

County Council Meeting – 13 October 2009

REPORT BACK FROM CORPORATE MANAGEMENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON MOTION REFERRED

1. At its meeting on 7 September 2009 the Corporate Management Select Committee considered a motion referred to it by the Council on 28 April.

Original Motion Referred to Select Committee:

“This Council notes that the Conservative administration’s failed policies over the last four years have resulted in the Council being demoted from a three star to a one star authority.

The Council further notes that millions of pounds of council taxpayers’ money have been wasted through:

- (1) the failure of the aims of the Business Delivery Review (BDR) resulting in decisions and redundancies being reversed;
- (2) the failed move of County Hall from Kingston to Woking;
- (3) failure to manage the workforce properly resulting in over-reliance on agency staff and consultants;
- (4) failure to provide waste facilities on time, and the consequences thereof;
- (5) failure to update IT systems to ensure that they are fit for purpose;
- (6) failure to reduce costly out-of-county placements for children with special needs;
- (7) failure to properly manage the highways contract;
- (8) the failure to establish the transport co-ordination centre on time;
- (9) failure to open new respite care facilities on time;
- (10) failure to manage the budget properly;
- (11) failure to improve energy efficiency in Council buildings and address the issues of Climate Change with the prompt appointment of a Climate Change officer and the adoption of a Climate Change strategy.

The Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to apologise to the people of Surrey.”

Discussion:

2. The Committee accepted and acknowledged that the Council had recently gone from a three star to a one star authority and that there were many challenges still facing the Council.
3. However, the majority of the Committee considered that the issues raised in the motion above had been addressed in the report of the new Chief Executive (reported to Cabinet on 14 July 2009). In this report the Chief Executive had put forward his plan to move the Council forward and address these issues.

4. The majority of the Committee therefore considered that it would be more beneficial to scrutinise the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council on this programme of action and the achievement of the actions within the plan in six month's time.
5. The Committee would therefore invite the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to attend its November meeting to be scrutinised over their successes to improve the Council.

Decision by the Select Committee:

The Committee

- (a) NOTED the fact that the Council had recently gone from a three star to a one star authority and that there were many remaining challenges facing the Council; and
- (b) RESOLVED to work closely with the new political and administrative leadership by receiving six monthly progress updates on the visions and statements presented by the Leader to Council on 23 June 2009 and by the Chief Executive to Cabinet on 14 July 2009.

Recommendation to Council:

That the Council NOTES the decision made by the Select Committee in respect of the referred motion as set out above.

Helyn Clack
Chairman, Corporate Management Select Committee