



City of Westminster

# Minutes

Meeting:

**Urgency Committee of the Cabinet (2/2006)**

Date of meeting:

**Thursday 22 November 2006 at 8.30am**

Attendees:

**Councillors:**

**Colin Barrow (Chairman)**

**Ian Adams**

**Danny Chalkley**

Apologies:

**None**

Contact:

**Simon Gartshore**

Details:

**Telephone: 020 7641 2341**

**Email: [sgartshore@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:sgartshore@westminster.gov.uk)**

## **1. MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN**

- 1.1 There were no changes to the Membership.
- 1.2 Councillor Colin Barrow was appointed Chairman.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 2.1 None declared.

## **3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2006 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of proceedings.

## **4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 4.1 No other business was raised.

## **5. EXEMPT REPORT UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

- 5.1 **RESOLVED:** That under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information on the grounds shown below:

<b>Agenda Item No</b>	<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Paragraphs</b>
6	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings	3 & 5

## **6. WIRELESS CITY PROPOSAL** (see report of the Directors of Customer Services, Director of Finance and Director of Legal and Administrative Services – Item 6)

- 6.1 The report submitted to the Cabinet on 13 November which had been referred to the Urgency Committee had been recirculated.
- 6.2 The Director of Customer Services introduced a presentation outlining the proposed roll out of the Wireless City programme, anticipated benefits, and

adjustments since the report was considered by the Cabinet on 13 November as well as the likely costs of not proceeding. It was noted that BT had recently firmed up its UK Wireless Cities investment plans and that this complemented and strengthened the overall proposition in Westminster. The slides presented by the Director, which highlighted changes to the Business Case since the report was presented to the Cabinet, are filed in the minute book.

- 6.3 Members of the Committee asked questions of the officers on the initial start-up costs, challenged the underlying assumptions and queried what benefits could still be available from a partner organisation and the potential costs should the Committee not agree to these specific proposals.
- 6.4 Further discussion focussed on the potential for joint-branding with a partner organisation, who would be able to access the system, where the system could be accessed and what functions would be available to users. Members stressed the importance of the roll-out of the programme being supported by a clear communications strategy focusing on the early benefits for residents, business and visitors
- 6.5 The officers present provided reassurances to the Committee on the issues referred to above.

*The meeting adjourned from 9:52am to 9:58am*

6.6 **RESOLVED:**

- a) That the revised headline business case for the full roll out and Wave 1 of the Wireless City set out in the presentation and the wider commercial offer set out in Section 8 of the report be noted
- b) That approval be given to the City Wide roll out as set out in Section 4 of the report subject to a break provision enforceable at the end of Wave 1.
- c) That capital expenditure be approved for the full roll out of the Wireless City for the purposes of Financial Regulation B8 as set out in Section 11 of the report and subject to the provision in (b) above.
- d) That revenue expenditure be approved and funded as set out in slides 23-27 of the presentation and subject to the provision in (b) above
- e) That the Director of Legal and Administrative Services and Director of Customer Services be authorised to finalise any outstanding matters (including the detailed terms of the contractual or other associated documentation) and conclude contracts accordingly.
- f) That Members be briefed on a quarterly basis in order that they can be kept informed and keep under review the implementation of the proposals.

### **Reason for Decision**

Commercial negotiations have concluded for the next stage of building a virtual private wireless network for the Council. The Business case works and therefore the Council should proceed with a full rollout of the network subject to a break provision at the end of Wave 1. The development of a Wireless network is a key enabler to support the Council's WorkSmart and One City Programmes. It will also reinforce the Council's reputation for innovation thereby continuing to attract external resources.

## **7. END OF MEETING**

7.1 The meeting ended at 10am.

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CHAIRMAN:

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DATE: