

## USE OF CONTRACTORS WORKING PARTY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 18 May 2010 – 6.30 p.m.  
Council Chamber

### Attendees

#### **Councillors**

P Purver (Chairman)  
V Richichi, and A Saffell

In attendance R Woodward

#### **Officers**

Keith Gordon, Senior Scrutiny Officer

#### **1. Apologies for Absence.**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor P Purver declared a personal and prejudicial interest as the employee of a company that undertakes a small amount of irregular contract work for the Council.

#### **3. Minutes**

The meeting noted the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2010 as a correct record.

#### **4. Use of Contractors**

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented a summary of the evidence received by the working party.

During discussion Members expressed concerns relating to;

- The basis of the percentage of work undertaken by the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) and ensuring that use of the contractor is only to fulfil the demand that the DLO cannot.
- Consideration of the environmental implications on awarding contracts to distant contractors
- Possible reduced prices to obtain contracts, that were later increased
- Ensuring that the Council was not too 'risk adverse' and followed closely and did not go beyond the legal requirements when letting contracts

Members felt that it was necessary to extend the original timetable for the examination to fulfil the remit of the working party and requested that the Procurement and Partnership Manager be invited to a future meeting of the Working Party to assist Members and respond to some of the matters discussed. Members

also requested further information relating to the identification of contractors used by service and the length of each contract detailed.

During discussion, Members referred to several matters relating to the housing repairs contract that were without the scope of the working party. Members were advised that some of these matters could be drawn more appropriately to the attention of the forthcoming Housing Repairs Working Party.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

DRAFT