

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Council
Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 18 October 2016
Time: 10.30 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on **10 October 2016**. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718024 or email Yamina.Rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

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

6 **Public Participation** (Pages 3 - 6)

Questions from Mr Bill Jarvis of Keep Wiltshire Frack Free and Mrs Anne Henshaw of the Campaign to Protect Rural England are attached.

7 **Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Statement 2017-2020**
(Pages 7 - 16)

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 11 October 2016 are attached.

13 **Review of Proportionality and Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups** (Pages 17 - 18)

Appendix 2 to the Report – Draft schedule of committee places – is attached.

16 **Councillors' Questions** (Pages 19 - 34)

Questions from Cllrs Terry Chivers, Ernie Clark, Chris Caswill, Peter Edge and Jon Hubbard are attached together with responses

Date of Publication: 14 October 2016

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Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

From Bill Jarvis, Keep Wiltshire Frack Free

To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Question (Ref P16/13)

Wiltshire Council are no doubt aware that the 4 licence areas for unconventional gas development (PEDLs ST84,85 and ST94,95) to the west of the County have recently been abandoned by the potential Developer and handed back to the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA).

- a) To give reassurance to the people of this County that no unconventional gas extraction (fracking) will take place, will Wiltshire Council confirm that they have established from the OGA that these licences will not be reissued, either to the original developer or to any other organization in the future
- b) If the Council cannot give this assurance, we must assume that these licences could well be reactivated at any time.

The Council Planning Department has issued a briefing note to Councillors entitled Onshore Hydrocarbon Extraction (Briefing note 303), which concludes that there is no further action required to protect the County from the dangers of fracking. As demonstrated by the many unanswered questions we have submitted to you previously we do not agree with this conclusion.

Please advise therefore how Wiltshire Council will give assurance of protection from the impacts of fracking as their existing policies fail to do so.

Response

- a) The OGA has confirmed that all four of the blocks of land in Wiltshire offered under the 14th Onshore Licencing Round will not now be awarded. These licences will not be reissued under the 14th Round as the 14th Licencing Round is closed. South Western Energy or any other prospective developer will now have to reapply under a new 15th licencing round (if one occurs) or the 'out-of-round' process. However, the out-of-round process can only be used if justified by exceptional circumstances, and should not be seen as a routine alternative to the Licensing Rounds system.
- b) See response to question a) above.

The Councillor Briefing Note did not conclude as suggested. The conclusion is as follows:

24. Conclusion

24.1. This report outlines the current position with respect to shale gas and coalbed methane development, both nationally and in Wiltshire. These technologies are new in an onshore UK context but the Government considers that they will potentially have a significant future role to play in achieving benefits, both economically and in terms of energy security.

24.2. Following the granting of PEDL licences, Wiltshire Council has not received any application in relation to oil and gas exploration and hydraulic fracturing (fracking). Before an application is submitted, it is expected that engagement between the licensee and public will occur.

24.3. It is considered that the planning system and current national and local planning policy provides an appropriate basis for assessing the environmental implications of any such future proposals. In addition, such proposals would be subject to substantial additional controls under separate regulatory regimes administered by the Environment Agency, DECC and the Health and Safety Executive.

24.4. The Council will continue to review the progress of PEDL licences both within Wiltshire and other Local Authority areas.

Question (Ref P16/14)

What plans have Wiltshire Council put in place to discharge their responsibilities to the people of Wiltshire with respect to the Paris Agreement, being ratified by the UK Govt before the year end?

All questions put to the Council from Keep Wiltshire Frack Free.

Response

Wiltshire Council has a responsibility for addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation both within its services and as part of its community leadership role.

The Council's Energy, Change and Opportunity (ECO) Strategy 2011 – 2020, is a framework document designed to identify how Wiltshire as a council and a community can act on climate change. The overarching framework document is supplemented by three detailed action plans, which set out more specifically how we are going to deliver our climate change ambitions.

- Carbon Management Plan for the council's emissions (published March 2011)
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Wiltshire (revised 2016)
- Wiltshire Energy Resilience Plan (published 2015)

The Energy, Change & Opportunity Board met most recently on the 5th October 2016.

The Board approved the 2016 revised Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Reports were received from across the Council services including Fleet, Waste, Public Health, Property and Economic Development and Planning as climate change activity is now embedded within the authority's services (Climate Change Adaption Plan). The revised Climate Change Adaptation Plan is being loaded onto the Council's website and should be available for download towards the end of next week.

Wiltshire Council

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Public Participation

From Mrs Anne Henshaw, CPRE Wiltshire Branch

To Councillor Richard Britton, Chairman of Council

Question (Ref P16/15)

Given the importance to the public of the substance of the Motions proposed by Councillor Caswill we ask whether there is any reason why there should not be a free vote on them?

We ask for a free vote.

Response

In accordance with Paragraph 30 of Part 4 of the Constitution, a verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2016 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE	Leader of the Council
Cllr John Thomson	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses, Area Boards and Broadband
Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Skills, Strategic Transport and Strategic Property
Cllr Laura Mayes	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Cllr Jonathon Seed	Cabinet Member for Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding
Cllr Toby Sturgis	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste
Cllr Dick Tonge	Cabinet Member for Finance
Cllr Jerry Wickham	Cabinet Member for Health (including Public Health) and Adult Social Care
Cllr Stuart Wheeler	Cabinet Member for Hubs, Heritage and Arts, Governance and Support Services
Cllr Philip Whitehead	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Also Present:

Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Roy While, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Peter Evans, Cllr Alan Hill, Cllr Ian West, Cllr Graham Wright, Cllr Mike Hewitt and Cllr David Jenkins

110 Apologies

There were no apologies received, as all members of the Cabinet were in attendance.

111 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 were presented.

Resolved

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 13 September 2016.

112 **Minutes - Capital Assets Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Capital Assets Committee held on the 13 September 2016 were presented for information.

Resolved

To receive and note the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Capital Assets Committee held on the 13 September 2016

113 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.


114 **Leader's announcements**

The Leader had no announcements.

115 **Public participation and Questions from Councillors**

The Leader invited those wishing to make representations, to do so under the item to which they related. The Leader also explained that, as usual at meetings of Cabinet, she would be more than happy to hear from any member of the public present on any of the items on the agenda.

116 **Passenger Transport Review**

 Councillor Philip Whitehead presented the item which asked the Cabinet to agree a sustainable approach to supported bus service provision in Wiltshire with a number of options and recommendations for Cabinet's consideration.

David Redgewell, South West Transport.Network, addressed the meeting, and outlined the issues that had been brought out as part of the consultation and from interactions with users. He emphasised users concerns about the impact of potential cuts to services, and outlined how different groups of users could be particularly affected. He highlighted the importance of good quality services supported by effective marketing as a way of improving take up allowing services to be reduced.

He also drew attention to concerns about restrictive provisions within the Bus Services Bill, currently being considered by Parliament.

The Leader thanked Mr Redgewell, and his team, for engaging so positively in the consultation.

In presenting the report, Councillor Whitehead emphasised: that the review focused on what journeys are being made, and how services can be best designed to support these; that the scope of the review had primarily included the bus services supported by the Council, including those run by commercial

companies with subsidy from the Council; that running services in a rural economy was complex; that the Council intended to protect the maximum number of journeys and believed it should be possible to do that within the existing policy; that the Council would want to focus on improving marketing and service changes; that as the new Services Bill, if passed, would be unlikely to be implemented until 2019, that the Council should not delay any changes.

In response to issues raised about the possibility of sharing resources with services provided by Health partners, the Leader proposed that a paper be jointly prepared for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Councillor Simon Killane, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, commended the decision to include members of the Scrutiny Task Group onto the project board for the review.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Bridget Wayman, Councillor Whitehead stated that the length of time taken to achieve a sustainable service for a particular route would depend on the complexity of that particular area.

Councillor John Thomson made reference to the role that Area Boards can play in providing a forum for different community transport groups to learn from each other.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Mike Hewitt, Councillor John Thomson stated that it was illegal to ask for donations from concessionary bus pass users. Councillor Whitehead made mention of a subsidy top up scheme in Norfolk that, if successful, could be applied in other areas of the country.

Cllr Peter Evans, Chair of the Task Group, drew attention to the information gathering work undertaken by the Group, and commended the public for their engagement in the consultation process.. He also commended the officers for their hard work.

In response to a question raised by Mr Redgewell, Councillor Whitehead stated that he would be interested to see how the 'closed transport system', such as secondary school buses, could be used for members of the public where no other service was available.

In moving the recommendation, Councillor Whitehead offered his congratulations and thanks to the officers for their hard work, especially in analysing over 11,000 responses which included categorising the 21,000 issues raised in the free text.

Resolved


- 1. To review all passenger trip subsidies above the thresholds set out in the Local Transport Plan and together with other measures described in this report achieve £500,000 savings in the passenger transport budget.**

2. That authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to make final decision following consultation of specific services which fall under this criteria.
3. That Wiltshire Council works more closely with the Health Authority to the mutual benefit of both organisations, particularly around the integration of NEPTS with SEND and Social Care transport and the development of the Public Transport Strategy; and that, as part of this process, a paper is jointly prepared by the Council and its Health partners be presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Reason for Decision:

In order for Wiltshire Council to meet future budget pressures and ensure that a sustainable, long-term solution to passenger transport in Wiltshire is maintained.

117 **Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Statement 2017-2021**

 Councillor Dick Tonge presented the report which enabled the Cabinet to consider and assess its medium term financial plan, and the four year funding offer from Government.

Issues discussed during the course of the presentation and discussion included: that the technical consultation document was available on the website; that the Council was working with the LGA, County Council Network and society of County treasurers to address wider issues; how a four year settlement would give the council some ability to plan; how the reduction in the revenue support grant would be offset by the income from business rates, but that a funding gap would still need to be addressed; that this would amount, it was estimated, to be a required saving of £45m over four years; that the use of capital receipts, not normally to be used for revenue, but may be able to be released to fund some restructuring revenue costs; how commercialisation and trading of services can be used to offset the removal of subsidies from non-core services, and how services can be traded.

Councillor Simon Killane, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, highlighted the engagement of Scrutiny, and invited Councillor Glenis Ansell, Chair of the Financial Planning Task Group, to give a more detailed response.

Councillor Ansell noting the challenging timeframe for Councillors and officers to respond to the Government's consultation, stated that the Group had looked at forecast and there were areas where possible savings could be made. She drew the meeting's attention to the recommendations and the information highlighted in the Task Group's response to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

In response to an issue raised in the recommendations, Councillor John Thomson invited the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to consider appointing a Scrutiny Member to the board of the One Estate project board, as he believed this may be a more efficient way of gaining insight into its work rather than creating a separate Task Group. Councillor Killane stated that this offer would be considered by the Committee

Councillors present were encouraged to attend the Members' briefing on the Budget on Thursday 13 October, which would offer further opportunities for Members to ask question on the MTFP ahead of the Council meeting on Tuesday 18 October.

Resolved

To recommend to the meeting of Council:

- 1. That the Efficiency Statement at Appendix A for submission to the DCLG, subject to conditions at paragraph 2.7 of this report, as part of the conditions to accept the current four year funding 'deal' offered by central government.**
- 2. That subject to conditions at paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 of this report, as part of its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) set out a Council Tax increase of 2% each year for 2017-2020. Noting that this does not fetter future administrations from having a lower Council tax increase should further savings be made.**
- 3. That subject to conditions at paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 of this report, as part of its MTFP set out a Social Care Levy increase of 2% each year for 2017-2020.**

Reason for Decision:

To meet Government's requirement to accept the four year funding offer and thus the statutory requirement to set the Council Tax and Social Care Levy. The final calculations will be reported to Council in February 2017 once the final government offer and precepts from partnership bodies are known.

118 A303 Amesbury to Berwick Down Road Scheme

Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Philippe presented the report which: informed Members of the timescales associated with the Development Consent Order (DCO) process for this road scheme; confirmed the project governance arrangements; and identified the resource requirements of the Council to support the DCO process and fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: the comprehensive nature of governance structure; that lessons would be learnt from other Councils, such as Cambridgeshire, that had recently undertaken the DCO process; how Area Boards would be kept informed.

Councillors Bridget Wayman, Ian West, Mike Hewitt and Graham Wright each raised specific concerns as the help that can be offered to their communities affected by increased traffic. It was agreed to keep the relevant Area Boards informed.

Councillors Fleur de Rhé-Philipe and Philip Whitehead stated that these issues would be considered.

Resolved

- 1. To note the contents of this report;**
- 2. To agree that the Council's interests will be properly represented through the proposed governance structure; and**
- 3. To note the inclusion of an indicative figure of £300,000 in the MTFS for refinement and approval at budget setting to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.**

Reason for decision:

Government and Highways England are planning and funding improvements to the A303 to address the congestion, economic and heritage aspects. This is a major investment in Wiltshire and will bring significant changes to the area. The current funding allocation requires a DCO application to be submitted in mid-2018 in order to start on site early 2020.

In order to meet these challenging timeframes, significant resource and input from the Council will be required as both a key stakeholder and statutory consultee. Strong governance arrangements are also required to manage the process and ensure that all stakeholders are engaged.

119 Introducing an Income Management Strategy

Councillor Dick Tonge presented the report which introduced an Income Management Strategy.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: the links to the efficiency agenda, income collection and charging strategies; the need to continue to improve how people contact and pay for services; how support to people to help manage different debts held with the Council can be developed; how credit unions and work with other parties would be addressed in the development of the action plan; the balance to be struck between charging to enable overhead cost to be appropriately recovered, and the need to remain competitive; and the risks involved in the Council creating a new payment system rather than using a system provided by the fast-changing market.

Councillor Tonge agreed to look into a query from Councillor Hubbard on whether there had been any progress on the One Card for Wiltshire initiative previously considered by the Council. Tonge acknowledged that with technology, methods of payment were quickly evolving.

Resolved

- 1. To note the contents of this report; and**
- 2. To adopt the income strategy. With the strategy in place engagement with officers can begin. The engagement process will involve agreeing the steps each service will need to take to meet the objectives set out in the Action Plan.**

Reason for decision:

As local authorities continue to face cuts in government funding and growth in demand for Adult Care and Children's Services to maintain key services we need to focus on raising and collecting income from our residents, businesses and visitors efficiently and to ensure the financial sustainability of our excellent service delivery. In doing so we need to be commercial in our approach and use both technology and data to make more informed decisions. We must use our knowledge and experience to offer the right services at the right price and offer the most suitable and efficient means to enable customers to pay for those services.

120 **Care Leavers Report**

Councillor Laura Mayes presented the report which provided Cabinet with an overview of the quality of services offered to Wiltshire care leavers and areas where further improvements are required. In giving her presentation, Councillor Mayes highlighted: that the report drew upon findings from an audit completed in the Autumn of 2015 and a recent assessment of individual need; that taken together, this provides a firm foundation from which to analyse the quality of our offer to care leavers; that through the Children and Social Work Bill 2016, the Government has signalled a clear intention to require local authorities to improve services to care leavers; and that the report provides a brief overview of the Bill and begins to consider the impact for Wiltshire Council.

Issues highlighted in the course of the presentation and discussion included: that the age for which Council's remained responsible for looked-after children was being extended to 25; how the council would be looking at innovative solutions to provide continuing support; the important responsibility for all Councillors as corporate parents; and the role of volunteers and third sector providers in providing support.

Resolved

That the contents of the report are noted and accepted.

Reason for decision:

Local authorities have duties under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 towards eligible and relevant and former relevant children.

The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 (the Leaving Care Act) came into effect on the 1 Oct 2001. The Act amends the previous provisions for care leavers in the Children Act 1989. The Act applies in England and Wales only.

The act aims to ensure that a Local Authority will provide help until a Young Person reaches the age of 21 and in some cases 24.

The Leaving Care Act has two main aims:

- *To ensure that young people do not leave care until they are ready.*
- *To ensure that they receive effective support once they have left.*

The proposed Care Leavers' Covenant will extend the responsibilities of the Council to all care leavers up until the age of 25 years.

121 **Supporting SME growth and Innovation in Wiltshire**

Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Philippe presented the report which requested the approval to proceed with issuing contracts to the business support providers procured by the Council in order for the project to be able to deliver business support to SME's across the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Area.

It was noting that the four year survival rate for new businesses in Wiltshire was relatively good.

The Leader, in commending the work already underway, emphasised the importance of face to face support.

Resolved

- 1. That Cabinet approves the procurement of business providers for delivery of the ESIF SME Growth project.**
- 2. That Cabinet delegates authority to the Associate Director of Economic Development and Planning in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Skills, Strategic Transport and Strategic Property, to implement delivery of the project and to approve entering into contract with any successful supplier(s).**

Reason for decision:

To enable the procured business support providers to be issued with contracts to commence delivery of the project.

122 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

123 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following item of business because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

Reason for taking the item in private:

Paragraph 3 – information relating to the financial information or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Paragraph 5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

No representations had been received as to why this item should not be held in private

124 **Update on Mobilisation of Future Waste Management and Collection Services (Part ii)**

Councillor Toby Sturgis presented the report which was exempt from publication.

The Leader emphasised, to those present, that the report was confidential and subject to legal professional privilege and should not be disclosed outside the meeting.

Resolved

To approve the recommendations in the report.

Reason for Decision:

To enable the council to maintain service delivery for residents, to comply with its statutory duties to collect and dispose of waste and to continue to progress towards achieving statutory targets until new contracts commence on 1 August 2017.

(Duration of meeting: 9:30 – 12:04)

These decisions were published, earlier, on the 12 October 2016 and will come into force on 20 October 2016

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718024, e-mail Yamina.Rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

Agenda Item 13

Appendix 2 – Draft schedule of committee places

Committee	Total Number of Places for Elected Members	Conservative Group Allocation (61 seats)	Liberal Democrat Group Allocation (22 seats)	Labour Group Allocation (4 seats)	Independent Group Allocation (10 seats)	UKIP (1 seat)
Strategic Planning	11	7	3	-	1	-
Area Planning Committees						
North	11	8	2	-	1	-
South	11	6	2	2	1	-
East	8	7	-	-	1	-
West	11	7	2	-	2	-
Licensing	12	8	2	-	2	-
Overview and Scrutiny Management	15	8	4	1	2	-
Children's Select	13	8	3	1	1	-
Environment Select	13	7	4	1	1	-
Health Select	13	7	3	1	2	-
Standards	11	7	3	-	1	-
Police and Crime Panel	7	4	2	-	1	-
Audit	11	7	2	-	1	1
Appeals	8	5	2	1	-	-
Staffing Policy	9	5	3	-	-	1
Officer Appointments	5	3	1	-	1	-
Pension Fund	5	4	1	-	-	-
TOTALS:	174	108	39	7	18	2

Liberal Democrat Group taking up additional 2 seats by taking up existing vacancies on the Staffing Policy Committee and Appeals Committee

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Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Questions Update

Questions Received

1. A total of 13 questions from Councillors have been received since the last meeting of Full Council on 12 July 2016.
2. Details of questions submitted and the order they will be received at the meeting are shown at Appendix 1. Responses are included at Appendix 2.
3. 1 question was determined to be purely an operational query, and so in accordance with paragraph 59 of Part 4 of the constitution, a response has been provided by the relevant Associate Director.
4. A total of 8 other questions were received by the first deadline of 4 October 2016, and were therefore guaranteed written responses as attached to this report.
5. 4 further questions then were received by the final deadline of 11 October 2016. These were therefore not guaranteed written responses. Where a verbal response is provided a written response will follow within five working days of the meeting.
6. In accordance with Paragraph 62 of Part 4 of the Constitution, no more than 20 supplementary questions may be asked at any meeting, with no more than 1 supplementary per question submitted. As the number of questions received for this meeting is fewer than 20, there will be no need to restrict the number of supplementary questions to 20.
7. Where a question relates to an item on the agenda appearing before the receipt of Councillors' questions, it may be taken under that item. This will still count toward the total of 20 questions to be received in total at the meeting.
8. The Chairman will go through the questions and responses and, as is customary, take them as read and giving the questioner an opportunity to ask one relevant supplementary question for each question submitted.

Yamina Rhouati, Democratic Governance Manager, 01225 718024,
yamina.rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Councillor Questions Summary

Appendix 2 - Questions and Responses

Appendix 1 - Councillor Submitted Questions Summary

Questions will be received in the order listed below as specified in Paragraph 63 of Part 4 of the Constitution.

Questions for Council (attached at Appendix 2)

Ref	Questioner	Date Received	Written or Verbal	Subject	Cabinet Member/Committee Chairman
16/34	Cllr Terry Chivers	21/7/13	Written	Webcasting	Cllr Stuart Wheeler
16/35	Cllr Ernie Clark	30/9/16	Written	Hills Waste Contract	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/36	Cllr Chris Caswill	4/10/16	Written	Grammar Schools	Cllr Laura Mayes
16/43	Cllr Peter Edge	6/10/16	Verbal	Cycle Sportive, Salisbury	Cllr Jonathon Seed
16/44	Cllr Jon Hubbard	7/10/16	Verbal	Household Recycling Centres	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/38	Cllr Chris Caswill	4/10/16	Written	Rawlings Green	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/45	Cllr Jon Hubbard	7/10/16	Verbal	Household Recycling Centres 2	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/39	Cllr Chris Caswill	4/10/16	Written	Rawlings Green2	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/46	Cllr Jon Hubbard	10/10/16	Verbal	Land Supply	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/40	Cllr Chris Caswill	4/10/16	Written	Rawlings Green3	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/41	Cllr Chris Caswill	4/10/16	Written	Forest Farm	Cllr Toby Sturgis
16/42	Cllr Chris Caswill	4/10/16	Written	Public Toilets	Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE

Operational Questions (not attached)

Ref	Questioner	Date Received	Response Provided	Subject
16/37	Cllr Chris Caswill	4/10/16	11/10/16	Planning Committee cancellations and agenda item numbers

Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

**To Councillor Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Hubs, Heritage and Arts,
Governance and Support Services**

Question (16/34)

It is now some considerable time since Wiltshire Council installed the video system in the Council Chamber. At the present time the Council only broadcast Full Council meetings.

Are there any plans to broadcast other meetings, such as Cabinet and Planning, and if so when, and how much did the system cost to buy and install.

Response

The Council is committed to the use of technology as part of encouraging its citizens to engage in the democratic process, and is looking to expand use of recording and webcasting meetings and events where suitable provision exists.

The recording equipment was installed in the Council Chamber as part of the wider refurbishment programme of County Hall. The Kennet Room recording equipment up was installed as a second phase and has been trialled on a number of occasions. Feedback has been that the current camera positions do not provide the same technical coverage as the Chamber within the limited range of available adjustment and needed a solution. This has been on-going with the supplier in trying to utilise the existing equipment in different configurations without incurring additional costs. Further trials are underway and feedback being sought.

The costs incurred so far have been:

- Council Chamber equipment initial purchase: £25,000 and an average annual maintenance of £5,000
- Webhosting (based on usage) and Kennet Room equipment lease and maintenance: £22,000 per annum reduced to £15,000 for this year under contract extension

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Ernie Clark, Hilperton Division

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste**

Question (16/35)

With regard to the waste collection contract recently awarded to Hills, has there been any challenge from an interested party to the awarding of the contract?

Response

The council has received a legal challenge from FCC that has been registered with the High Court. This means we cannot enter into contracts for Lot 2 (management of nine household recycling centres), or Lot 5 (waste and recycling collection services) until that challenge has been resolved.

The council intends to resolve this challenge. Whilst we are unable to award the contracts, we will continue to plan the mobilisation of these critical public services to reduce risks that may affect the planned start date of 1 August 2017.

For legal reasons the council is unable to comment further at this time. When it is appropriate further communications will be issued.

Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet member for Children's Services

Question (16/36)

Now that the Prime Minister and the Leader of your Party has announced the Government's intention to return to a Grammar School system, could you indicate which of the four secondary schools in Calne and Chippenham you envisage becoming a Secondary Modern, to accommodate the children who fail the Grammar School entrance test?

Response

The Green Paper currently out to consultation includes proposals to increase the supply of good school places by lifting the restrictions on selection, but at the same time requiring selective schools to play a greater role in raising standards at other schools. It does not propose a re-introduction of the binary or tripartite system of the past or a simple expansion of existing selective institutions. The paper proposes that selective schools should be asked to contribute to non-selective schooling in certain ways, ensuring the expansion of good selective education alongside the creation of new good school places in non-selective schools.

The government is proposing to allow existing non-selective schools to become selective by removing existing restrictions on selection, subject to meeting certain conditions as set out below. These schools would become selective in response to local demand. As this is currently a Green Paper the Government will consider measures to preserve school diversity in areas where schools choose to convert in this way, but there is no detail at the current time.

Conditions for agreeing a conversion to selective status being considered at this time include:

- Taking a proportion of pupils from lower income households. This would ensure that selective education is not reserved for those with the means to move into the catchment area or pay for tuition to pass the test;
- Establish a new non-selective secondary school, with the capital and revenue costs paid by government;
- Establish a primary feeder in an area with higher density of lower income households to widen access, with the capital and revenue costs paid by government;

- Partner with an existing non-selective school within a multi-academy trust or sponsor a currently underperforming and non-selective academy. Under these arrangements, selective schools would be expected to share resources, assist with teaching, provide curriculum support, assist with university applications and contribute to governance expertise.
- Ensure that there are opportunities to join the selective school at different ages, such as 14 and 16, as well as 11. This might be facilitated through partnership or sponsor arrangements with other schools.

The consultation on the Green Paper will close in December 2016 and the local authority will assess the potential impact of proposals on secondary education within Wiltshire when statutory guidance is provided by central government.

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Peter Edge, Wilton and Lower Wylve Valley Division

**To Councillor Jonathon Seed, Councillor Jonathon Seed, Cabinet Member for
Housing, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding**

Question (16/43)

Earlier in May this year it was scheduled to hold a Cycle Sportive in Salisbury on the day before the professional race on the Sunday. Both events have been very well supported over the past years and it is with some concern amongst local cyclists that the event was cancelled. When I asked the question why, I was told that it was not economically viable and that a new date had been set for October the 2nd 2016. This date was set so that it would coincide with the official opening of the Five Rivers Health and Well Being Centre. I pointed out to officers my disappointment of the new date, as most sportives end around September. The big local event on the 17th September for the charity CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably) is well established and attracts well over 800 riders.

So it was with some disappointment that I learnt that the Salisbury event had been cancelled due to lack of applications.

- a) Can the member tell me how much this has cost the council to cancel the event?
- b) Can the member let the cycling public look forward to the event being held again in May next Year?

Response

In accordance with Paragraph 56 of Part 4 of the Constitution, a verbal response will be provided for the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham South Division

To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Could the Cabinet Member tell me what steps have been taken to mitigate the impact on local residents who have family vehicles that, as a result of the arbitrary decision on the cabinet member, are no longer able to freely access the council's Household Recycling Centres.

Specifically, I bring to the Cabinet Members attention the case of a family in my ward who has only one vehicle for the household, a Nissan Navara vehicle (pictured below) that they have now been told they will only be able to take to the Recycling Centre 12 times a year.





Question (16/44)

Can the Cabinet Member tell me how reducing the opportunity for residents to use recycling facilities helps encourage people to help meet the council's stated targets and objectives to increase the rate of recycling in the county?

Response

In accordance with Paragraph 56 of Part 4 of the Constitution, a verbal response will be provided for the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Question (16/38)

Did you in any way encourage the bringing forward of the Rawlings Green planning application less than a working week before the Government's Inspector was due to re-open his Enquiry into Chippenham housing, including of course the Rawlings Green site? If not, were you aware of it and did you take any steps to address the fact that it was pre-empting the Examination in Public?

Response

I did not encourage the bringing forward of this application. The Rawlings Green application was put on the committee agenda when it had been fully assessed. The Council took legal advice on the question of prematurity and were assured that it was appropriate to bring the application before the committee in September. The Inspector holding the hearings was advised and in a letter to the Council stated that *"The Council is entitled to determine applications which are before it and it is not part of my role to interfere with this procedure"*.

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham South Division

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste**

Question (16/45)

When the Garden Waste Tax was introduced last year with the charging for kerbside collection of garden waste Council was told that there was no reason residents could not take their garden waste to the Recycling Centres themselves if they wanted. Now that such visits are to be rationed for some residents will the Cabinet member review that charge for those residents being penalised for having the 'wrong' car?

Response

In accordance with Paragraph 56 of Part 4 of the Constitution, a verbal response will be provided for the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste**

Question (16/39)

Why was that application processed just a few days before the EIP restarted? Were you afraid the Inspector would otherwise rule against Rawlings Green, and yet again against the Council' plans and preparations?

Response

See answer to 16/38.

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham South Division

To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Question (16/46)

When considering applications for new housing developments in the county, to address the current shortfall of housing land supply in Wiltshire to meet national DPD targets and conform with the relevant planning policies of the Council, why are Council planning officers not also:

- a) ensuring that robust s106 Terms and Conditions are negotiated to meet the key outcomes of all the Strategic Objectives in the Wiltshire Core Strategy 2006-2026 as amended in May 2015; and
- b) Specifically alerting all Councillors with relevant local, town, parish and Planning Committee interest in any application where the cumulative population growth impact of approval of an application for new housing in any locality where multiple application approvals have already been granted might render a community less resilient unless all the key outcomes of both Strategic Objectives 4 and 6 are also achieved to ensure that community, health and infrastructure provision is in place to support those communities.

Response

In accordance with Paragraph 56 of Part 4 of the Constitution, a verbal response will be provided for the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste**

Question (16/40)

Were you aware that any decision on the Rawlings Green application was premature under the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) PPG 21b/14? If so what notice did you take of that shortcoming?

Response

Having read the committee report I was not aware that there was any unresolved issues relating to prematurity. The matter of prematurity was fully addressed in the Officer report on the planning application and in the presentation to members before the debate commenced.

Wiltshire Council

Council

18 October 2016

Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste

Question (16/41)

Are you aware that one objector to the Council's Chippenham plans cited your answers on Forest Farm at a Council meeting in support of his objection? For example your statement that land quality was a reason for Forest Farm's exclusion when actually it has some of the least best and most valuable agricultural land of any site around Chippenham? Would you care to make a statement about that embarrassing situation?

Response

I am fully conversant with the Agricultural Land Classification used in the CSAP Site selection papers. My answer at Full Council was not in the context of the planning application but related to the evidence for the plan.

I understand that there was some reference at the meeting to what I said at Full Council. However I can't possibly know if it accurately reflects what I did say at the time. However, I attach the pertinent extract from Full Council.

Councillor Sturgis explained that he could not support amendment iv) as the Forest Green site had, following a balanced assessment, not scored as highly as other preferred sites. Additionally, he considered that having undertaken detailed evidenced based work on the site selection process and to then at this stage substitute one site for another, would undermine the site selection process and therefore put at risk the soundness of the Plan. He also responded to points raised by Councillor Caswill

The Council's reasons for opposing the Forest Farm application are set out in the resolution approved by the Strategic Planning Committee on 14 September 2016.

Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE, Leader of the Council

Question (16/42)

At a recent Cabinet meeting you made a statement, in front of several public witnesses, to the effect that public toilets in Wiltshire would not close on your watch. You rightly pointed to the discriminatory effects of any such closures. In that context, it is unfortunate that the Liberal Democrat - led town council with the largest financial expenditure in Wiltshire, Chippenham, has not found it possible to take on the maintenance of the public toilets in its town centre. So that two Chippenham town centre public toilets are now closed. Some, including myself, are campaigning to get the town council to change its mind. This remains a possibility, as does the possibility that a more enlightened town council will be elected in May 2017.

Given your stance on public toilets, is it not extraordinary that your administration is now proposing not only to allow the toilets to close but to *demolish* one of them, beside the busy Bath road car park and a busy national and local bus stop?

Is this what you meant when you said that no public toilets would *close* on your watch – *rather that they would be demolished*?

Or will you now take this opportunity to deliver on your promise, to the extent that you at least call a halt to the demolition proposals until after the May 2017 elections?

Response

Thank you for your question. I feel very strongly that local facilities should be maintained wherever possible and it is absolutely right that a town should have public convenience facilities.

After a long consultation with Chippenham Town Council, it was agreed together to maintain 4 facilities. These 4 facilities are: a facility at the bus station, Monkton Park, Emery Gate and the Town Council offer the use of their office toilets to the public during opening hours. 4 public toilet facilities are felt adequate for a town the size of Chippenham.