

SUMMONS

Meeting: Council

Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Date: Tuesday 17 May 2022

Time: 10.30 am

Members are reminded to sign the attendance sheet before entering the Council Chamber

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Tara Shannon of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718352 or email

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Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114/713115.

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Public Participation

Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of deadlines for submission of questions and statements for this meeting.

For extended details on meeting procedure, submission and scope of questions and other matters, please consult [Part 4 of the council's constitution](#).

The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

PART I

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1 **Election of Chairman 2022/23**

To elect a Chairman for the forthcoming year.

2 **Election of Vice-Chairman 2022/23**

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

3 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for the meeting.

4 **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (*Pages 7 - 62*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting of Council held on 15 February 2022.

5 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

To receive any announcements through the Chair.

7 **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

Statements

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named above for any further clarification. Statements must relate to a specific agenda item.

Questions

To receive any questions from members of the public received in accordance with the constitution. Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named above (acting on behalf of the Proper Officer) no later than 5pm on 10 May 2022 in order to receive a written response, and no later than 5pm on 12 May 2022 in order to receive a verbal response. Please contact the officer named on the front of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

8 **Petitions**

No petitions have been submitted for presentation to the meeting..

APPOINTMENTS

9 **Political Balance and Allocation of Members to Committee** *(To Follow)*

9a) **Appointment of Committees and Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups**

9b) **Appointment of Area Boards, Committees and the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority**

9c) **Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees**

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL

10 **Proposed Changes to the Constitution - Part 3B - Audit and Governance Committee** *(Pages 63 - 72)*

To receive a report from the Monitoring Officer.

11 **Parish Name Change Review** *(Pages 73 - 78)*

To receive a report from the Director of Legal and Governance.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

12 **Notices of Motion**

No motions were submitted for the meeting.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

13 **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report to Council** *(Pages 79 - 84)*

To receive an annual report on Overview and Scrutiny activity.

14 **Announcements from Cabinet and Committees**

a) The Leader, Cabinet members and Chairmen of Committees will be invited to make any important announcements.

b) Members will be given the opportunity to raise questions to the Chairmen of Committees or regarding the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority on the minutes of their meetings, available [here](#).

c) Members will be given an opportunity to raise general issues relating to Area Boards but not specific local issues.

Members' Questions

Members were required to give notice of any such question in writing to the officer named on the front page of this agenda no later than 5pm on 3 May 2022 in order to be guaranteed a written response.

Any question received after 5pm on 3 May 2022 and no later than 5pm on 10 May 2022 may only receive a verbal response at the meeting. Any questions received after this date will be received at the next meeting.

Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman determines the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Members prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

PART II

Items during consideration of which it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed.

None

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
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Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2022 AT THE LANSDOWN HALL - CIVIC CENTRE, ST STEPHENS PLACE, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8AH.

Present:

Cllr Stuart Wheeler (Chairman), Cllr James Sheppard (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Helen Belcher, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Nick Errington, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Nick Holder, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Simon Jacobs, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Charles McGrath, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Dominic Muns, Cllr Dr Nick Murry, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Paul Oatway QPM, Cllr Jack Oatley, Cllr Andrew Oliver, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tim Trimble, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Caroline Corbin, Sarah Gibson, Jon Hubbard, Tony Jackson, Jacqui Lay, Ashley O'Neill, Rich Rogers, Derek Walters, and Mary Webb.

2 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Brian Dalton declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute 8 – Wiltshire Council’s Financial Plan Update and Budget 2022/23, and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/3 to 2024/25 - in relation to the housing revenue account, as he held a garage tenancy with the Council. Councillor Dalton stated he would withdraw from the meeting when a vote was taken on the housing revenue account details.

4 **Announcements by the Chairman**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

a) **Kevin Wren**

On behalf of Wiltshire Council, the Chairman expressed condolences to the family and friends of Kevin Wren, former Chairman of Wiltshire County Council 2006-07, following his death in November 2021. He stated that everyone was saddened to hear of his death and that thoughts and prayers remained with everyone who knew and had worked with him.

b) **Chairman’s Engagements**

A list of some recent engagements attended by the Chairman from 19 October 2021 to 14 February 2022 were detailed as below:

- 21 October 2021 - WRFCA Lord-Lieutenant Cadet Awards Presentation Evening, Cricklade House Hotel, Swindon.
- 24 October 2021 - Mayor of Westbury’s Civic Service, All Saint’s Church, Westbury.
- 1 November 2021 - Tree planting Ceremony in honour of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Corsham’s Garden of Remembrance.
- 1 November 2021 - OBE/BEM Medal Presentation Ceremony, hosted by the Lord-Lieutenant, first floor ceremony room, County Hall, Trowbridge.
- 11 November 2021 - Chippenham Town Council Armistice Day Commemoration, Town Hall, Chippenham.
- 13 November 2021 - Imber Service of Remembrance, St. Giles’ Church, Imber.
- 14 November 2021 - Trowbridge Service of Remembrance, St. James’ Church and the War Memorial in the Park.
- 2 December 2021 - Royal visit of HRH The Duchess of Cornwall to the rededication of the War Memorial, Church of the Holy Cross, Seend.
- 10 December 2021 - South Wilts Grammar School Speech Day, Stratford Road, Salisbury.
- 13 December 2021 - County of Wiltshire Carol Service, Chapel of All Saint’s, Wardour Castle, Tisbury.
- 6 February 2022 - Salisbury City Council Annual Charter Service, The Parish Church of St. Thomas and St. Edmund’s Salisbury.

A list of some recent engagements attended by the Vice-Chairman from 19 October 2021 to 14 February 2022 were detailed as below:

- 24 October 2021 - Mayor of Royal Wootton Bassett's Civic Service, St. Bartholomew's and All Angels Church, High Street, RWB.
- 14 November 2021 - Chippenham Service of Remembrance, St. Andrew's Church, Chippenham.

c) New Year's Honours List

The Chairman announced that a number of Wiltshire residents had received national recognition in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours' list in January, as follows:

OBE

Sharon Blyfield
Veronica Bowman
Zoe Keeton
Adrian Smith

MBE

Katherine French
Denise O'Leary
Joy Tubbs
Jonathan Turner

BEM

Ellen Blacker
Jane Boulton
Paul Bromage
Simon Coombe
Peter Deck
Edward Evans
Thomas Kimnell
Amanda Mathews
Tina May
David Rowe
Timothy Swinyard
Sarah Williams-Martin

d) Agenda Order

The Chairman highlighted Agenda Item 16, Adoption of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, and with consent of the meeting noted that it would be moved forward and considered after Agenda Item 12, Climate Strategy and Update on the Council's Response to the Climate Emergency.

e) Recorded Votes

On the proposal of the Charman, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, it was,

Resolved:

To suspend Paragraphs 22.6.2 - 22.6.4 of Part 4 of the Constitution to remove the requirement for automatic recorded votes on non-budgetary agenda Items.

5 **Petitions**

The Chairman stated that five petitions had been formally received by the Council since the last ordinary meeting held on 19 October 2021, as detailed within the council summons. Two petitions had met the threshold and had been requested for presentation to the meeting.

The first petition was presented by Harriet James representing Sustainable Warminster, calling for Wiltshire Council to develop an urgent pollinator action plan. Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change, thanked the petitioners and noted the points and issues raised, recognising the importance of ecological connectivity to the movement of different species. It was explained that this issue was being considered by the Council and that actions such as identifying strategic corridors to help nature recovery, would be included within the Wiltshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The second petition was also presented by Harriet James representing Sustainable Warminster, calling for Wiltshire Council to double tree cover in Wiltshire by 2045. Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change, noted the points and issues raised by the petition and highlighted that there would be a focus on tree planting over the next few years with emphasis placed on planting the right trees in the right places.

Following which, it was,

Resolved:

- 1) **That Council notes the update on petitions in the report.**
- 2) **That Council receives the petitions presented to the meeting.**

6 **Public Participation**

The Chairman explained the procedure that would be followed for public participation at the meeting in accordance with the constitution.

Although statements and questions would normally be considered during the relevant agenda item, as it was likely to be a very lengthy meeting the Chairman offered the opportunity for questions and statements to be received under Item 6 instead.

Details of questions received during the item are detailed below. Other questions together with responses were set out in the agenda supplement.

Question P22-01 - Adam Walton - Item 12 – A written response was provided as detailed in the agenda supplement. A supplementary question was asked relating to calculating and publishing impact of carbon emissions from major decisions and how the council would counteract where this led to an increase. Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change, noted how emissions from particular decisions were calculated was being discussed, but that proper data assessment to achieve that calculation was ongoing.

P22-04 and P22-05 - Keith Freegard - Item 12 - Written responses were provided as detailed in the agenda supplement. A supplementary question was asked relating to how the council planned to engage with businesses operating in the county, in a measurable and quantifiable way, within specific timescales to meet the urgency of the problem. Also, whether the council would collaborate with groups such as the Wiltshire Climate Alliance to work with businesses. Councillor Botterill as the relevant Cabinet Member stated the Climate Strategy represented the top level document, and that delivery plans would set specific numbers. The significance of businesses was noted and that the council would engage with them as much as it could to persuade them to take actions and provide educational opportunities, focusing on efforts likely to be effective.

Statements were received as follows:

Dave Lewis in respect of item 8 – Financial Plan
Jeremy Wire in respect of Item 12 – Climate Strategy
Brig Oubridge in respect of Item 12 – Climate Strategy
Christian Lange in respect of Item 12 – Climate Strategy

Following Item 7, a further public question was received for later items, as follows:

P22-10 - Andrew Nicolson - A written response was provided as detailed in the agenda supplement. A supplementary question was asked relating to the council's strategy relating to traffic growth or reduction. Councillor Dr Mark McClelland as Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding, noted the reduction in public transport use as a result of the pandemic, and the council's goal to decarbonise transport whilst recognising cars would remain in use particularly for a rural county. Mr Nicolson questioned the council's commitment to its resolution to seek to attain net zero status. Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, confirmed the council would continue to seek to achieve that target, although this would be challenging under current legislative frameworks set by central government.

7 **Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23**

The Chairman invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, to present a report on the Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23.

Councillor Clewer proposed a motion to accept the recommendations set out in the report, seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council. It was explained that the report set out an updated strategy looking at the way in which funds were invested to ensure the best returns possible, an example of which being that investments into property were being considered for the first time. However, it was highlighted that only specific investments funds aimed at local authorities were being contemplated.

Comments were then made on the proposals by Group Leaders as follows:

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, agreed with the prudence of the report, welcomed the additional investments into property and was happy to support the strategy.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, stated that he was happy to support the strategy.

During the debate comments were received including commending officers and the Cabinet on the accessibility of the report when considering its technical nature. Reassurance was sought in relation to ethical investment, and comments were received regarding the forecasting of cash balances and changes to investment strategy including looking at lists of approved countries for investment.

At the conclusion of debate Councillor Clewer addressed comments made above, and it was,

Resolved:

That Full Council:

- 1) Adopt the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (paragraphs 25 – 27)**
- 2) Adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators (paragraphs 19 – 24, 36 – 42 and Appendix A)**
- 3) Adopt the Annual Investment Strategy (paragraphs 66 onwards).**
- 4) Delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) the authority to vary the amount of borrowing and other long-term liabilities within the Treasury Indicators for the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary**

- 5) Authorise the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) to agree the restructuring of existing long-term loans where savings are achievable or to enhance the long-term portfolio
- 6) Agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans, deposits and money market funds
- 7) Agree that any surplus cash balances not required to cover borrowing are placed in the most appropriate specified or non-specified investments, particularly where this is more cost effective than short term deposits; and delegate to the Corporate Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) the authority to select such funds
- 8) Approve the use of Property Funds (paragraphs 73 - 75)

8 **Wiltshire Council's Financial Plan Update and Budget 2022/23, Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 - 2024/25**

Budget Introduction

The Chairman introduced the item and provided details of the reports which had been circulated. He explained the procedures to be followed for consideration and debate of the budget, including of any proposed amendments. He then invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, to present the proposed budget.

Councillor Clewer thanked officers and his Cabinet, including the former Cabinet Member for Finance Councillor Pauline Church, for the work that had gone into preparing the budget. He thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Financial Planning Task Group for their work to scrutinise the proposed budget, and all staff for their work over the last year in continued response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Clewer emphasised the budget was not a standalone document but was to be considered in the context of the medium term financial strategy and the Business Plan, delivering on the aims of the manifesto on which the Wiltshire Conservative's had set out at the May 2021 local elections. It would be part of a long term, strategic plan to put in place funding to deliver services, which would be monitored through data and evidence.

Councillor Clewer outlined some of the challenges facing the council and the public, including rising inflation and energy costs, the risk of war in Europe causing disruption, NHS backlogs as the country emerged from the pandemic, and uncertainty on longer term funding. He stated reserve funding had been set aside to deal with latent demand on services, and to address the need to deliver savings which had not been achieved due to the urgent focus on responding to the pandemic. He explained that difficult decisions were necessary to enable the council to be in a strong position in future, and criticised the submitted amendments as set out in the Summons as being short term and not focused

on developing new ways of working, as well as impacting a very small element of the total budget.

Councillor Clewer further set out details of the proposed budget, including the £418m revenue spending and £1.3bn capital programme over 8 years. This would involve increasing council tax by 1.99% and the social care levy by 1%. Some of the details set out included £78m investment for the Wholelife Pathway, supporting those with complex need throughout their lives to live as independently as possible, £62m on Families and Children, including over 400 children in care and over 300 care leavers. The ongoing transformation programmes in adult social care and other services had delivered strong results and would continue to deliver more efficient and effective services. Details were provided of increased spending on transport, drives to increase recycling, investment in leisure including £25m for a leisure centre in Trowbridge and a focus on supporting high streets, protecting the environment through effective tree planning strategies and biodiversity. He noted the high rating the council had received for its response to climate change, with work undertaken including £50m on upgrading the council's housing stock, and £28m on decarbonising the council. Area Boards would be supported to deliver on Business Plan priorities.

In conclusion, Councillor Clewer stated the budget provided a clear plan and vision to delivery improved services by making difficult and necessary decisions, and recommended council approve the proposal.

Councillor Clewer therefore proposed a motion to adopt the recommendations as set out in the budget report on pages 76-77 of the Summons. This was seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council.

The Chairman invited Councillor Graham Wright, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to comment and present the report of the Scrutiny meeting held on 25 January 2022. This included a series of question and comments on the budget as set out in the Summons.

The Chairman invited Councillor Pip Ridout, Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group to comment. She explained the Task Group had looked at a number of high level issues relating to the budget including details on inflation measurement, delivery of savings and calculation of risks and reserves management.

Questions and statements relating to the budget were received from members of the public under Item 6.

The Chairman then invited group leaders to comment on the proposed budget.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, thanked the people of Wiltshire for their resilience and goodwill across a very difficult time. He praised council staff for continuing to deliver services for the people of Wiltshire, and supported comments of the Leader in particular relating to the delivery of Waste services throughout the pandemic. He thanked the former Cabinet Member for Finance for an open and transparent approach in preparing

the budget. He thanked staff who had assisted the group in checking its amendments.

Councillor Thorn accepted that preparing a budget was not easy, particularly given a lack of fairer funding from government. He stated the proposals had a negative impact on the poorest and most vulnerable, and staff, and would slow economic recovery when it was needed the most. He explained that the forthcoming amendments would focus on three particularly damaging aspects of the budget, which had significant impacts despite a small part of the overall budget. He made particular reference to the proposals relating to luncheon and friendship clubs, and capital funding for Area Boards. He argued that the decisions in the budget had not been about financial competence but political choice and could not be supported.

Councillor Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, added his thanks to officers for their work during Covid. He made reference to the meeting with trade unions in respect of staff terms and conditions, and that he could not support the budget.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, stated there were things to be commended in the budget, including bringing leisure services back under the direct control of the council and increased council house building. He noted the impact of inflation, and the cuts to terms and conditions for staff, which would for example affect many working in social care. He also sought assurance it was not possible to freeze the council house rents, noting the 4.1% increase that was proposed. He stated he could not support the proposed budget as it stood.

Amendment 1

The Chairman then invited Councillor Gavin Grant, seconded by Councillor Ian Thorn, to present proposed Amendment 1, as set out in the Summons.

Councillor Grant explained that the amendment related to car parking and comprised of four elements: removing the introduction of parking charges for Blue Badge holders, removing the introduction of Sunday charges in all car parks, removing free event parking from Town Councils, and removing the increase in car parking charges by 10p per hour on every tariff. The latter included monies relating to increases in season tickets. This would be funded through a reduction in the high streets fund. He stated that traders needed support and people should be encouraged to park in the town and city centres, and that the planned increases to parking charges would negatively impact this.

Councillor Graham Wright, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, presented the report of the Committee from its meeting on 8 February 2022, which had looked at all three amendments from Councillors Grant and Thorn, and asked Council to consider the comments from that meeting.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders on Amendment 1.

Councillor Clewer confirmed he did not support the amendment. He did not consider reversing the proposals on car parking would address the issues of town centres competing with the internet for shopping. Retail, eating out, attending events and exploring heritage would help town centres thrive, and supporting that development was included in the budget, rather than a short term measure on car parking. He did not think the amendment was coherent or effective to assist town centres, and that the amendment would also increase carbon emissions whilst taking funds from the support of the high street.

Councillor Thorn criticised the statement of the Leader. He stated there was a current crisis facing high streets, with many businesses struggling, and action was needed not merely broader vision. The amendment was to support businesses who needed to pay business rates, in an immediate and effective way.

Councillor Clark noted car parking charges were a small part of motoring costs, but he would consider the arguments carefully in debate as it could potentially deter people from visiting.

Councillor Rogers stated when charges were increased car parking usage decreased, and that people would go elsewhere if local charges were higher, and it was not the right time for such an increase. He would therefore support the amendment.

The Chairman noted that the amendment could be moved in its separate elements, but it was intended to hold a single debate and vote on the four elements separately.

Councillor Philip Whitehead then made a point of order on the planned order of debate, stating that the amendment should be voted upon as it was moved, together. Following advice from the Monitoring Officer it was noted that in keeping with convention at council budget debates the main motion was intended to be taken in two separate votes to allow those with an interest in the Housing Revenue Account to depart, however if members were to vote separately on individual elements of the amendment, they would need to be clear on the financial impact and funding of each individual element.

A break was then taken from 12:50-13:50

Following the break, the Chairman announced that after further discussion he confirmed the debate would continue on the entirety of Amendment 1, and at its conclusion the mover and seconder would formally withdraw it. They would then move each element of the amendment separately, for which figures had been provided. Each freshly moved amendment would then be voted upon without further debate.

Amendment 1 Debate

The Chairman therefore opened debate on Amendment 1.

Comments made in support of the amendment included that any increase in car parking charges would induce people to travel elsewhere, even if the increase was slight, and that would not aid the recovery of town centres. The introduction of Sunday charges could also specifically target worshippers for a very small financial gain.

Other comments were made that town and parishes had already set their precepts and so would not be able to mitigate the loss of free event parking, which would impact their event planning and the holding of community events. Although it might be an ambition to reduce car journeys overall, it was stated that whatever high streets ended up looking like people did need to get to them, and the amendment took appropriate action to encourage people to visit.

The limited number of disabled parking spaces was raised, and the tens of thousands of Blue Badge holders in Wiltshire, many of whom were poorer or vulnerable and would be disproportionately impacted by the budget proposal. The funding of the amendment was discussed, with arguments made that the high streets fund included significant underspend from the previous year, and that in funding the amendment this would still be in support of the high streets.

Comments made against the amendment included that charges had not been increased for several years, that the increase was small and spread across four years, and that it was not realistic to leave charges at the current level in the short or long term.

It was argued that funding the amendment from the high streets fund was not a strategic approach to help the high streets adapt, that parking charges helped fund support for the most vulnerable and rural bus routes to encourage journeying to the towns, and that many authorities already charged Blue Badge holders or charged on Sundays, and therefore the impact of people going elsewhere for that reason would not be significant.

Comments were made that the proposals were not consistent with those arguing for reduced car use, that it was fairer to treat all groups the same, and that Blue Badge holders would still be able to park for free on double yellow lines for 3 hours. Others questioned whether the proposal was costed for the longer term.

Other comments in debate included that there should be a more consistent charging policy across the council, discussing the psychological effect, if any, from not increasing the charges versus the option of providing free car parking, or that it was the town offer that was more important than the level of local charges.

Councillor Grant, as mover of the amendment, then responded to comments made in debate. He emphasised that town and parish councils had already set their precepts as noted in debate and so could not simply cover the cost of further charges. He raised the nature of the high streets fund, stated there was no impact on council reserves, and that high streets needed support right now, not later, and the amendment sought to do this.

Councillor Clewer, as mover of the original motion, then responded to the comments made in debate. He stated the implications of inflation and other pressures required the council to take actions it might otherwise not seek to implement, that introducing free parking in Salisbury had not been beneficial to traders, that Blue Badge's were not mean tested. High streets needed to be transformed and the funding for that was needed.

Amendment 1 Votes

With consent of the meeting Councillors Grant and Thorn withdrew Amendment 1, and moved and seconded Amendment 1a, as follows:

Proposal Element	Impact 2022/23 £m	Impact 2022/23 £m	Impact 2022/23 £m	Funding 2022/23 £m	Funding 2023/24 £m
Removal of ' <i>Introduce Parking charges for Blue Badge holders</i> ' saving	0.040	0	0	£0.040m reduction of the High Streets Budget	-

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote:

Votes for the motion (27)

Votes against the motion (58)

Votes in abstention (3)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Thorn, then moved Amendment 1b, as follows:

Proposal Element	Impact 2022/23 £m	Impact 2022/23 £m	Impact 2022/23 £m	Funding 2022/23 £m	Funding 2023/24 £m
Removal of ' <i>Introduce Sunday charges in all car parks</i> ' saving	0.050	0	0	£0.050m reduction of the High Streets Budget	-

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote:

Votes for the motion (31)

Votes against the motion (54)

Votes in abstention (3)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Thorn, then moved Amendment 1c, as follows:

Proposal Element	Impact 2022/23 £m	Impact 2022/23 £m	Impact 2022/23 £m	Funding 2022/23 £m	Funding 2023/24 £m
Removal of ' <i>Remove free event parking from Town Councils</i> ' saving	0.020	0	0	£0.020m reduction of the High Streets Budget	-

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote:

Votes for the motion (31)
Votes against the motion (55)
Votes in abstention (2)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

Councillor Grant, seconded by Councillor Thorn, then moved Amendment 1d, as follows:

Proposal Element	Impact 2022/23 £m	Impact 2022/23 £m	Impact 2022/23 £m	Funding 2022/23 £m	Funding 2023/24 £m
Removal of ' <i>Increase car parking charges by 10p per hour on every tariff</i> ' saving	0.600	0.120	0	Additional saving ' <i>To increase Annual, Half-yearly and Quarterly Season Tickets by CPI (4%)</i> ' of £0.024m and a £0.576m reduction in the High Streets Budget	£0.120m reduction in the High Streets Budget

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote:

Votes for the motion (28)
Votes against the motion (57)

Votes in abstention (3)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

A break was then taken from 16:00-16:20

Amendment 2

The Chairman then invited Councillor Gavin Grant, seconded at the meeting by Councillor Dr Brian Mathew, to present proposed Amendment 2, as set out in the Summons.

Councillor Grant noted the proposal in the budget to seek a saving of £0.106m in the year 2022/23 and 2023/24 by reducing funding for luncheon clubs for older adults and friendship clubs. The amendment sought that the council support the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to undertake a rapid scrutiny exercise to consider the impact of those proposed savings. He noted that the outcome of that Overview and Scrutiny process could not be guaranteed, and drew attention to comments from the Section 151 officer in the Summons report, setting out potential budgetary implications should the outcome be one which increased financial pressures, which might require further savings in future budgets. He noted comments from Cabinet that there could be an alternative vehicle for the funding of the clubs, but there was a question of whether small groups would be able to go through procurement processes, and that there were other groups already seeking to make use of Area Board Health and Wellbeing funding.

Councillor Wright, as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, stated the Committee would undertake such an exercise if council agreed.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders on Amendment 2.

Councillor Clewer stated the current approach to luncheon and friendship clubs was based on a decades old model, with great variances in funding available without taking appropriate account of local populations which had developed over that time. The administration wanted a service available across the council area, which needed a new funding approach. All current clubs would be able to apply for funding either to a new £1.5m pot, with assistance to small clubs, or to Area Boards. He did not support the use of the Business Plan Priority Reserve as suggested in the amendment papers, and that this was not necessary as there would be funding to provide the service in a more equitable way, as it was not currently available in all areas.

Councillor Thorn noted the intention to transform the service, but this involved writing to the clubs that funding would be reduced, and they might then be able to apply for further funding, and this had not been clearly put to those groups. He noted some groups received funding far in excess of what Area Boards could provide. He didn't disagree about disparity across the county, but that this should have happened before the proposal, and so supported having the funding available in the short term and a scrutiny exercise to take place to

recommend an approach for the long term, to reassure the groups and those who relied upon them.

Councillor Wright, as Deputy for the Independent Group Leader, agreed that it was appropriate for scrutiny to take place.

Councillor Rogers stated he was reassured by the new funding mentioned by the Leader, but sought confirmation all clubs would have the opportunity to bid for that funding.

The Chairman then opened the amendment to debate.

Comments in debate included that the luncheon and friendship clubs provided a vital service for many vulnerable people, and the communication around the proposed transformation of the service had caused some anxiety. The need for a new model was raised, noting that some towns currently might receive far less funding than another which was only one fifth the size under the outdated model, and the process lacked clarity and oversight. Comments supported the issue being examined by Overview and Scrutiny, and that any new framework should not be complex or restrictive.

With consent of the meeting, Councillor Grant and the seconder then withdrew Amendment 2 following the comments made in debate, on the basis of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Councillor Jane Davies, and Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Management confirming that the matter would be placed before a Rapid Scrutiny Exercise,

Councillor Clewer added he supported moving ahead with the transformation, utilising Overview and Scrutiny to ensure the concerns raised to Full Council were checked.

Amendment 3

The Chairman then invited Councillor Gavin Grant, seconded by Councillor Ian Thorn, to present proposed Amendment 3, as set out in the Summons, relating to Area Board capital grants.

Councillor Grant raised the importance of Area Boards to the council in connecting with and enhancing local communities. He welcomed the increase in funding for the Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Groups (LHFIG), formerly Community Area Transport Groups, set up by each Area Board. However, the budget included a reduction in capital grants funding, and the purpose of the amendment was to reinstate the £0.400m that was to be reallocated for the LHFIG through additional borrowing. The revenue impact of this proposal would be £0.020m every year from 2023/24 and would have the impact of increasing the draw from the Budget Equalisation Reserve in 2023/24 to £9.122m and increase the budget gap in 2024/25.

Councillor Wright, as Charman of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, had no additional comments.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders on Amendment 3.

Councillor Clewer set out the budget proposal to transfer £0.400m from capital funding to the LHFIG, which would also save £0.290m in interest every year. He explained the use of Community Infrastructure Levy funding, and savings that would be achieved from the revenue budget. He considered the proposal was not sustainable as the increase every year would add up over time and was not an appropriate use of the reserves, which were to deal with localised urgent need. He therefore did not support the amendment, and considered the budget was a more effective way of funding Area Boards.

Councillor Thorn stated that he supported the increased LHFIG funding, but the issue was how much the role of Area Boards were valued. The role, investment and leadership of Area Boards for communities was often praised by the council. He did not think it appropriate to cut the capital funding without a replacement. He urged Members to support the amendment in order to maintain the ability of Area Boards to support their communities.

Councillor Wright, deputy for the Independent Group Leader, considered LHFIG funding could be more effective than capital grants.

Councillor Rogers noted the success of Area Boards for the council. He raised concerns about funding the amendment through borrowing, but also about reducing the capital budget of Area Boards. He expressed concern about whether there was capacity to ensure the LHFIG funding would indeed be spent, and the impact of reducing capital grants.

The Chairman then opened the amendment to debate.

Comments in support of the amendment included that Area Boards should be supported as much as possible to make decisions for their areas, as they were more local and effective at identifying local priorities. The importance of capital grant funding for more deprived areas in particular was raised, and that at the current level funds were usually all used up within a year. Others considered changing the funding allocations should have been reviewed before it was proposed, or that reducing the capital grants allocation reduced local decision making.

Comments against the amendment included that the funding for Area Boards was remaining the same, but would be allocated in a different way. Some stated that it was a matter of effective investment, noting that some groups applied only to the Area Board rather than seeking other available funding such as from parish councils, with others suggesting not all Area Boards were efficient or effective, or visible to communities.

Comments were made that it was not appropriate to fund the amendment through borrowing and use of the budget equalisation reserve for day to day spending, and drew attention to comments of the S151 Officer regarding financial pressures.

Other comments raised in debate included seeking clarity on the level of officer resource to administer the increased funding for LHFIGs to ensure it would lead to action,

Councillor Grant, in response to comments raised in debate, clarified the amount seeking to be borrowed, which would be for one year only, not an ongoing commitment, and the importance of finding a new way to fund Area Boards. He considered that it would be unfair that all Area Boards would see their capital funding reduced, and the amendment gave time to seek better models.

Councillor Clewer, in response to comments raised in debate, clarified that there would be additional support for the increased LHFIG allocation, and no reduction to the level of Area Board funding overall. Some Area Boards worked more effectively than others, and Overview and Scrutiny was looking into reviewing their operation and delivery of priorities. However, he did not consider the amendment, funded through borrowing, was an appropriate solution.

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote:

Votes for the motion (24)

Votes against the motion (56)

Votes in abstention (2)

The vote was therefore lost. Details of the recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

Budget

There being no further amendments, the Chairman returned to debate on the original budget motion moved by Councillors Clewer and Mayes.

Comments in support of the budget included that budget was prudent, robust, risk assessed and provided financial resilience. Details were provided on the housing revenue account and commitment to invest in council programmes. Comments were made about the investment in leisure, including a new leisure centre in Trowbridge. It was noted that 35% of the core funding of the council went toward adult social care, and the importance of the social care levy proposal to fund this and further investment and transformation.

Comments in opposition to the budget included opposing the proposed withdrawal of funding for Citizen's Advice, and whether this had been properly assessed. The impact on staff of pay reduction and changes to terms and conditions was raised. The high streets fund was discussed, and questioning the figures as being lower than the government awarded.

Other comments made in debate included further discussion of the increase to parking charges applying across areas with varying charges equally, and that different areas had different occupancy and that the current arrangements were not effective. A comment was made that consideration should be given to providing further support to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There were

also comments relating to local highways, A338 improvement works, leisure provision in Chippenham, the setting of fees and charges, business rates, and if more information had been received on the government's announcement of an energy bills rebate. The importance of supporting the scrutiny of finances throughout the financial year was raised.

Councillor Clewer, as mover of the original motion, then responded to the comments made in debate.

Councillor Clewer stated there was a proposal in the budget for staff savings, including through vacancies and changes to terms and conditions. This would be subject to consultation with staff and unions and was ongoing, with an intention to seek to avoid redundancies. However, the level of savings required did mean difficult decisions had been proposed within the budget. He noted how much time had been spent in debate on a very small part of the budget, against some very significant aspects of the budget such as adult social care. In relation to the Citizen's Advice Bureau, he stated there was the removal of duplication in funding and modernise the approach, and there would be an impact assessment before delivery of the saving. He supported working closely with AONBs, and that there were proposals about delivering improvements to the A36, and clarity had not been received from government regarding the energy bill rebate, or in relation to business rates, and as such the budget took a prudent approach for the medium term. He emphasised the budget was taking a strategic approach, to help transform services, and give a stable basis to act in the future.

It was then,

Resolved:

- a) That a net general fund budget of 2022/23 of £417.703m is approved;
- b) That the Councils Tax requirement for the Council be set at £311.192m for 2022/23 with an average Band D of £1,638.16, an increase of 91p per week;
- c) That the Wiltshire Council element of the Council Tax be increased in 2022/23 by the following:
 - i. A 1.99% general increase;
 - ii. Plus a levy of 1% to be spent solely on Adult Social Care;
- d) That the Corporate Leadership Team be required to meet the revenue budget targets for each service area as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, for the delivery of Council services in 2022/23;
- e) Approves the changes in the fees and charges as set out in the report;
- f) That the Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2029/30 is approved;
- g) That the Capital Strategy set out in Appendix 9 is approved;
- h) That the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23 is set at £24.173m;
- i) That a 4.1% increase is set for social dwelling rents, except for rents currently over the formula rent which will be capped at formula rent as per national guidance;

- j) **All service charges related to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) being increased to cover costs and garage rents increased by 4.1%;**

That Council endorses the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the forecast budget gap, after the utilisation of the budget equalisation reserve, of £10.705m for the 2024/25 financial year with regular updates to be received on delivery against strategy and addressing the forecast budget gap.

In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote:

Vote 1 – resolutions a)-g) and the medium term financial strategy endorsement

Votes for the motion (56)

Votes against the motion (26)

Votes in abstention (0)

Vote 2 – resolutions h) – j)

Votes for the motion (80)

Votes against the motion (0)

Votes in abstention (1)

Details of each recorded vote are attached to the minutes.

A break was then taken from 19:00-19:10

9 **Council Tax Setting 2022-23**

The Chairman invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, to present a report and recommendation on approving the Council Tax requirement for 2022/23.

The report detailed the level by which the basic element of the Council Tax would be allowed to increase for 2022/23 (1.99%) and the Council's ability to increase the adult social care element by a further 1% on top of the basic element, a total recommended increase of 2.99%. Cabinet had considered and approved the proposals on 1 February 2022 and recommended them for consideration by Full Council.

The report set out that since the Cabinet meeting the precept levels of other precepting authorities (Town & Parish Councils / Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon), except the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority, for which draft figures were included in the report, had been received by the Council.

Councillor Clewer moved the recommendations in the report, which were seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, noted the outcome of the budget debate at Item 9, and as such would support the proposal.

No additional comments were received in debate, or further comments made by Councillor Clewer.

It was therefore,

Resolved:

- 1) It be noted that on 3 December 2021 an Officer Decision was made by Andy Brown Interim Corporate Director of Resources.**
 - a) the Council Tax Base 2022/23 for the whole Wiltshire Council area as £189,964.37 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and,**
 - b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix**
- 2) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/23 (excluding parish precepts) is £311,192,032.36.**
- 3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2022/23 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:**
 - a) £919,609,816 (Gross Revenue Expenditure including transfers to reserves, parish precepts and any collection fund deficit) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils).**
 - b) £581,560,201 (Gross Revenue Income including transfers from reserves, General Government Grants and any collection fund surplus) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.**
 - c) £338,049,615 (Net Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts) being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).**
 - d) £1,779.54 (Wiltshire Council band D tax plus average Town & Parish Councils Band D Council Tax) being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts), as shown below:**

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,186.35	1,384.08	1,581.81	1,779.54	2,175.00	2,570.45	2,965.90	3,559.08

- e) £26,857,582.57 (Aggregate of Town & Parish Council Precepts) being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C).
- f) £1,638.16 (band D Council Tax for Wiltshire Council purposes only) being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates, as shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,092.10	1,274.12	1,456.14	1,638.16	2,002.20	2,366.23	2,730.27	3,276.32

In accordance with the Constitution there was a recorded vote.

Votes for the motion (70)

Votes against the motion (0)

Votes in abstention (2)

Details of the vote are attached to the minutes.

10 **Pay Policy Statement**

The Chairman invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, to present the report which provided an update on the pay policy statement for 2022/23.

This included minor revisions, which applied to all non-school employees of Wiltshire Council, except for centrally employed teachers who were covered by the teachers' pay policy. The proposals had been reviewed by the Staffing Policy Committee.

Councillor Clewer moved the recommendations in the report, which were seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, noted he would support the proposal.

A comment was received regarding the number of items and motions at council meetings. In response it was stated the Pay Policy Statement was a statutory requirement.

There were no further comments made by Councillor Clewer at conclusion of debate.

It was therefore,

Resolved:

To approve the updated pay policy statement set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

11 **Wiltshire Council Business Plan**

The Chairman invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, to present in respect of the draft Business Plan 2022-2032. The Business Plan Principles had been agreed by Cabinet in September 2022.

Councillor Clewer moved the recommendations in the covering report, which was seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council.

It was explained that the draft Business Plan set out the council's overarching strategy for the next ten years and had been agreed by Cabinet on 1 February 2022. It was stated the Plan would be a living document, which would evolve over time. It would focus on guiding themes, such as early intervention and prevention, and tackling inequality, which would work across different council departments and in working with partners such as voluntary groups, parish councils, the military and others to address issues cohesively and collaboratively. Underpinning the Business Plan would be service delivery plans, which would interlock with the main plan to deliver on its aims. There would be metrics to measure whether the council was achieving its aims and would be reviewed informally and formally by Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny. Data would be utilised to identify the most relevant metrics in order to deliver needed changes and outcomes. Councillor Clewer thanked Cabinet and officers on developing the plan, to set priorities and initiate delivery.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, commented that the plan was an improvement on the plan approved in 2017, which had also been a ten year plan. He welcomed the idea of the scorecard included, although he still had concerns around metrics and performance measures and could not support the plan as presented.

Councillor Graham Wright, deputy for the Independent Group Leader, was positive about the plan and the intended metrics. During the Budget item, as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, Councillor

Wright commented on the Committee's consideration of the Business Plan, including developing a plan to assess the consideration of performance metrics.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, was pleased that the plan would be an evolving document and would welcome regular updates on performance and supported the proposal.

A public question from Colin Gale P22-13 was received between Minutes 8 and 9 relating to this item. He asked whether freight management was being considered seriously and resources were in place. Councillor Dr Mark McClelland as Cabinet Member for Transport, Waste, Street Scene and Flooding said the work was not on hold, but dependent on national work run by national agencies.

The Chairman then invited comments in debate.

Comments in debate in support of the plan included that it would be a living document, and that it included details for the measuring of performance planned for each service area, with metrics available to monitor progress, and that it was a well-designed proposal.

Comments in debate in opposition to the proposal included that whilst it was an improvement, some did not feel appropriate performance measurement or details of monitoring has been provided at the meeting in order to measure its success, or comparison with other local authorities.

There were also specific comments about a lack of a strategic rail strategy, the historical Wiltshire Compact with the voluntary sector, reference to wind power, the presentation details of the draft plan, and the lack of reference to the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and the importance of carbon neutral targets.

Councillor Clewer responded to comments raised in debate. He highlighted that the report included details of the metrics that would be included, with targets to follow. Initial targets would be set and considered at future Cabinet and Council meetings. In relation to the Wiltshire Compact he felt this needed to be simpler to have an understanding with other organisations. He confirmed a meeting was being organised between Wiltshire Council and some Town and Parish Councils to work on building strong relationships and would look at working with the voluntary sector.

He stated that detail about wind turbines would be a matter for the Local Plan and would be in-line with national policy, and that transport needed to be decarbonised, but that this required infrastructure investment.

He emphasised the document was setting out the strategic direction of the council, and how this would be achieved.

At the conclusion of debate, it was then,

Resolved:

That Council agree the Business Plan 2022-2032.

12 **Climate Strategy and Update on the Council's Response to the Climate Emergency**

The Chairman invited Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change, to present the report which provided detail in relation to consultation responses on the Climate Strategy, a six month update on the Council's response to the Climate Emergency, and recommended the Climate Strategy for approval.

Councillor Botterill moved the proposals as set out in the report, seconded by Councillor Richard Clewer.

Councillor Botterill provided details of the update on the council's response to the climate emergency and the seven delivery themes set out in the report. Details included announcement of the bulk buy scheme for solar panels, a green electricity deal which had been signed up to by 128 schools, further details on schemes for low EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) rated homes, with more retrofitting and more additional new homes, the warm and safe Wiltshire advice service, approval of the delivery plan for Electric Vehicle charging and council fleet replacement, the Salisbury River Park project, trees in Bradford on Avon, improvements to household recycling centres, reconfigured waste rounds leading to a reduction in the fleet, work to help business reduce energy consumption, and the bus improvement plan.

On the Climate Strategy Councillor Botterill noted it had been reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet, and received a high number of responses during consultation, with changes made to reflect new government strategies and legislation. He welcomed the Council's recent excellent rating of 81% in Climate Emergency UK's Council Climate Plan Scorecards, ranking it as the fifth best unitary authority in the UK for its response to climate change, the highest non-urban authority, noting the 28 wide ranging aspects and five performance reporting themes. He emphasised that further delivery plans would be developed.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, noted there had been a very strategic and analytical approach to prepare the Climate Strategy. He noted the significant progress on decarbonisation on areas within council control, including new council housing being built to zero carbon standards, and the ongoing delivery of further plans. He stated Wiltshire Council was seen as leading the way by others, though much still depended on central government, with the strategy providing a plan to deliver on the council's climate priorities.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, stated the Climate Strategy was an excellent document and praised the leadership in the council's

Climate Team. He celebrated that the council were highly rated and the position of the council compared to other local authorities in the development and implementation of proposals. He added queries on how the council would work with the many external organisations and individuals for those areas the council had no control over. He also commented on the challenge of monitoring progress in achieving the proposals detailed in the Strategy. He offered his support for the strategy.

Councillor Graham Wright, deputy for the Independent Group Leader, offered support for the strategy.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, welcomed the Strategy and indicated that there was plenty of interest in the council housing new builds and retrofit of existing properties. He highlighted potential concerns of private house builders in relation to the cost of building zero carbon homes, and the significant interest of members of the public in helping the council develop and perform on Climate issues.

As Chairman of the Climate Emergency Task Group Councillor Wright also stated he was encouraged by the consensus between political groups to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, and that the Task Group welcomed the Strategy and recognised that it required more detail to achieve the road map. The Task Group acknowledged the progress being made and he urged all parties to move faster and go further in their endeavours. He thanked the Task Group for the tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, the Leader, Cabinet and officers for their continued efforts to bring about change.

Several public statements and questions in relation to this item were received as detailed under Minute 6. Question P22-09 from Andrew Nicoslon was received between Minutes 8 and 9 relevant to this item, seeking details on rail and bus strategies. Councillor Clewer responded that this depended on devolution arrangements as bus and rail franchise funding could depend on that, and some additional devolution arrangements such as a directly elected mayor would not be appropriate for Wiltshire. He stated the council was happy to engage with public groups

A question, P22-06, and statement was also received from Bill Jarvis. He asked the council to use its best resources, in finance and people, to deliver on the actions of the strategy. Councillor Botterill provided details of financial and other commitments, and the councils commitment to deliver on the strategy.

The Chairman then invited comments in debate.

Comments in support of the strategy and proposals included congratulating the Leader, Cabinet and officers for the positive rating of the council for its response to climate change, the need for the council to use its influence with partners to help delivery outcomes, and how to implement best practice and monitor progress. The need to be open minded to new ideas for delivery was highlighted, as well as the valuable contribution of pensions investments,

including by the Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee changing its investment strategy statement.

A comment was made that not all residents were convinced about the climate emergency, although there was concern about the loss of biodiversity and changes to the climate. Work to improve trees, hedgerows and fields and encouragement of animal and plant species was mentioned. The community environmental toolkit was highlighted.

Other comments made included highlighting concerns around the collection and disposal of residential waste and the use of incinerators, examining use of wind power and questioning the effectiveness of current infrastructure delivery for electric vehicles, and a specific comment on the actions of Warminster Area Board holding an event on climate and environmental issues.

In response to debate Councillor Botterill commented on energy from waste plans and noted the Secretary of State had not yet called-in the matter of the proposed Westbury incinerator, that solar power had exceeded predictions beyond any underestimate of wind power, and drew attention to the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy. He thanked Members for their positive feedback.

It was then,

Resolved

That Council:

- 1) Notes the consultation feedback on the draft climate strategy;**
- 2) Adopts the final Wiltshire Climate Strategy (2022-2027) as part of the council's policy framework;**
- 3) Notes the actions taken in response to the climate emergency following the last update in July 2021.**

13 Adoption of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy

The Chairman invited Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change to present the report which provided detail in relation to the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (GBI) for Wiltshire.

Councillor Botterill moved that the strategy be adopted as part of the Policy Framework of the Council, which was seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council. The strategy had been recommended for approval by Cabinet at its meeting on 1 February 2022.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, stated the strategy was an excellent and critical document to build strategies to protect and improve the environment.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, welcomed the strategy as an important document to sit alongside the Climate Strategy.

Councillor Graham Wright, Deputy for the Independent Group Leader, supported the strategy and noted it was also endorsed by the Climate Emergency Task Group, of which he was Chairman.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, also expressed support for the strategy.

The Chairman then invited comments in debate.

Comments in debate included supporting the strategy, noting the need to encourage partnership working including with Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty groups, and other non-government organisations, with ongoing work the council could support.

In response to debate Councillor Botterill stated that the Council would always work in partnership with other bodies such as Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England.

It was then,

Resolved:

- 1) That Council notes the recommendation from Cabinet on 1 February 2022.**
- 2) That Council approves the final Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire -Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan (2022-30) and adopts it as part of the council's policy framework.**

14 Re-Tender of the External Audit Contract

The Chairman invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, to present the report which presented the procurement options on the process for retendering external audit services and the preferred approach recommended by the Audit and Governance Committee.

The report highlighted that External Audit services are required to be in place by regulation and form part of the overall annual accounts and audit process. Councillor Clewer detailed difficulties with local government audits and in finding auditors to undertake the specialised work. It was proposed the council enter into the national framework that had been established in order to meet the council's audit requirements.

Councillor Clewer moved the proposals as detailed in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment, with all expressing support for the proposal.

It was therefore,

Resolved:

To approve the option for the council to opt into the national arrangement for the procurement of external audit services for the accounts that relate to the financial years 2023/24 to 2027/28 through Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd.

15 **HSBC Bank Mandate**

The Chairman invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Finance, to present the report which asked Council to approve a revision to the council's HSBC Bank mandate, as a result of restructure and staff changes.

Councillor Clewer moved the proposals as detailed in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders, with all expressing support for the proposal.

There were no comments in debate.

It was therefore,

Resolved:

To approve the revised HSBC Bank Mandate as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

16 **Designation of Statutory Officers**

The Chairman invited Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, to present the report which asked Council to consider the designation of statutory roles following changes to the senior management structure of the council.

Councillor Clewer moved the proposals as detailed in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader of the Council.

The Chairman then invited comments from Group Leaders, with all expressing support for the proposal.

There were no comments in debate.

It was therefore,

Resolved

That Council:

- 1) Approve the designation of statutory role of Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) to Director, Wholelife Pathway.**
- 2) Note that other designated statutory roles are unchanged as a result of the restructure and remain with existing posts:**
 - a) Head of Paid Service, Returning Officer (RO) and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) with the post of Chief Executive**
 - b) Section 151 with the post of Corporate Director - Resources / Deputy Chief Executive**
 - c) Director of Children's Services (DCS) with the post of Corporate Director – People**
 - d) Director of Public Health (DPH) with the post of Director of Public Health**
 - e) Monitoring Officer with the post of Director, Legal and Governance**
- 3) Authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential changes to the Constitution arising from the designation of the statutory function outlined above.**

17 Notice of Motion No.2022-01 - Social Mobility Pledge

A motion was moved by Councillor Richard Clewer which was seconded by Councillor Laura Mayes, calling for the Council to support the Social Mobility Pledge and that Wiltshire Council becomes a Social Mobility Pledge accredited employer. Councillor Clewer urged Members to support the motion and encourage external partners and businesses to concentrate on delivering social mobility, reaching out to areas of deprivation and social immobility.

The Chairman moved that the motion be debated, which was seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman then invited Group Leaders to comment on the motion.

Councillor Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, considered the motion to be very sensible and was happy to support it. Councillor Graham Wright, as Deputy for the Independent Group Leader, and Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, expressed their support for the motion.

The Chairman then invited comments from Members. A comment was made by the seconder explaining support for the motion and asking Members to approve it.

There being no further comments, it was then,

Resolved:

That Council supports the Social Mobility Pledge and resolves that Wiltshire Council becomes a Social Mobility Pledge accredited employer.

That Council further acknowledges that improving social mobility is a priority in the Business Plan and will require a coordinated, multi-agency approach.

Consequently, that Council resolves to adhere to the principles of the Social Mobility Pledge and work with Councillors and external partners and businesses to improve social mobility across Wiltshire and encourage further sign up to the pledge.

The Social Mobility Pledge

Outreach

We will work to schools and colleges to provide coaching through quality careers advice, enrichment experience and mentoring to people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

Access

We will work to provide structured work experience and apprenticeship opportunities to people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

Recruitment

We will work to adopt open employee recruitment practices which promote a level playing field for people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

18 **S85 Local Government Act 1972 - Extension of Office**

The Council considered a report from the Monitoring Officer, Perry Holmes, detailing requests from Councillors Jacqui Lay and Mary Webb for an extension of office beyond the six-month period of non-attendance. Both requests were due in part to ongoing medical reasons. The Chairman moved that the requests be approved and was seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

Group Leaders expressed their support of the proposal. During a short debate comments were received wishing both Members well, and suggesting a letter be sent expressing the Council's best wishes.

There being no further comments, it was then,

Resolved:

- 1) **That Council approves the requests for the Members listed below for an extension beyond the six-month period of non-attendance on the grounds**

of ill health and/or in recognition of the unique impact of Covid-19 on member attendance:

- Cllr Jacqui Lay
- Cllr Mary Webb

- 2) That such an extension be granted until the end of October 2022 which would allow for any request for a further extension being considered by Council at its meeting on 18 October 2022. In the event of that meeting either being cancelled or postponed, such an extension to remain in place until after the next available meeting of the Council.

19 **Announcements from Cabinet and Committees**

There were no announcements by Cabinet Members or Chairmen of Committees.

20 **Membership of Committees**

The Chairman invited Group Leaders to request any membership changes to committees.

Group Leaders then proposed changes to committee membership as detailed in the resolution.

The Chairman moved the proposed membership changes. This was seconded by the Vice-Chairman. It was then,

Resolved:

To make the following appointments to Committees:

- **Councillor Jack Oatley to be removed from the Corporate Parenting Panel, to be replaced by Councillor Ernie Clark**
- **Councillor Jack Oatley to be removed from Health Select Committee, to be replaced by Councillor Ernie Clark.**
- **Councillor Steve Heyes (Swindon Borough Council) to be confirmed as Vice-Chairman of Pension Fund Committee.**

21 **Members' Questions**

A total of eight questions were received from Members, as set out in Supplement 1 to the agenda, together with written responses.

Supplementary questions were received as follows:

In respect of question 22-06 from Councillor Dr Brian Mathew – Councillor Mathew encouraged all Members to support and become involved in the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations in their local communities. He suggested that the Council should agree free parking across the County for the four days of the Jubilee. Councillor Richard Clewer supported Member involvement with the Jubilee celebrations, however, as communities were being encouraged to hold local events rather than travelling to large one off events, he did not agree that changes to car parking arrangements was necessary or appropriate.

In respect of question 22-05 from Councillor Ruth Hopkinson – Councillor Hopkinson sought details of the conversion of a room at Springfield Leisure Centre to enable it to be used as a pre-school and whether this was a good use of resources. Councillor Laura Mayes agreed to respond in writing after the meeting.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 9.00 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line ((01225) 713114 or email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

Full Council Meeting – 15 February 2022 – Members Attendance

Councillor Name	Time In	Time Out
Phil Alford	10:30	21:00
Liz Alstrom	10:30	21:00
Helen Belcher	10:30	21:00
Chuck Berry	10:30	21:00
Ian Blair-Pilling	10:30	21:00
Nick Botterill	10:30	21:00
David Bowler	10:30	21:00
Richard Britton	10:30	21:00
Allison Bucknell	10:30	19:00
Steve Bucknell	10:30	21:00
Clare Cape	10:30	21:00
Trevor Carbin	10:30	17:25
Daniel Cave	10:30	21:00
Mary Champion	10:30	19:00
Pauline Church	10:30	21:00
Ernie Clark	10:30	16:30
Richard Clewer	10:30	21:00
Zoë Clewer	10:30	21:00
Mark Connolly	10:30	19:50
Caroline Corbin	Apologies	Apologies
Kevin Daley	10:30	21:00
Brian Dalton	10:30	21:00
Jane Davies	10:30	21:00
Andrew Davis	10:30	21:00
Matthew Dean	10:30	21:00
Dr Monica Devendran	10:30	16:00
Nick Errington	10:30	19:00
Adrian Foster	10:30	21:00
Sarah Gibson	Apologies	Apologies
Gavin Grant	10:30	21:00
Howard Greenman	10:30	21:00
Ross Henning	10:30	21:00
Sven Hocking	10:30	21:00
Nick Holder	10:30	20:30
Ruth Hopkinson	10:30	21:00
Jon Hubbard	Apologies	Apologies
Peter Hutton	10:30	21:00
Tony Jackson	Apologies	Apologies
Mel Jacob	10:30	21:00
Simon Jacobs	10:30	21:00
George Jeans	10:30	21:00
Bob Jones MBE	10:30	21:00
Johnny Kidney	10:30	17:40

Carole King	10:30	21:00
Gordon King	10:30	21:00
Edward Kirk	10:30	21:00
Jerry Kunkler	10:30	21:00
Jacqui Lay	Apologies	Apologies
Kathryn MacDermid	10:30	21:00
Dr Brian Mathew	10:30	21:00
Laura Mayes	10:30	21:00
Dr Mark McClelland	10:30	21:00
Charles McGrath	10:30	21:00
Ian McLennan	10:30	21:00
Dominic Muns	10:30	21:00
Dr Nick Murry	10:30	16:10
Nabil Najjar	10:30	21:00
Kelvin Nash	10:30	21:00
Christopher Newbury	10:30	11:55
Ashley O'Neill	Apologies	Apologies
Jack Oatley	10:30	20:40
Paul Oatway QPM	10:30	21:00
Andrew Oliver	10:30	21:00
Stewart Palmen	10:30	18:50
Bill Parks	10:30	21:00
Sam Pearce-Kearney	10:30	21:00
Antonio Piazza	10:30	21:00
Tony Pickernell	10:30	21:00
Horace Prickett	10:30	21:00
Nic Puntis	10:30	19:00
Tamara Reay	10:30	21:00
Pip Ridout	10:30	21:00
Rich Rogers	Apologies	Apologies
Ricky Rogers	10:30	14:10
Tom Rounds	10:30	21:00
Paul Sample JP	10:30	21:00
Mike Sankey	10:30	21:00
Jonathon Seed	10:30	21:00
James Sheppard	10:30	21:00
Martin Smith	10:30	21:00
Caroline Thomas	10:30	21:00
Ian Thorn	10:30	21:00
Elizabeth Threlfall	10:30	21:00
Jo Trigg	10:30	21:00
Tim Trimble	10:30	19:05
Tony Trotman	10:30	21:00
Mark Verbinnen	10:30	21:00
David Vigar	10:30	21:00
Iain Wallis	10:30	21:00

Derek Walters	Apologies	Apologies
Bridget Wayman	10:30	21:00
Mary Webb	Apologies	Apologies
Stuart Wheeler	10:30	21:00
Philip Whitehead	10:30	21:00
Suzanne Wickham	10:30	21:00
Christopher Williams	10:30	16:20
Graham Wright	10:30	21:00
Robert Yuill	10:30	21:00

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**Item 8 – Wiltshire Council’s Financial Plan and Budget 2022/23, Medium Term
Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 - Amendment 1a (Blue Badge Holders) - Cllrs
Gavin Grant and Ian Thorn – 27 For, 58 Against, 3 Abstentions**

Member Name	Vote
Phil Alford	Against
Liz Alstrom	For
Helen Belcher	For
Chuck Berry	Against
Ian Blair-Pilling	Against
Nick Botterill	Against
David Bowler	For
Richard Britton	Against
Allison Bucknell	Against
Steve Bucknell	Against
Clare Cape	For
Trevor Carbin	For
Daniel Cave	Against
Mary Champion	Against
Pauline Church	Against
Ernie Clark	Against
Richard Clewer	Against
Zoë Clewer	Against
Mark Connolly	Against
Kevin Daley	Against
Brian Dalton	For
Jane Davies	Against
Andrew Davis	Against
Matthew Dean	Against
Dr Monica Devendran	Against
Nick Errington	For
Adrian Foster	For
Gavin Grant	For
Howard Greenman	Against
Ross Henning	For
Sven Hocking	Against
Nick Holder	Against
Ruth Hopkinson	For
Peter Hutton	Against
Mel Jacob	For
Simon Jacobs	Against
George Jeans	Abstention
Bob Jones MBE	For
Johnny Kidney	Against

Carole King	For
Gordon King	For
Edward Kirk	Against
Jerry Kunkler	Against
Kathryn MacDermid	For
Dr Brian Mathew	For
Laura Mayes	Against
Dr Mark McClelland	Against
Charles McGrath	Against
Ian McLennan	For
Dominic Muns	Against
Dr Nick Murry	Abstention
Nabil Najjar	Against
Kelvin Nash	Against
Jack Oatley	Against
Paul Oatway QPM	Against
Andrew Oliver	Against
Stewart Palmen	For
Bill Parks	Against
Sam Pearce-Kearney	For
Antonio Piazza	Against
Tony Pickernell	Against
Horace Prickett	Against
Nic Puntis	Against
Tamara Reay	Against
Pip Ridout	Against
Ricky Rogers	For
Tom Rounds	Against
Paul Sample JP	For
Mike Sankey	Against
Jonathon Seed	Against
James Sheppard	Abstention
Martin Smith	For
Caroline Thomas	Against
Ian Thorn	For
Elizabeth Threlfall	Against
Jo Trigg	For
Tim Trimble	For
Tony Trotman	Against
Mark Verbinnen	Against
David Vigar	For
Iain Wallis	Against
Bridget Wayman	Against

Stuart Wheeler	Against
Philip Whitehead	Against
Suzanne Wickham	Against
Christopher Williams	Against
Graham Wright	Against
Robert Yuill	Against

**Item 8 – Wiltshire Council’s Financial Plan and Budget 2022/23, Medium Term
Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 - Amendment 1b (Sunday Charges) - Cllrs Gavin
Grant and Ian Thorn – 31 For, 54 Against, 3 Abstentions**

Member Name	Vote
Phil Alford	Against
Liz Alstrom	For
Helen Belcher	For
Chuck Berry	Against
Ian Blair-Pilling	Against
Nick Botterill	Against
David Bowler	For
Richard Britton	Against
Allison Bucknell	Against
Steve Bucknell	Against
Clare Cape	For
Trevor Carbin	For
Daniel Cave	Against
Mary Champion	Against
Pauline Church	Against
Ernie Clark	For
Richard Clewer	Against
Zoë Clewer	Against
Mark Connolly	Against
Kevin Daley	Against
Brian Dalton	For
Jane Davies	Against
Andrew Davis	Against
Matthew Dean	Against
Dr Monica Devendran	Against
Nick Errington	For
Adrian Foster	For
Gavin Grant	For
Howard Greenman	Against
Ross Henning	For
Sven Hocking	Against
Nick Holder	Against
Ruth Hopkinson	For
Peter Hutton	Against
Mel Jacob	For
Simon Jacobs	Against
George Jeans	For
Bob Jones MBE	For
Johnny Kidney	Against

Carole King	For
Gordon King	For
Edward Kirk	Abstention
Jerry Kunkler	Against
Kathryn MacDermid	For
Dr Brian Mathew	For
Laura Mayes	Against
Dr Mark McClelland	Against
Charles McGrath	Against
Ian McLennan	For
Dominic Muns	Against
Dr Nick Murry	Abstention
Nabil Najjar	Against
Kelvin Nash	Against
Jack Oatley	For
Paul Oatway QPM	Against
Andrew Oliver	Against
Stewart Palmen	For
Bill Parks	Against
Sam Pearce-Kearney	For
Antonio Piazza	Against
Tony Pickernell	Against
Horace Prickett	Against
Nic Puntis	Against
Tamara Reay	Against
Pip Ridout	Against
Ricky Rogers	For
Tom Rounds	Against
Paul Sample JP	For
Mike Sankey	Against
Jonathon Seed	Against
James Sheppard	Abstention
Martin Smith	For
Caroline Thomas	Against
Ian Thorn	For
Elizabeth Threlfall	Against
Jo Trigg	For
Tim Trimble	For
Tony Trotman	Against
Mark Verbinnen	Against
David Vigar	For
Iain Wallis	Against
Bridget Wayman	Against

Stuart Wheeler	Against
Philip Whitehead	Against
Suzanne Wickham	Against
Christopher Williams	Against
Graham Wright	For
Robert Yuill	Against

**Item 8 – Wiltshire Council’s Financial Plan and Budget 2022/23, Medium Term
Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 - Amendment 1c (Free Event Parking) - Cllrs
Gavin Grant and Ian Thorn – 31 For, 55 Against, 2 Abstentions**

Member Name	Vote
Phil Alford	Against
Liz Alstrom	For
Helen Belcher	For
Chuck Berry	Against
Ian Blair-Pilling	Against
Nick Botterill	Against
David Bowler	For
Richard Britton	Against
Allison Bucknell	Against
Steve Bucknell	Against
Clare Cape	For
Trevor Carbin	For
Daniel Cave	Against
Mary Champion	Against
Pauline Church	Against
Ernie Clark	Against
Richard Clewer	Against
Zoë Clewer	Against
Mark Connolly	Against
Kevin Daley	Against
Brian Dalton	For
Jane Davies	Against
Andrew Davis	Against
Matthew Dean	Against
Dr Monica Devendran	Against
Nick Errington	For
Adrian Foster	For
Gavin Grant	For
Howard Greenman	Against
Ross Henning	For
Sven Hocking	Against
Nick Holder	Against
Ruth Hopkinson	For
Peter Hutton	Against
Mel Jacob	For
Simon Jacobs	Against
George Jeans	For
Bob Jones MBE	For
Johnny Kidney	Against

Carole King	For
Gordon King	For
Edward Kirk	Against
Jerry Kunkler	Against
Kathryn MacDermid	For
Dr Brian Mathew	For
Laura Mayes	Against
Dr Mark McClelland	Against
Charles McGrath	Against
Ian McLennan	For
Dominic Muns	Against
Dr Nick Murry	For
Nabil Najjar	Against
Kelvin Nash	Abstention
Jack Oatley	For
Paul Oatway QPM	Against
Andrew Oliver	Against
Stewart Palmen	For
Bill Parks	Against
Sam Pearce-Kearney	For
Antonio Piazza	Against
Tony Pickernell	Against
Horace Prickett	Against
Nic Puntis	Against
Tamara Reay	Against
Pip Ridout	Against
Ricky Rogers	For
Tom Rounds	Against
Paul Sample JP	For
Mike Sankey	Against
Jonathon Seed	Against
James Sheppard	Abstention
Martin Smith	For
Caroline Thomas	Against
Ian Thorn	For
Elizabeth Threlfall	Against
Jo Trigg	For
Tim Trimble	For
Tony Trotman	Against
Mark Verbinnen	Against
David Vigar	For
Iain Wallis	Against
Bridget Wayman	Against

Stuart Wheeler	Against
Philip Whitehead	Against
Suzanne Wickham	Against
Christopher Williams	Against
Graham Wright	For
Robert Yuill	Against

**Item 8 – Wiltshire Council’s Financial Plan and Budget 2022/23, Medium Term
Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 - Amendment 1d (10p Car Parking Charge) - Cllrs
Gavin Grant and Ian Thorn – 28 For, 57 Against, 3 Abstentions**

Member Name	Vote
Phil Alford	Against
Liz Alstrom	For
Helen Belcher	For
Chuck Berry	Against
Ian Blair-Pilling	Against
Nick Botterill	Against
David Bowler	For
Richard Britton	Against
Allison Bucknell	Against
Steve Bucknell	Against
Clare Cape	For
Trevor Carbin	For
Daniel Cave	Against
Mary Champion	Against
Pauline Church	Against
Ernie Clark	Against
Richard Clewer	Against
Zoë Clewer	Against
Mark Connolly	Against
Kevin Daley	Against
Brian Dalton	For
Jane Davies	Against
Andrew Davis	Against
Matthew Dean	Against
Dr Monica Devendran	Against
Nick Errington	For
Adrian Foster	For
Gavin Grant	For
Howard Greenman	Against
Ross Henning	For
Sven Hocking	Against
Nick Holder	Against
Ruth Hopkinson	For
Peter Hutton	Against
Mel Jacob	For
Simon Jacobs	Against
George Jeans	For
Bob Jones MBE	For
Johnny Kidney	Against

Carole King	For
Gordon King	For
Edward Kirk	Abstention
Jerry Kunkler	Against
Kathryn MacDermid	For
Dr Brian Mathew	For
Laura Mayes	Against
Dr Mark McClelland	Against
Charles McGrath	Against
Ian McLennan	For
Dominic Muns	Against
Dr Nick Murry	Abstention
Nabil Najjar	Against
Kelvin Nash	Against
Jack Oatley	Against
Paul Oatway QPM	Against
Andrew Oliver	Against
Stewart Palmen	For
Bill Parks	Against
Sam Pearce-Kearney	For
Antonio Piazza	Against
Tony Pickernell	Against
Horace Prickett	Against
Nic Puntis	Against
Tamara Reay	Against
Pip Ridout	Against
Ricky Rogers	For
Tom Rounds	Against
Paul Sample JP	For
Mike Sankey	Against
Jonathon Seed	Against
James Sheppard	Abstention
Martin Smith	For
Caroline Thomas	Against
Ian Thorn	For
Elizabeth Threlfall	Against
Jo Trigg	For
Tim Trimble	For
Tony Trotman	Against
Mark Verbinnen	Against
David Vigar	For
Iain Wallis	Against
Bridget Wayman	Against

Stuart Wheeler	Against
Philip Whitehead	Against
Suzanne Wickham	Against
Christopher Williams	Against
Graham Wright	Against
Robert Yuill	Against

**Item 8 – Wiltshire Council’s Financial Plan and Budget 2022/23, Medium Term
Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 - Amendment 3 (Area Board Capital Grants) -
Cllrs Gavin Grant and Ian Thorn – 24 For, 56 Against, 2 Abstentions**

Member Name	Vote
Phil Alford	Against
Liz Alstrom	For
Helen Belcher	For
Chuck Berry	Against
Ian Blair-Pilling	Against
Nick Botterill	Against
David Bowler	For
Richard Britton	Against
Allison Bucknell	Against
Steve Bucknell	Against
Clare Cape	For
Daniel Cave	Against
Mary Champion	Against
Pauline Church	Against
Richard Clewer	Against
Zoë Clewer	Against
Mark Connolly	Against
Kevin Daley	Against
Brian Dalton	For
Jane Davies	Against
Andrew Davis	Against
Matthew Dean	Against
Nick Errington	For
Adrian Foster	For
Gavin Grant	For
Howard Greenman	Against
Ross Henning	For
Sven Hocking	Against
Nick Holder	Against
Ruth Hopkinson	For
Peter Hutton	Against
Mel Jacob	For
Simon Jacobs	Against
George Jeans	Against
Bob Jones MBE	For
Carole King	For
Gordon King	For
Edward Kirk	Against
Jerry Kunkler	Against

Kathryn MacDermid	For
Dr Brian Mathew	For
Laura Mayes	Against
Dr Mark McClelland	Against
Charles McGrath	Against
Ian McLennan	Against
Dominic Muns	Against
Nabil Najjar	Against
Kelvin Nash	Against
Jack Oatley	Against
Paul Oatway QPM	Against
Andrew Oliver	Against
Stewart Palmen	For
Bill Parks	Against
Sam Pearce-Kearney	For
Antonio Piazza	Against
Tony Pickernell	Against
Horace Prickett	Against
Nic Puntis	Against
Tamara Reay	Against
Pip Ridout	Against
Ricky Rogers	Against
Tom Rounds	Against
Paul Sample JP	For
Mike Sankey	Against
Jonathon Seed	Against
James Sheppard	Abstention
Martin Smith	For
Caroline Thomas	Against
Ian Thorn	For
Elizabeth Threlfall	Against
Jo Trigg	For
Tim Trimble	For
Tony Trotman	Against
Mark Verbinnen	Against
David Vigar	For
Iain Wallis	Against
Bridget Wayman	Against
Stuart Wheeler	Abstention
Philip Whitehead	Against
Suzanne Wickham	Against
Graham Wright	Against
Robert Yuill	Against

**Item 8 – Wiltshire Council’s Financial Plan and Budget 2022/23, Medium Term
Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 – Main Budget Vote 1 - Cllrs Richard Clewer and
Laura Mayes – 56 For, 26 Against, 0 Abstentions**

Member Name	Vote
Phil Alford	For
Liz Alstrom	Against
Helen Belcher	Against
Chuck Berry	For
Ian Blair-Pilling	For
Nick Botterill	For
David Bowler	Against
Richard Britton	For
Allison Bucknell	For
Steve Bucknell	For
Clare Cape	Against
Daniel Cave	For
Mary Champion	For
Pauline Church	For
Richard Clewer	For
Zoë Clewer	For
Mark Connolly	For
Kevin Daley	For
Brian Dalton	Against
Jane Davies	For
Andrew Davis	For
Matthew Dean	For
Nick Errington	Against
Adrian Foster	Against
Gavin Grant	Against
Howard Greenman	For
Ross Henning	Against
Sven Hocking	For
Nick Holder	For
Ruth Hopkinson	Against
Peter Hutton	For
Mel Jacob	Against
Simon Jacobs	For
George Jeans	For
Bob Jones MBE	Against
Carole King	Against
Gordon King	Against
Edward Kirk	For
Jerry Kunkler	For

Kathryn MacDermid	Against
Dr Brian Mathew	Against
Laura Mayes	For
Dr Mark McClelland	For
Charles McGrath	For
Ian McLennan	Against
Dominic Muns	For
Nabil Najjar	For
Kelvin Nash	For
Jack Oatley	For
Paul Oatway QPM	For
Andrew Oliver	For
Stewart Palmen	Against
Bill Parks	For
Sam Pearce-Kearney	Against
Antonio Piazza	For
Tony Pickernell	For
Horace Prickett	For
Nic Puntis	For
Tamara Reay	For
Pip Ridout	For
Ricky Rogers	Against
Tom Rounds	For
Paul Sample JP	Against
Mike Sankey	For
Jonathon Seed	For
James Sheppard	For
Martin Smith	Against
Caroline Thomas	For
Ian Thorn	Against
Elizabeth Threlfall	For
Jo Trigg	Against
Tim Trimble	Against
Tony Trotman	For
Mark Verbinnen	For
David Vigar	Against
Iain Wallis	For
Bridget Wayman	For
Stuart Wheeler	For
Philip Whitehead	For
Suzanne Wickham	For
Graham Wright	For
Robert Yuill	For

**Item 8 – Wiltshire Council’s Financial Plan and Budget 2022/23, Medium Term
Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25 – Main Budget Vote 2 - Cllrs Richard Clewer and
Laura Mayes – 80 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions**

Member Name	Vote
Phil Alford	For
Liz Alstrom	For
Helen Belcher	For
Chuck Berry	For
Ian Blair-Pilling	For
Nick Botterill	For
David Bowler	For
Richard Britton	For
Allison Bucknell	For
Steve Bucknell	For
Clare Cape	For
Daniel Cave	For
Mary Champion	For
Pauline Church	For
Richard Clewer	For
Zoë Clewer	For
Mark Connolly	For
Kevin Daley	For
Jane Davies	For
Andrew Davis	For
Matthew Dean	For
Nick Errington	For
Adrian Foster	Abstention
Gavin Grant	For
Howard Greenman	For
Ross Henning	For
Sven Hocking	For
Nick Holder	For
Ruth Hopkinson	For
Peter Hutton	For
Mel Jacob	For
Simon Jacobs	For
George Jeans	For
Bob Jones MBE	For
Carole King	For
Gordon King	For
Edward Kirk	For
Jerry Kunkler	For
Kathryn MacDermid	For

Dr Brian Mathew	For
Laura Mayes	For
Dr Mark McClelland	For
Charles McGrath	For
Ian McLennan	For
Dominic Muns	For
Nabil Najjar	For
Kelvin Nash	For
Jack Oatley	For
Paul Oatway QPM	For
Andrew Oliver	For
Stewart Palmen	For
Bill Parks	For
Sam Pearce-Kearney	For
Antonio Piazza	For
Tony Pickernell	For
Horace Prickett	For
Nic Puntis	For
Tamara Reay	For
Pip Ridout	For
Ricky Rogers	For
Tom Rounds	For
Paul Sample JP	For
Mike Sankey	For
Jonathon Seed	For
James Sheppard	For
Martin Smith	For
Caroline Thomas	For
Ian Thorn	For
Elizabeth Threlfall	For
Jo Trigg	For
Tim Trimble	For
Tony Trotman	For
Mark Verbinnen	For
David Vigar	For
Iain Wallis	For
Bridget Wayman	For
Stuart Wheeler	For
Philip Whitehead	For
Suzanne Wickham	For
Graham Wright	For
Robert Yuill	For

Item 9 – Recorded Vote – Council Tax Setting - Cllrs Richard Clewer and Laura Mayes
– 70 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions

Member Name	Vote
Phil Alford	For
Liz Alstrom	For
Helen Belcher	For
Chuck Berry	For
Ian Blair-Pilling	For
Nick Botterill	For
David Bowler	For
Richard Britton	For
Steve Bucknell	For
Clare Cape	For
Daniel Cave	For
Pauline Church	For
Richard Clewer	For
Zoë Clewer	For
Mark Connolly	For
Kevin Daley	For
Brian Dalton	For
Jane Davies	For
Andrew Davis	For
Matthew Dean	For
Adrian Foster	For
Gavin Grant	For
Howard Greenman	For
Ross Henning	For
Sven Hocking	For
Nick Holder	For
Ruth Hopkinson	For
Peter Hutton	For
Simon Jacobs	For
George Jeans	For
Bob Jones MBE	For
Carole King	For
Gordon King	For
Jerry Kunkler	For
Kathryn MacDermid	For
Dr Brian Mathew	For
Laura Mayes	For
Dr Mark McClelland	For
Charles McGrath	For
Ian McLennan	For

Dominic Muns	For
Nabil Najjar	For
Kelvin Nash	For
Jack Oatley	For
Paul Oatway QPM	For
Andrew Oliver	For
Bill Parks	For
Sam Pearce-Kearney	For
Antonio Piazza	For
Tony Pickernell	For
Tamara Reay	For
Pip Ridout	For
Ricky Rogers	For
Tom Rounds	For
Paul Sample JP	For
Mike Sankey	For
James Sheppard	Abstention
Martin Smith	For
Caroline Thomas	For
Ian Thorn	For
Elizabeth Threlfall	For
Jo Trigg	For
Tony Trotman	For
Mark Verbinnen	For
David Vigar	For
Iain Wallis	For
Bridget Wayman	For
Stuart Wheeler	Abstention
Philip Whitehead	For
Suzanne Wickham	For
Graham Wright	For
Robert Yuill	For

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

17 May 2022

Proposed Changes to the Constitution - Part 3B - Audit and Governance Committee

Summary

This report sets out proposed changes to Part 3B of the Constitution, following consideration and recommendation by the Standards Committee and Audit and Governance Committee on appointing co-opted non-voting members to the Audit and Governance Committee.

Proposals

- 1) To approve the revisions to Part 3B of the Constitution as set out in Appendix B.**

- 2) To delegate the appointment of up to 2 non-voting co-opted members to the Audit and Governance Committee and the arrangements for the selection of such members to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee.**

Reason for Proposals

To ensure the council's constitution is up to date, clear and effective.

Perry Holmes – Director Legal and Governance (and Monitoring Officer)

Proposed Changes to the Constitution - Part 3B - Audit and Governance Committee

Purpose of Report

1. This report asks Full Council to consider the recommendation of the Standards Committee in relation to Paragraphs 2.8 of Part 3B of the Constitution - Responsibility for Functions - in relation to terms of Reference of the Audit and Governance Committee
2. This report also requests Full Council to delegate the appoint of independent co-opted members to the Audit and Governance Committee.

Background

3. The Standards Committee has responsibility for oversight of the Council's constitution. It has established a cross party working group, known as the Constitution Focus Group, to advise and assist in carrying out this function.
4. The Focus Group met on 29 March 2022 to review proposed changes relating to the Audit and Governance Committee and other matters. The Standards Committee met on 20 April 2022. The relevant extract from the minutes from the meetings are attached at **Appendix A**.
5. The Independent Remuneration Panel has been appointed by Full Council to consider and make recommendations on any changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme.

Main Considerations

6. At its meeting on 1 March 2022, the Audit and Governance Committee following a review of its arrangements resolved to recommend to Council that its terms of reference be amended to permit appointment of an independent co-opted member. Any independent members would be non-voting.
7. The Audit and Governance Committee included revised wording to the terms of reference as set out at Paragraph 2.8 of Part 3B of the Constitution to enable the appointment of up to 2 independent co-opted members, although it would intend to appoint a single member at this time.
8. The Focus Group supported the proposed wording in relation to the membership change. It also made a number of minor clarifications not considered by the Audit and Governance Committee to ensure the terms of reference were up to date and clear.

9. The Standards Committee accepted the proposal from the Focus Group and resolved to recommend Full Council adopt the proposed changes, as set out at **Appendix B**.
10. The Independent Remuneration Panel was also asked to convene to recommend to Full Council whether any co-opted member of Audit and Governance Committee should receive an allowance. Some but not all current co-opted members on different committees receive an allowance under Part 13 of the Constitution, Members' Allowances Scheme. The Panel is currently considering the issue and will make a recommendation to Full Council as soon as practicable.
11. The Audit and Governance Committee also requested that Full Council delegate the appointment of the independent co-opted members to the Audit and Governance Committee and the arrangements for the selection of such members to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee, as has been the case on other committees, such as Standards Committee. This would include convening a selection panel involving a lead Audit and Governance Officer and 3 Members of the Committee (2 Conservatives and 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 of which would be the Chairman of the Committee).

Safeguarding Implications

12. There are no safeguarding issues arising from this report.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

13. There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

Risk Assessment

14. There are no risk issues arising from this report.

Financial Implications

15. If, when the recommendation from the Independent Remuneration Panel comes to Full Council it was accepted, there could be a potential cost to pay the allowance, plus any travelling and other expenses.

Legal Implications

16. The recommendations in this report are consistent with the council's duties under relevant legislation and the constitution.

Public Health Impact of the Proposals

17. There are no public health impacts arising from this report.

Environmental Impact of the Proposals

18. There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

Workplace Impact

19. There are no workplace impacts arising from this report.

Proposal

20. **To approve the revisions to Part 3B of the Constitution as set out in Appendix B.**
21. **To delegate the appointment of up to 2 non-voting co-opted members to the Audit and Governance Committee and the arrangements for the selection of such members to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee.**

Perry Holmes, Director Legal and Governance (and Monitoring Officer)

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Democracy Manager (Democratic Services), 01225 718504, kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

29 April 2022

Appendices

Appendix A – Extract notes from the Constitution Focus Group on 29 March 2022, and Extract Minutes from the Standards Committee 20 April 2022

Appendix B – Revised Part 3B, Section 2.8

Background Papers

[Part 3 of the Constitution](#)

[Meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee 1 March 2022](#)

Appendix A1

Extract of the notes of the Constitution Focus Group on 29 March 2022

4 **Part 3B: Co-opted Member - Audit and Governance Committee**

The Focus Group considered proposed changes to the terms of reference of the Audit and Governance Committee as recommended at that Committee's meeting on 1 March 2022. The changes were to enable the appointment of up to 2 co-opted independent members.

The Focus Group agreed with the wording of the proposed changes, and also proposed additional changes to improve clarity in respect of the membership in a non-voting capacity of the Leader of the Council and one Cabinet Member.

Additional changes were suggested in respect of approval of the Annual Governance Statement and reference to defunct officer posts.

After discussion, it was,

Resolved:

To propose the Standards Committee recommend changes to Part 3B of the Constitution as attached to these notes.

Appendix A2

Extract of the Minutes of the Standards Committee on 20 April 2022

35 Constitutional Changes

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Constitution Focus Group in relation to Terms of Reference of the Audit and Governance Committee, set out in paragraph 2.8 of Part 3B of the Constitution.

After a brief discussion, on the motion of Councillor Dean, seconded by Councillor Hopkinson, it was,

Resolved:

The Standards Committee recommend Council approve the revisions to Part 3B of the Constitutions as set out in Appendix A.

Appendix B1

Extract from Part 3B of the Constitution - Responsibility for Functions – Tracked Changes

Composition

2.8.1 The size of the Audit and Governance Committee and appointments to it will be determined by Council. Appointments will be made having regard to rules on political proportionality.

2.8.2 The Audit and Governance Committee will exclude Members of the Cabinet. ~~The exception is that up to two of the Leader of the Council ~~or~~ and the Cabinet Members with responsible responsibility for finance and governance is-will be appointed as a ~~non~~ Non-voting Members of the Committee. As non-voting members they would not count toward the rules on political proportionality.~~

2.8.3 Substitute Members will be permitted in accordance with Part 4 of this Constitution.

2.8.4 In addition to the Elected Members on the Committee, the Committee can appoint up to 2 Independent Co-opted Members, who will be Non-Voting Members of the Committee. The Non-Voting Co-opted Independent Member(s) should have experience of audit and financial management, preferably with knowledge of local authorities.

2.8.5 Independent Co-opted Members will be appointed by a recruitment and selection process involving members of the Committee.

2.8.6 The term of office for Independent Co-opted Members will normally be 4 years.

2.8.7 Independent Co-opted Members will be eligible for re-appointment for a second term.

2.8.8 Independent Co-opted Members do not count towards the Quorum of the committee.

Role and Function

2.8.9 The Audit and Governance Committee will be responsible for:

2.8.10 External Audit Activity:

- To receive and comment on the external audit plan;
- To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance;
- To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money;
- To monitor the implementation of management actions arising from external audit work.

2.8.11 Internal Audit Activity:

- To approve the terms of reference and strategy for internal audit, and the annual internal audit plan and subsequent changes thereto;
- To monitor and review the effectiveness of internal audit to ensure compliance with statutory requirements;
- To consider the ~~Head of Internal Audit's~~ annual report, ~~and~~ opinion, and summary on internal audit activity and the level of assurance it provides on the Council's corporate governance arrangements;
- To consider specific internal audit reports as requested, and monitor the implementation of agreed management actions.

2.8.12 Regulatory Framework:

- To monitor and review the effective development and operation of corporate governance, risk and performance management and internal control, and to receive progress reports as required;
- To oversee the process for production of the annual governance statement (AGS), to review the supporting evidence including the arrangements for governance of partnership working, and to approve the ~~draft~~ AGS;
- To monitor the development and implementation of the Council's anti-fraud and corruption policy and strategy.

2.8.13 Financial Management and Accounts:

- To ensure the Council's arrangements for financial management are adequate and effective, and, together with its accounting policies, are regularly reviewed;
- To review and approve the annual statement of accounts;

To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the account

Appendix B2

Extract from Part 3B of the Constitution - Responsibility for Functions – Final Version

Composition

2.8.1 The size of the Audit and Governance Committee and appointments to it will be determined by Council. Appointments will be made having regard to rules on political proportionality.

2.8.2 The Audit and Governance Committee will exclude Members of the Cabinet. The exception is that up to two of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members with responsibility for finance and governance will be appointed as non-voting Members of the Committee. As non-voting members they would not count toward the rules on political proportionality

2.8.3 Substitute Members will be permitted in accordance with Part 4 of this Constitution.

2.8.4 In addition to the Elected Members on the Committee, the Committee can appoint up to 2 Independent Co-opted Members, who will be Non-Voting Members of the Committee. The Non-Voting Co-opted Independent Member(s) should have experience of audit and financial management, preferably with knowledge of local authorities.

2.8.5 Independent Co-opted Members will be appointed by a recruitment and selection process involving members of the Committee.

2.8.6 The term of office for Independent Co-opted Members will normally be 4 years.

2.8.7 Independent Co-opted Members will be eligible for re-appointment for a second term.

2.8.8 Independent Co-opted Members do not count towards the Quorum of the committee.

Role and Function

2.8.9 The Audit and Governance Committee will be responsible for:

2.8.10 External Audit Activity:

- To receive and comment on the external audit plan;
- To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance;
- To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money;
- To monitor the implementation of management actions arising from external audit work.

2.8.11 Internal Audit Activity:

- To approve the terms of reference and strategy for internal audit, and the annual internal audit plan and subsequent changes thereto;
- To monitor and review the effectiveness of internal audit to ensure compliance with statutory requirements;
- To consider the annual report, opinion, and summary on internal audit activity and the level of assurance it provides on the Council's corporate governance arrangements;
- To consider specific internal audit reports as requested, and monitor the implementation of agreed management actions.

2.8.12 Regulatory Framework:

- To monitor and review the effective development and operation of corporate governance, risk and performance management and internal control, and to receive progress reports as required;
- To oversee the process for production of the annual governance statement (AGS), to review the supporting evidence including the arrangements for governance of partnership working, and to approve the AGS;
- To monitor the development and implementation of the Council's anti-fraud and corruption policy and strategy.

2.8.13 Financial Management and Accounts:

- To ensure the Council's arrangements for financial management are adequate and effective, and, together with its accounting policies, are regularly reviewed;
- To review and approve the annual statement of accounts;

To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the account.

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

17 May 2022

Parish Name Change Review

Summary

To consider proposals to change the names of two parishes as recommended by the Electoral Review Committee.

Proposals

That Council:

- 1) Approve the name changes for the following parishes and parish councils:
 - a) Biddestone to be changed to Biddestone and Slaughterford;**
 - b) Charlton to be changed to Charlton St Peter.****

- 2) Authorise the Solicitor to the Council to make any necessary legal orders and notifications to enact the above changes.**

Reason for Proposals

To reflect community interest and identity

Perry Holmes - Director Legal and Governance

Parish Name Change Review

Purpose

1. To consider proposals to change the names of two parishes.

Background

2. Changing the name of a parish or parish council can be achieved through a Community Governance Review process in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. However, such a change may also be progressed under s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972 at request of the relevant Parish Council.
3. As the latter would be a simpler process in terms of structure, consultation and decision, the Electoral Review Committee at its meeting on 21 September 2021 resolved that where a request was received solely regarding a parish name change, the s.75 process would be followed.
4. Full Council previously approved a number of s.75 parish name changes at its meeting on 9 September 2020.
5. This report relates to requests from the following parishes:

- Biddestone;
- Charlton.

Main Considerations

6. S.75 allows the Council to change the name of a parish at the request of a parish council (or parish meeting if there is no council). This means that the Council may only approve or not approve that suggested name and cannot substitute some other proposal. For instance, should a new suggestion arise as a result of a survey or other means, unless the parish council had indicated formal consent for that alternative proposal Council could not approve it.
7. In order to change the name of a parish, a decision is required by Full Council, who would then notify the Secretary of State, Director General of the Ordnance Survey, and the Registrar General, along with copies of a parish name change order.
8. There are no specific consultation requirements where a change of parish name is being considered under s.75, only proscribed notifications after the event as detailed under Paragraph 7 above.
9. However, the Council must have reasonable grounds for making a change that has been proposed by a parish council. In order to gather more information, online surveys were prepared from 12 November 2021 for Biddestone and 26 November 2021 for Charlton, both running until 31 December 2021.

10. Several reminder emails were sent to the parish councils involved to publicise the suggestion. The council's webpage on governance reviews was updated to include both name change surveys.

Biddestone

11. Biddestone Parish Council requested that the name of the parish be changed in order to become Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council. The reason for the request was:

Biddestone Parish consists of two villages, Biddestone village and the much smaller Slaughterford village, with outlying rural farms and cottages. For many years the parish council has unofficially called itself the Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish Council to reflect the fact that the residents of both villages are of equal importance. The Parish Council would now like to formally request the change of name from Biddestone Parish to Biddestone & Slaughterford Parish.

12. 18 responses were received to the parish council's proposal. 17 were in favour, with 1 against. Details are included at **Appendix A**.

Charlton

13. Charlton is located near Pewsey and is one of two parishes named Charlton in Wiltshire, with the other being located near Malmesbury. Charlton near Pewsey is currently represented by Charlton and Wilsford Parish Council.
14. Charlton has also been included in the separate and ongoing Community Governance Review due to an anomaly with its status with Wilsford as a joint parish council. This is where the two parishes have been treated as one entity for electoral purposes, when they should be electing parish councillors to each parish, who then sit on the same joint parish council. As part of that review the name could be changed as requested, however this would not take effect until May 2025, whereas an order under S.75 would enable a change to be made to the name of the parish in 2022.
15. The proposal from the Charlton and Wilsford Parish Council is to change the name of the parish of Charlton to 'Charlton St Peter', and in turn would then change the name of the parish council to 'Charlton St Peter and Wilsford Joint Parish Council'. This was for the following reason:

The reason for the suggestion is that this is the name widely used for Charlton and by which the parish is recognised, and how the parish council is referred to at present.
16. No responses were received on the online survey specifically regarding the name change. However, the survey on the wider Community Governance Review, which included confirming the joint parish council being called 'Charlton St Peter and Wilsford Joint Parish Council', received 8 responses, all in favour.
17. Additionally, Council has previously made changes to a parish name at request of a parish council even with limited responses, noting specific consultation is not a requirement. This was the parish of Cheverall Parva, where no responses were received to an online survey, as the Council was satisfied the reasoning offered and support of the parish council justified the change.

18. The Electoral Review Committee considered all the relevant information and requests at its meeting on 8 February 2022 and resolved to recommend Full Council approve them as requested.

19. The Committee agreed that the joint parish council should be called Charlton St Peter and Wilsford. This would be intended to be confirmed through the separate Community Governance Review process and was subject to consultation between 18 March to 5 May 2022, with a recommendation to Full Council to follow in due course.

Safeguarding Implications

20. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

21. There are no public health implications.

Procurement Implications

22. There are no procurement implications.

Risk Assessment

23. There are no risk issues arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

24. There are no equalities implications.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

25. There are no environmental implications.

Workforce Implications

26. There are no workforce implications.

Financial Implications

27. There are no financial implications.

Legal Implications

28. This report is consistent with the requirements of s.75 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Options

29. Full Council may approve the proposed name changes for the parishes as listed or decline to approve any change. If it considers a different name would be appropriate for either parish, consent of the relevant Parish Council would need to be sought.

Proposal

30. That Council:

1) Approve the name changes for the following parishes and parish councils:

- a) Biddestone to be changed to Biddestone and Slaughterford;
- b) Charlton to be changed to Charlton St Peter.

- 2) Authorise the Solicitor to the Council to make any necessary legal orders and notifications to enact the above changes.

Perry Holmes - Director Legal and Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Democracy Manager (Democratic Services), 01225 718504, kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

29 April 2022

Appendices

Appendix A – Responses to s.75 parish name change survey

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

Biddestone Survey

Comment	Status	Agree/Disagree	Reasons	Any other comments
1	Resident	Disagree	It's not broken, don't need to fix it.	What about Giddeahall?
2	Resident	Agree	This should have happened last century	No
3	Resident	Agree	It would give Slaughterford equal standing in the formal naming of the parish. The names of both villages are already used informally when referring to the parish.	Agree
4	Representative	Agree	I agree as Slaughterford is within the jurisdiction of Biddestone parish council, and changing to the proposed name offers clarity.	
5	Resident	Agree	Because the PC represents both villages	
6	Resident	Agree	I would like both villages to be recognised	I thought that was the name already
7	Resident	Agree	It will give parity to the residents of Slaughterford and Biddestone villages	
8	Resident	Agree	because the parish council includes Slaughterford and the new title will clearly show this	None
9	Resident	Agree		
10	Resident	Agree	Makes sense to be inclusive of both villages	
11	Resident	Agree	The Name change seems logical: and represents the reality	No
12	Resident	Agree	Its more inclusive and accurately represents the area covered	if the proposed boundary change between Yatton Keynell and Biddestone and Slaughterford goes ahead Giddea Hall will not be in the name of the PC
13	Interested Party	Agree	If the local community wish to have a name change then it should be supported by adjacent Parishes	Sensible proposal
14	Interested Party	Agree	If the local community wish to have a name change then it should be supported by adjacent Parishes	Sensible proposal
15	Interested Party	Agree	If the local community wish to have a name change then it should be supported by adjacent Parishes	Sensible proposal
16	Interested Party	Agree	If the local community wish to have a name change then it should be supported by adjacent Parishes	Sensible proposal
17	Interested Party	Agree	If the local community wish to have a name change then it should be supported by adjacent Parishes	Sensible proposal
18	Resident	Agree	Because the Council is generally referred to as 'Biddestone and Slaughterford Parish Council' It is important to recognise the inclusion of Slaughterford in the parish	

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny: Annual Report 2021/22



What is overview and scrutiny?

Wiltshire Council is run by councillors elected by the people of Wiltshire. A small number of them form the cabinet (also referred to as the executive) which sets the direction, determines the priorities and takes the important decisions. The councillors in the cabinet hold powerful positions and it is important that they are held to public account for their actions. This is done through a system called Overview and Scrutiny (OS) and is undertaken by the non-executive councillors.

This is common to most local councils. OS ensures that decisions are taken based on good evidence including the views of those with an interest in the matter and are in the best interests of the people of Wiltshire. OS is selective in what it looks at so that it can add value to the most important services provided by the council, its partners and contractors. Wherever possible it helps to shape policy through early discussions as well as scrutinising proposals before they are finally agreed. A list of the matters which will be considered by OS is published in its [forward work programme](#).

How do we do it in Wiltshire?

There is an OS management committee and three specialist select committees covering the following main service areas:

- Health (including the NHS, public health and adult social care)
- Environment (including highways, waste and transportation)
- Children (including education, vulnerable children, youth services and early years)

The management committee, as well as coordinating the work of the select committees, covers internal matters such as finance, performance and staffing. Most of the work is done by small groups of elected members from across the political parties reviewing single specific issues in detail. These groups then report to the select committees and make recommendations for improvement to the cabinet and others as necessary.

Focus

The work programme focuses on the commitments given by the council in its Business Plan 2022-32 and approaches its work in the following way:

- Better outcomes for the people of Wiltshire
- Adding value to the way decisions are reached
- Working constructively with the cabinet
- Challenging positively as a critical friend
- Basing its findings on good evidence
- Learning from others

Councillor Graham Wright, Chairman of the Committee, said:

“ This year Overview and Scrutiny has continued to play a key role in developing council policy and holding decision-makers to account. It has scrutinised 80% of the decisions taken by the council’s Cabinet and submitted 35 recommendations to improve services, with 67% of eligible members taking part in our work.

Following the shift to remote working during the pandemic, we have moved to a hybrid approach, with committee meetings taking place in-person, and task groups and rapid scrutiny exercises using remote meeting technology.

My thanks go to the councillors and co-opted members who lead the function, the scrutiny team that supports our work, plus all those decision-makers, witnesses and members of the public who have engaged with the process.

For the year ahead, Overview and Scrutiny will be focusing on scrutinising the big priorities in the council’s new Business Plan. Like the rest of the council, we will be placing an increasing emphasis on using data to inform our findings. ”

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee



Cllr Graham Wright
Chairman



Cllr Christopher Williams
Vice chairman

Key items we have looked at ...and what we have achieved

Business Plan

- Reviewed the council’s new ten-year business plan, submitting detailed comments from all of the select committees

Financial robustness

- Scrutinised council budget proposals as well as opposition group amendments to ensure that they were sound and reviewed potential impacts on services.

Area Boards

- Provided scrutiny input into proposed changes to how the county’s 18 area boards should function in terms of grant funding criteria, working groups and priority setting.

Health Select Committee

Councillor Johnny Kidney, the Chairman of the Committee, said:

“The last 12 months have once again been dominated by the pandemic. The Health Select Committee has prioritized its focus on Covid-19, reviewing the impact on health and care provision for Wiltshire’s residents.



Cllr Johnny Kidney
Chairman



Cllr Gordon King
Vice chairman

Key items we have looked at ...and what we have achieved

Community diagnostics

- Scrutinised the national diagnostics programme and opportunities for future community-based diagnostic centres within Wiltshire.

Future health and care model

- Reviewed and contributed to the new model being developed across the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) system.

Adult social care

- Considered the ongoing transformation of the service, including rapid scrutiny reviews of grant-funded clubs and housing-related support.

Significant changes are also taking place in response to the recent Health and Care Bills, with Integrated Care Systems (ICS) scheduled to become a statutory requirement from July 2022. The committee will continue to scrutinise this system transformation, with consideration given to the ongoing role of health scrutiny within the new ICS governance model. ”

Children’s Select Committee

Councillor Jon Hubbard, Chairman of the Committee, said:

“Following the local elections in May 2021, the committee has hit the ground running with new members getting to grips with our work, and all of us learning new ways of working during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Cllr Jon Hubbard
Chairman



Cllr Jacqui Lay
Vice chairman

Key items we have looked at ...and what we have achieved

Provision of accommodation for young people at transition time

- Conducted a gap analysis of the council’s provision of accommodation for young people, ensuring that gaps and needs are considered when the council develops its strategies.

Traded Services

- The committee’s Standing Task Group considered the first annual report from the Traded Services Team, ensuring a clear direction for Traded Services and robust future reporting to the committee.

Getting to Outstanding

- Reviewed the council’s intention and strategy for achieving a rating of Outstanding from Ofsted. Ensured the committee remains fully involved with this crucial work through a clear, practical and focused reporting mechanism.

The committee launched a Standing Task Group that allows members to dedicate more time to a number of our annual reports, adding value, through robust overview and scrutiny on topics including Safeguarding, Traded Services, Corporate Parenting Panel, Early Years and Childcare Standards and Performance Monitoring.

Our forward work programme keeps growing and we are looking forward to the opportunities it provides to make positive inputs in the future of Wiltshire’s children’s services. ”

Environment Select Committee

Cllr Jerry Kunkler,
Chairman of the
Committee, said:

“The Committee has continued to focus on areas that are important to our residents, like waste collection, the state of our roads and public transport. Also important to the people of Wiltshire is the climate emergency, and our Climate Emergency Task Group has continued to seek practical solutions to this urgent issue.

The last 18 months have not been easy, but it has shown how Wiltshire can rise to a challenge. The Committee has been keen to see how council services have adopted new ways of working as we emerge from the pandemic. The success of our economic recovery will be seen through our market towns and high streets, which are so important to Wiltshire, and we will be closely monitoring progress over the coming year.

I would like to thank officers and members for their ongoing support. ”



Cllr Jerry Kunkler
Chairman



Cllr Bob Jones MBE
Vice chairman

Key items we have looked at ...and what we have achieved

Leisure Service Insourcing

- Scrutinised the process of bringing leisure centres under direct council control and will continue to look at the effect upon services and the outcomes for service users.

Future Bus Strategy - Connect Wiltshire

- Reviewed the development of the county's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), the outcomes of which will continue to be monitored.

Highways

- Considered the effectiveness of the highways service over the last 12 months, looking at road maintenance, drainage and traffic management issues.

Climate Strategy

- The Climate Emergency Task Group following publication of its recommendations, formally responded to the strategy consultation, and commented on early drafts.

How is overview and scrutiny supported?

The council's non-executive councillors lead OS but are supported in their work by a small team of officers. They sit within the Democracy and Governance team, which supports all aspects of the council's democratic decision-making. The team ensures that the councillors have the information and evidence they need and can speak to those people that have a direct responsibility or interest in the matter. This can include making arrangements to hear from service users and going on site visits.

The team also undertakes research and writes reports on behalf of the select committees and task groups.

Looking forward

Covid-19 has placed significant new financial pressures on local authorities, on top of existing demographic challenges and rising costs of care for vulnerable children and adults. In Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny will contribute to meeting this challenge by acting as a 'critical friend' to decision-makers, supporting innovation in how the council and its partners deliver services and acting as the voice of the people when important decisions are being made.

In February 2022, the council agreed a new ten-year business plan. OS will be using the plan as a guiding document, working to ensure that all of the priorities agreed in the Plan are achieved. There will be an increasing focus on using data to monitor whether public services are delivering real outcomes for Wiltshire residents.

Since its introduction in 2000, OS has become an integral part of decision-making at the council. We will be working to ensure this remains the case, with all significant executive decisions receiving prior OS input and as many elected representatives as possible contributing to OS's work.

Getting involved

OS welcomes suggestions from councillors and members of the public regarding issues that could be investigated. If you would like to suggest an issue that OS should look into, please contact us via the details at the end of this report.

Members of the public can also get directly involved by attending committee meetings, submitting a question before a meeting or giving notice to make a statement on an item on the agenda.



Want to know more?

Contact Henry Powell, Democracy and
Complaints Manager

Email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk

Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk

County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN

Information about Wiltshire Council services can be made available on request in other languages and formats such as large print and audio.

Please contact the council by telephone **0300 456 0100**, or email customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk

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