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COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE ON
18 MARCH 2008

PRESENT: Mrs J H Seager (Chairman), Mr ML Baker, Mr P Batchelor, Mrs NS Bryant, Mrs EA Chettleburgh, Mr TP Chivers, Mr Coleman, Mr M Connolly, Mr BE Dalton, Mr A Davis, Mr P Davis, Mr AN Deane, Mrs HM Dixon, Mrs SK Doubell, Mrs MJ Douglas, Mr P Fuller, Mrs MEM Groom, Brigadier RWS Hall, Mrs EM Hannaford-Dobson, Mr JR Henning, Mr M Hewson, Mr CP Humphries, Mr JP Johnson, Mr A Molland, Mr WR Moss, Mr CS Newbury, Mr JC Noeken, Mr JB Osborn, Mrs P Rugg, Mrs JA Scott, Mr TR Sturgis, Mrs J Swabey, Mrs MSN Taylor, Mr JP Thomson, Mr AJ Trotman, Mrs BA Wayman, Mr RS While and Mrs M White

41. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr E Clark, Miss MF de Rhe-Philipe, Dr JM English, Mr SJ Oldrieve, Mr RT Rogers, Mrs JH Rooke, Mrs Soden, Mr IC West and Mr KC Wren

42. **Members' Interests**

No interests were declared.

43. **Public Participation**

None.

44. **Communications From the Chairman**

(a) **Visit by Dr Seldon, Master of Wellington College**

The Chairman explained that Dr Seldon, the Master of Wellington College would be making a presentation to Members at 10.30am prior to Annual Council on 13 May and that the Council meeting would follow at 11.00 am.

Dr Seldon would provide a brief presentation on the Academy project and its aims and objectives and provide an opportunity for Members to ask questions time permitting.

(b) DVD – ‘Having a Life – Not a Service’

Members were shown a DVD regarding adult care entitled ‘Having a Life – Not a Service’ which was introduced by Mr Thomson, Cabinet Member for Community Services.

45. **One Council for Wiltshire**

(a) Appointments to the Implementation Executive

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer which advised that the Wiltshire (Structural Change) Order 2008 had been approved by both Houses of Parliament and signed by the Secretary of State. The Order came into force on 26 February 2008 and established the new Wiltshire Council with effect from 1 April 2009.

Article 6 (3) of the Order required the establishment of an Implementation Executive to deal with the transfer of district council functions to the new Council. An informal Implementation Executive had been operating since November 2007 pending the making of the Order. Council was now asked to formally establish the Implementation Executive. All four district councils had been asked to formally nominate their two representatives and this Council’s Leader had made her nominations details of which were presented.

Resolved:

(a) To approve the Leader’s proposed nominations for membership of the Implementation Executive, as follows:

**Mr. J. Thomson
Mr. M. L. Baker
Mrs. N. S. Bryant
Mrs. M. J. Douglas
Miss M. F. de Rhé-Philipe
Mr. T. G. Sturgis
Mr. J. C. Noeken
Mrs. B. Wayman**

(NB. Mrs J Scott is automatically a member and the Leader of the Implementation Executive by virtue of the Wiltshire (Structural Change) Order 2008)

(b) To authorise the County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to make any consequential amendments to the Council’s Constitution to give effect to the changes required in the Wiltshire (Structural Change) Order.

(c) To appoint the Council’s Chief Executive, as Head of Paid Service, as the Proper Officer for the purposes of the Wiltshire (Structural Change) Order.

(b) Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances

Council was asked to consider the following recommendation of the Implementation Executive (IE) made at its informal meeting held on 13 February 2008:

"That the County Council be asked to appoint a Member Remuneration Panel to consider the Implementation Executive's request that an allowance be paid to its members".

The Leader explained the background to the recommendation in that it was the view of some of the Members of the IE that a remuneration panel should be asked to consider if service on the IE warranted a special responsibility allowance and if approved, any payment be made by Wiltshire County Council as the appointing authority.

The recommendation was moved and seconded.

Mr Osborn, Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board (JOSTB) expressed the view of Members engaged in overview and scrutiny that should such a remuneration panel be formed, it would only be right to extend its remit to consider also the role of members on the JOSTB. Mr Osborn moved an amendment to add the following to the end of the motion:

"...and those appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board and its task groups".

The mover and seconder of the motion agreed to add the amendment to their original motion and on being put to the vote, the motion as amended was LOST and it was therefore

Resolved:

That the recommendation of the Implementation Executive (Informal) to appoint a Remuneration Panel to consider the Implementation Executive's request that an allowance be paid to its members be not adopted.

46. **Appointment of Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for Great Western Ambulance Service**

At its last meeting on 12 February 2008, Council had considered a report which sought approval to establish a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the performance of the Great Western Ambulance Trust and to appoint 3 Members from the Wiltshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to it.

In line with other neighbouring constituent councils, this Council had been asked to waive the requirement for political proportionality for the Joint Committee. However, on being put to the vote at the last meeting, one Member had voted against the proposal which meant that the matter could not progress.

Council considered a report from Mr While, Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which updated Members on formation of the Joint Committee and sought reconsideration of the proposal to waive political proportionality in establishing the Joint Committee and to appoint members to it. Mr While submitted a notice of motion signed by the requisite 10 Members of the Council to enable the Council to rescind its previous decision.

Mr While explained that in view of this Council's previous decision, his attendance at the first meeting of the Joint Committee held on 29 February 2008 was only in an observer capacity. He added that this had been frustrating given that this Council had been the instigating authority to appoint the joint committee.

Resolved:

- (a) That the previous decision of the Council in this matter dated 12 February 2008 under minute no. 21 be rescinded.**
- (b) That Council agrees to the establishment of a Joint Health Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the performance of the Great Western Ambulance Trust as outlined in the draft Terms of Reference as presented.**
- (c) That approval be given to waive the requirement for political proportionality on the Great Western Ambulance Trust Joint Health Scrutiny Committee under Paragraph 20 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 made under Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, provided that all participating authorities agree to do so and that the membership includes at least one member eligible to be a member of the LGA Independent Group.**
- (d) That the following 3 members of the Wiltshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee be nominated to serve on the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee:**

**Mrs Winchcombe
Dr English
Mr While**

47. State of Wiltshire Debate

To assist Members, the following documents had been circulated:

Reports previously considered by Cabinet on 26 February 2008 and subsequent minutes in respect of:

- Local Agreement For Wiltshire and Our Local Area Agreement

- Key Performance Update – December 2007 and CPA Results

and

- Key Facts and Findings From Public Surveys Held in Wiltshire in 2007

The Chairman introduced the Council's sixth State of Wiltshire Debate and invited the Leader to open the debate.

The Leader reflected on the Council's many achievements over the past year, how the Council had addressed previous concerns and referred to the challenges in the year ahead, the most significant being the transition to One Council for Wiltshire. She also mentioned the various initiatives which would be undertaken in the year ahead to improve the lives of the County's residents.

The Leader then moved her motion, details of which were circulated and this was duly seconded by Mr Thomson, the Deputy Leader.

Mr Coleman on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Mrs Taylor, Leader of the Labour Group and Mr Newbury, Leader of the Independent Group responded to the Leader's address and motion and the debate was then opened to all Members.

Appendix 1 to these minutes provides a summary of the debate.

On being put to the vote, the Leader's motion was CARRIED and it was therefore

Resolved:

That the County Council:

- 1. notes the CPA assessment for 2007**
- 2. endorses the priorities in the Strategic Board's draft Local Area Agreement, namely**
 - a. Build 'resilient communities' with high social capital through people feeling socially included, enabling people and communities to build skills, abilities, knowledge and confidence to take effective action and play leading roles in the development of their communities and so enhancing their quality of life.**
 - b. Improve affordable housing**
 - c. 'Lives not services':**
 - i. Support more people in Wiltshire to have independent and fulfilling lives as part of their local community**
 - ii. Support families to provide the strong foundations for children and young people's development**

- iii. **Enable individuals to make informed choices to improve their long term health and well being and reduce 'All Age All Cause Mortality'**
 - d. **Wiltshire exhibiting a positive and sustainable environment for economic growth.**
 - e. **Reduce particular crimes, change behaviours and inform the public to bring about communities that are safe and feel safe**
 - f. **Environment:**
 - i. **Tackle climate change**
 - ii. **A high quality, natural environment that enriches the lives of people**
 - g. **Work together to achieve the ambitions, including new governance arrangements for the 'family of partnerships' and the establishment of community area boards.**
 - And notes that a further report on this topic will be brought to its next meeting for approval.**
 - 3. **Welcomes the proposals in the Leader's e-mail to all Councillors dated 3rd March, regarding the future of Post Office services in Wiltshire, and her proposal to establish a Task Group of Councillors to advise her on the development of those proposals**

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 – 1.12pm)

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