

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 June 2011

**Public Participation
From Mr Phil Matthews – Wiltshire Involvement Network**

Question

The Wiltshire Involvement Networks(LINKS) is a Statutory Government organisation set up by Act of Parliament to represent patients and public in Wiltshire.

Why was the decision to recently suspend this organisation and its funding taken by Council Officers instead of the democratically elected Members of the Council?

Response

The decision to suspend contact (not the contract) with WIN was taken by Officers because at the time it was considered a contractual issue and the underlying contract was less than £150,000.00. Pursuant to the Council's scheme of delegation such decisions would normally be dealt with by Officers. With hindsight, having regard to the political interest generated by the decision, member involvement in this case may have been appropriate.