

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (2)

Meeting: Cabinet
Place: Council Chamber - Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge
Date: Tuesday 26 July 2011
Time: 10.30 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 18 July 2011 since then the following question has been received. Also attached are the comments of Councillor Nigel Carter and the Children's Services Select Committee held on 22 July 2011

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This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

5. **Public participation** (Pages 1 - 4)

Question from Father Jean-Patrice Coulon – Denominational Home to School Transport (not on agenda)

Question from Ms Emma Kayne – Denominational Home to School Transport (not on agenda)

6. **Reducing Child Poverty Strategy**

The Cabinet report was considered by the Children's Services Select Committee on 22 July. The Committee resolved as follows:

Resolutions:

1. The Committee noted and commended the report and the Child Poverty Strategy.

2. The Committee recommended that Cabinet makes adequate funding available to fulfil the objectives described within the Strategy.

8. **Car Park Redemption Scheme (applicable to off-street car parks only)**

Comments from Cllr Nigel Carter:

“I would be grateful if you would draw to the attention of Cabinet what I believe to be an error in briefing paper on this topic, and which may call into question some of the presumptions made for other towns.

Devizes did try a parking fee redemption scheme but it survives, as far as I am aware, only at Sainsbury’s, where parkers are a captive audience! The potential cost to council of £50 000 for the new two-part ticket machines, etc, demands a considerable contribution from parking fees, which would seem untenable in the current environment.

Anecdotally, there is resentment among retailers in, it would seem, more than one location because of the adverse variation in car parking charges, which has impacted on trading patterns – frequency of visits as well as timing. The idea that, whether the downturn in trade is due to the recession or to parking charges, retailers should now subsidise their sales sits uncomfortably. The timing could not be worse for smaller businesses, who are now smarting from a savage increase in charges for trade and commercial waste.

Psychologically, it seems to be the wrong moment”.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 25 July 2011

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Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

26 July 2011

**Public Participation
From Mrs Emma Kayne – Denominational Home to School Transport**

Question

In the Children's Services Select committee meeting on 22nd July 2011, the Chair asked the Cabinet representatives for a delay in their meeting planned for 13th September so that all parties could be consulted in order to assist the assigned Rapid Scrutiny Task Group's brief to properly cost the impact on the removal of Denominational Transport.

This request was denied. How can this Cabinet allow this meeting to proceed, given that no parents and schools can be easily contacted over the summer break to assist with information on how many children, (up to 450), may leave their current schools and have to be relocated?

Does this Cabinet agree that democratic consultation has been fairly achieved in this situation? Would the Cabinet delay its consideration of the Denominational Home to School Transport issue from its meeting in September in order to achieve the democratic and fair consultation that is purported to be taking place?

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Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

26 July 2011

Public Participation From Father Jean-Patrice Coulon – Denominational Home to School Transport

Question

While our community welcomes the news that the Cabinet meeting to decide on subsidised transport for faith schools will be deferred to a time that is not in the school holidays, it nevertheless remains the fact that the meeting is going to be held on a weekday in the day time. The Council is making this proposal on the basis that we are living in difficult economic times. However, it is also saying that if parents wish to have a say in directly speaking to Councillors, they have to forego a day's pay to do so.

Furthermore, in attending the Children's Services Select Committee meeting at the Bradley Road Council Chamber on Friday 22nd July, I was struck as were several members of our community at how small this Chamber is. Parents were only informed of this meeting on Monday 18th July and yet already all the seats were taken, with even an elderly gentleman sat on a chair that had been placed in the middle of a public gangway. Our community has greater notice of the Cabinet meeting, and even though it is being held on a weekday daytime, there are likely to be over 200 people there. Furthermore, there could well be more than 70 people who would wish to make a personal statement. While respectful of the wishes of Democratic Services for us to form a group of spokespeople, it is very hard to ask someone not to speak when it is a question of education. As one councillor put it at the recent Full Council meeting, the education of our children is one of the most important things we do in our lives.

When school transport subsidy was proposed to be withdrawn in 2007, an evening meeting was held in the Sports Hall at St. Augustine's Catholic College which attracted over 500 people. Will Cabinet agree to take up the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition Cllr Jon Hubbard to have a single issue evening Cabinet meeting? This would ideally be held centrally in Trowbridge, for which the premises of St. Augustine's would be happily donated to the Council. In the interests of local, open honest discussion, the Cabinet should explain to parents directly why they wish to make this proposal which will jeopardise children's education and reduce parental choice for the sake of less than £170,000 in a budget of close to a billion pounds. In doing so, the Cabinet would successfully refute the suggestion that Mr Michael Stevenson, the Chair of Governors of St. Augustine's put at the Full Council meeting of a "Council afraid to face up to its responsibilities".

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