

Draft Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday 1st May 2008 in Committee Rooms A, B & C, Monkton Park, Chippenham.

Present:

Chair: CJ Caswill

Councillors: RL Cinnamond, SK Doubell, PJ Doyle, JM Hartless, RB MacGregor, SG Parker, C Reid, ML Singlehurst and JPSS Thomson.

Other Members Present: R Tonge

Officers Present: D Burbidge (Chief Executive), J Densham (Democratic Services Assistant), C Pescod (Development Control Manager), L Robertson (Head of Policy and Performance), M Todd (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and G Wilkie (Performance Management Officer).

O136. Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

O137. Membership

Councillor to be replaced	Replacement	Political Group
PCB Coleman	S Doubell	Liberal Democrats

O138. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

O139. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 March 2008 were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 27 March 2008 be signed as a correct record.

O140. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

O141. Chair's Announcements

There were no Chair's announcements.

O142. Action Report

Consideration was given to Report No. 7, circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on actions from the meeting on 27 March 2008.

Resolved that the report be noted.

O143. Section 106 Briefing Note

Consideration was given to Report No. 8, circulated with the agenda, which asked for a briefing paper to provide background information and current arrangements for dealing with legal agreements made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) as amended.

Items discussed were:

- Legal and financial systems are now in place to track funds;
- Funds are bound by legal agreement in their allocation to a specific purpose and therefore cannot be 'lost' by the Transition process;
- The systems above refer to allocation not spend; and
- Ease of access to this information by members and the public should be considered.

Resolved that

- 1) The arrangements and background information for dealing with Legal Agreements made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) be noted; and
- 2) A recommendation be made from this Committee to the Frontline Services Workstream to make this information more readily available under the new Council on a Community Area basis.

O144. Corporate Plan Progress Update – Final Quarter 2007/08

Consideration was given to Report No. 9, circulated with the Agenda, which provided an update and exceptions report on the delivery and performance of the Corporate Plan for the fourth quarter of 2007/08.

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Items discussed were:

- The ongoing importance of the performance indicators to ensure North Wiltshire District Council retains its standards of delivery up to 31 March 2009;
- It was noted that not all the work at the Pounds Art Centre had been completed. The Leader agreed to advise Cllr Reid about progress on this matter;
- The Young People's Council is currently being operated through Wiltshire County Council as our own Youth Officer has left the NWDC; and
- The duplication of work between Community Partnerships and Area Committees was considered, which will be resolved by the new Area Boards.

The Chair congratulated Graham Wilkie on his appointment at Bristol City Council and thanked him for the contribution he has made to the Committee's work.

Resolved that the final quarter exception reporting for delivery and performance of actions under the priority areas in the Corporate Plan be noted.

O145. Council Involvement in Health Issues

Consideration was given to Report No.10, circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on the Wiltshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and pertinent issues.

Items discussed were:

- The County Health Scrutiny Committee had not considered the issue of hospital bed closures. This was now unlikely to happen until July.

Cllr Reid noted that she was a member of the PCT but did not believe she had a conflict of interest in this case, and would participate in the discussion.

The Chair moved and Cllr S Doubell seconded the following motion:-

“To invite a representative from the PCT to attend the next meeting to discuss bed closures at Chippenham Hospital.”

On being put to the motion the vote was **lost**.

Note:- Cllrs Caswill, S Doubell and MacGregor requested that their votes in favour of the motion be recorded.

As an alternative, Cllr Reid proposed that she brief herself on the current situation in respect of Chippenham Hospital and report on this to the next meeting.

Resolved that

- 1) The updated report from the lead Member be noted;
- 2) Cllr Reid be asked to report to next meeting on the PCT position on this issue; and

- 3) Cllr Parker be asked to help have this issue included as an agenda item for the next County Health Scrutiny Committee meeting.

O146. The South West Regional Spatial Strategy - Update

Consideration was given to Report No. 11, circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on the changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Resolved that this item be deferred.

O147. Audit Report on Leisure Services in North Wiltshire

Consideration was given to Report No. 12, circulated with the agenda, which presented to Members the Audit Inspection Report for Leisure Centres in North Wiltshire, as produced by the Audit Commission.

Resolved that this item be deferred.

O148. Councillor Call for Action/Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Consideration was given to Report No. 13, circulated on 25 April 2008, which provided an update on the latest position on the Councillor Call for Action and scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.

Resolved that this item be deferred.

O149. Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report

Consideration was given to Report No. 14, circulated on 28 April 2008, which required Overview & Scrutiny Committee to produce an annual report to full Council on its workings, recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods. The purpose of the report was to set out the proposed annual report.

Resolved that the report be accepted subject to the necessary updates following this meeting and that the amended version be presented to the Council meeting on 24 June 2008.

O150. A Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Consideration was given to Report No. 15, circulated with the agenda, which set out the Committee's work programme for 2008/09.

Items discussed were:

- A reconsideration of the management of the two new task groups in the light of pressures on officer time from the increasing Unitary Transition workload.

Resolved that

- 1) The Car Parking and CCTV enquiries now be taken forward as Small Task and Finish Groups, under the procedures recently agreed;
- 2) Cllr MacGregor and Cllr Singlehurst be asked to research existing CCTV Scrutiny Reviews and report to the next meeting;
- 3) The Car Parking group proceed with its first three Terms of Reference, and then report on their work and their findings; so that the Committee can decide how to proceed further;
- 4) Cllr Reid be appointed the Chair of the Car Parking Group; and
- 5) The S.106 report scheduled for July should now be deleted from the work programme.

O151. Joint Overview & Scrutiny Board Update

An oral update was given by the Chair on the main issues discussed at the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board (JOSTB) meeting on 25 April 2008.

Items considered were:

- The validity of the proposed separation of the Leisure & Parks department from the Libraries, Heritage and Arts department under the 1C4W restructure;
- The One Council Transition Extranet web-site is now much improved;
- The Chair had been appointed as a member of a small sub-group scrutinising the proposals for a new Wide Area Network, and continued as the JOSTB member with particular responsibility for the Risk Management programme;
- Cllr Hill had presented his JOSTB Task Group's interim report on waste, and this had been well received; and
- The JOSTB had decided not to act as a channel for all District Scrutiny Review work, but to leave it to District Committees to refer reports and specific findings to it, and its various Task Groups, as they judged appropriate.

O152. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved that under Schedule 12A of Section 100A(4) of The Local Government Act, 1972, the public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following item of business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined below

and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information:

Agenda item/Report name	Paragraph of the Act/Schedule describing the exemption
Agenda Item 18 – Development of Bath Road Car Park and the Bridge Centre, Chippenham	<p>Paragraph 1 – Information relating to any individual;</p> <p>Paragraph 3 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information);</p> <p>Paragraph 5 – Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.</p>
Agenda Item 19 – Management of NWDC Business	<p>Paragraph 1 – Information relating to any individual;</p> <p>Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p>

O153. Development of Bath Road Car Park and the Bridge Centre, Chippenham

Consideration was given to Report No. 18, circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on the proposals for the Bath Road Site, Chippenham.

Items discussed were:

- This is an opportunity to create a landmark scheme for Chippenham;
- Existing users (largely young people) at the Bridge Centre have been promised that they will not suffer a decrease in their services during this period and will be accommodated elsewhere; and
- The Leader’s statement that there was still ample time for discussion of the detailed specification and for public consultation.

Resolved that report be noted.

O154. Management of NWDC Business

The Chief Executive gave an oral presentation, supported by PowerPoint slides, entitled 'Keeping the North Wiltshire District Council Show on the Road'.

Items discussed were:

- The growing number of senior North Wilts staff now spending substantial amounts of their time on the Transition, thus reducing their capacity to work on District issues;
- The five councils are now looking to 31 December 2008 as the date for joining up in order to be fully operational by 1 April 2009;
- Staff morale is still considered good at NWDC but the view was expressed that other authorities might not be faring as well. Amalgamating teams early reduces the levels of staff dissatisfaction;
- Attracting senior staff to the organisation is becoming increasingly difficult;
- The need for Council leadership to continue a positive approach;
- Many staff already consider themselves to be Wiltshire Council officers;
- There is a strong need to avoid duplication and unnecessary work;
- All new Overview and Scrutiny work must be considered in the light of the changing circumstances; and
- The Committee's continuing responsibilities to North Wiltshire residents.

Resolved that

- 1) The Chief Executive be invited back to present an update to the September meeting; and
- 2) A member seminar be offered to update all councillors on the current situation.

The meeting finished at 9.40pm.

There were 0 members of the public present.