



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

PHD018

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

TOPIC – Home Improvement Agency

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the City Secretary and Solicitor, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Performance Improvement Committee.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Committee Administrator by 5.00pm on Wednesday 9 March 2005.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Andrew Nairn 01962 848485 anairn@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator: Dave Shaw, 01962 848221, dshaw@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

The Cabinet meeting of 17th December 2003 approved in principle the setting up of the Home Improvement Agency in conjunction with Test Valley Borough Council and East Hants District Council, under the auspices of Hampshire County Council - Supporting People (Report CAB 750, 17 December 2003, refers).

The Home Improvement Agency will provide additional support and assistance to elderly, vulnerable and disabled residents in the respective districts as an essential service within the local authorities private sector housing renewal strategy and the Council's Corporate Strategy - key priority - *to promote a healthier, safer and more caring community to ensure that services are provided in ways that best meet the needs of residents, both now and in the future.*

A draft contract is currently under discussion and is broadly accepted subject to minor amendments

PROPOSED DECISION

That, the City Secretary and Solicitor be authorised to agree the terms and enter into the contract.

REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The joint Home Improvement Agency became operative from 1 January 2005 and adjustments to the draft Contract were made subsequent to this with the close involvement of all parties. It was agreed that each partner local authority scrutinise the detail of the final Contract so that, subject to any agreed changes, this can be approved and signed with as little delay as possible. This will also facilitate the payment of each local authority partner's financial contribution to the Home Improvement Agency for 2004/05 which is £22,000 - Report CAB 750 paragraph 4.2 refers. The Contract is for a three year period expiring on 31 March 2007 and the Council will contribute a similar sum for each year of the Contract.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

No alternative representations have been submitted or other alternatives considered as the procedure and progress of the Contract has been in accordance with the requirements of the Hampshire County Council's Supporting Peoples contract provisions.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

None

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

Councillor Kelsie Learney – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources