service to continue beyond 1 April 2010, at a cost not to exceed £20,000, to be funded from savings in the current financial year.

THE LEADER