

**DIRECT SERVICES BOARD  
26 MAY 1999**

Present: Councillors Sargeant (Chairman), Barnard, Bayle, Blatchford, Fawcett, Miss Haydon, Mrs Pile and Taylor

Apologies for Absence were received from:  
Councillors Grayson and Veakins

**65. Substitute Members**

The Board noted the attendance of the following substitute Member under Standing Order 38:

Councillor Fawcett for Councillor Grayson

**66. Minutes**

The minutes of the Board held on 9 February 1999 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**67. Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of the following Items which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (1) Information relating to employees
- (9) Information relating to terms for a contract
- (11) Information relating to labour relations consultations

**68. Building Works - General Manager's Progress Report (Item 1)**

*In accordance with Standing Order 25, Councillor Barnard declared an interest in this matter, being the Chairman of the Social Services & Housing Committee, and withdrew from the meeting.*

The Board considered the General Manager's progress report on the running of the Building Works DSO during the period January-March 1999.

The Board posed a number of questions including in relation to the appointments system. It was noted that the DSO was always seeking to improve on existing arrangements although these were generally regarded as an example to others, as evidenced by the wish of representatives of Wokingham District Council to see the system. There were occasions, however, when emergencies or other circumstances caused delays. Where it was apparent that an appointment could not be kept, efforts were made to contact the tenant as soon as possible to advise them.

The Board welcomed the continuing good progress indicated by the report.

**RESOLVED** that the progress report be noted.

69. **Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre and Coral Reef Progress Report (Item 2)**

The Board considered the General Manager's progress report on the running of the Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre and Coral Reef during the period January-March 1999.

The Board posed a number of questions regarding the report and arising from these noted, in particular, that sickness absence figures continued at a level well below the national average. In addition, it was noted that the increase in costs had arisen as a result of the Working Time Regulations, but that income had also increased and kept the account in surplus.

The Board welcomed the continuing good progress indicated by the report.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i The progress report relating to Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre and Coral Reef be noted; and,
- ii The proposed annual pay award of 3% to employees at Bracknell Sport & Leisure Centre and Coral Reef in line with the national pay award for local authority staff be approved.

70. **Grounds Maintenance DSO – Progress Report (Item 3)**

The Board considered the Grounds Maintenance DSO Manager's report on the running of the DSO during the period January-March 1999.

The Board noted that the manager regarded the sickness level as still too high, but expected improvements as a result of the new corporate Management of Sickness Absence policy. With regard to a reduction in the level of surplus, the Board noted that this was attributed to a break-in, a change of protective clothing and bad weather, although there was a possibility of recovering some of the loss from the break-in via the insurance policy.

It was noted that the outcome of the tendering process for the new contract was not expected to be known until mid-June as the bidders were currently being asked to confirm details of their tenders as part of the evaluation process.

**RESOLVED** that:

- i The Grounds Maintenance DSO progress report be noted; and,
- ii The proposed annual pay award of 3% to Grounds Maintenance DSO employees in line with the National Pay Award for local authority staff be approved.

This meeting commenced at 5.30pm  
and concluded at 5:55pm

**CHAIRMAN**