

## Council

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### MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 JULY 2023 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

#### **Present:**

Cllr James Sheppard (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Davis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Richard Budden, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill

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#### 35 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Belcher OBE, Caroline Corbin, Brian Dalton, Sarah Gibson, Nick Holder, Simon Jacobs, Bob Jones MBE, Charles McGrath, Dominic Muns, Dr Nick Murry, Kelvin Nash, Jack Oatley, Andrew Oliver, Ian Thorn, Tim Trimble, Derek Walters, and Philip Whitehead.

In the absence of Councillor Thorn other members of the Liberal Democrat Group would speak on behalf of the group where he, as Group Leader, usually would.

*Note: Councillor Paul Oatway QPM provided apologies in advance of the meeting, though this was not read out during the meeting.*

#### 36 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the Meeting held on 16 May 2023 were presented for consideration, and it was,

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2023 be confirmed and signed as a true and correct record.**

37 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

38 **Chairman's Announcements**

Through the Chair there were the following announcements.

1) **Events Attended by the Chairman, Councillor James Sheppard, since 16 May 2023**

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|--------------|---|
| 18 May 2023  | Devizes Town Council AGM and Mayoral Reception, Devizes Town Hall.  |
| 24 May 2023  | Chippenham Town Council Mayor's Investiture Ceremony, Chippenham Town Hall.   |
| 24 June 2023 | Chippenham Town Council Armed Forces Day Flag Raising Ceremony, Chippenham Town Hall.                                       |
| 25 June 2023 | Malmesbury Town Council Choral Evensong, Malmesbury Abbey.  |
| 30 June 2023 | Official opening of Collaborative Innovation Centre, The Lyle Building, Porton Science Park.                                |
| 1 July 2023  | Ludgershall Town Council Freedom of the Town to 26 Engineer Regiment Parade.  |
| 15 July 2023 | Mayor of Amesbury's Celebration Service and Reception, Abbey Church of St. Mary and St. Melor, Amesbury and Antrobus House. |

2) **Events Attended by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Andrew Davis, since 16 May 2023**

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|--------------|--|
| 17 June 2023 | Chippenham Town Council Pride Flag Raising Ceremony, Chippenham Town Hall.                   |
| 18 June 2023 | Devizes Town Council Mayor's Inaugural Church Service, St. John's Church, Devizes.           |
| 30 June 2023 | Official opening of Collaborative Innovation Centre, The Lyle Building, Porton Science Park. |

2 July 2023 Fovant Badges Drumhead Service, East Farm, Fovant.

9 July 2023 Chippenham Town Council Mayor's Civic Sunday Ceremony, St. Andrew's Church, Chippenham followed by the Civic Awards in The Need.

3) King's Birthday Honours

Dame

Professor Melanie Welham, Whitley For services to Bioscience.

CBE

Major Gen. Nicholas Caplin, Pewsey For services to Veterans and to the Vision Impaired

OBE

Chantal Bryan, Stanton St. Quintin For services to Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs.

Robert Fellows, Highworth For services to Paramedic Education.

Julia Nolan, Stanton Fitzwarren For services to International Climate Diplomacy.

MBE

Claire Bessant, Chicks Grove For services to Cat Welfare.  
Julie Lawrence, Chippenham For Political Service.  
Sally Orange, Fisherton, Salisbury For services to Charity and to Mental Health.

Richard Symonds, Westbury For services to Defence.  
David Tarr, Ashton Keynes For services to Ashton Keynes Primary School and to the community in Ashton Keynes.

BEM

Leslie Welling, Devizes For services to the community in Devizes.

Nigel Linacre, Chippenham For services to water provision in communities in Kenya and other countries in Africa.  
(late New Years Honour)

4) Tisbury By-Election

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Richard Budden to his first meeting of Full Council, following his success in the Tisbury by-election held on 18 June 2023, following the resignation of Councillor Nick Errington.

Councillor Budden briefly addressed the Council.

## 39 **Public Participation**

The Chairman explained the procedure that would be followed for public participation at the meeting in accordance with the constitution. He then permitted those present to make their statements and questions at the start of the meeting rather than waiting until the agenda item to which their statement or question related.

Fourteen public questions were received for the meeting, with responses provided in the agenda supplement.

Statements and questions were then received as follows:

Ian McDonald, Laverstock & Ford Parish Council, made a statement in respect of Item 10 – Wiltshire Local Plan Review.

Celia Beckett, Hilperton Area Action Group, made a statement in respect of Item 10 – Wiltshire Local Plan Review.

Lucie Castleman, Hilperton Area Action Group, asked a supplementary to question P23-18 regarding Item 10 – Wiltshire Local Plan Review. She asked If the council's aim was to maintain transport network performance, then how would the proposed scheme for north-east Hilperton/Trowbridge going to be successful.

Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management, and Strategic Planning, gave reassurance that all due consideration would be given to the impacts from transport, and had been in making assessments on site selections.

Celia Beckett, Hilperton Area Action Group asked a supplementary to question P23-19 regarding Item 10 – Wiltshire Local Plan Review. She asked if the Local Plan were to be agreed could site 677a next to Whaddon Lane, Hilperton, be provided with a substantial buffer alongside hedgerows to help comply with the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy and reduce impact on rurality and biodiversity.

Councillor Botterill stated that the impact on bats and the Bat Mitigation Strategy requirements would be considered, and that the Local Plan would provide a substantial increase in biodiversity net gain, over and above government proposals.

Colin Gale asked a supplementary in respect of question P23-22 and P23-23 regarding Item 10 – Wiltshire Local Plan Review. He asked for the Local Plan to be amended to remove references to a freight management strategy he stated was not in place.

Councillor Botterill stated he did not think the wording in the Plan was misleading and was satisfied with the current draft.

40 **Petitions**

On receipt of a report, it was,

**Resolved:**

**That Council note the report, the petition received since the last meeting and the action being taken in relation to it, as set out in the Appendix to the report.**

41 **Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel 2022-2023**

The Chairman invited Councillor Laura Mayes, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education, and Skills, to present the Annual Report of the Corporate Parenting Panel from July 2022 – March 2023.

Councillor Mayes proposed a motion to receive and note both the Annual Reports of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Child and Youth Voice Team, and to ratify the improvements required to further strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire. This was seconded by Councillor Peter Hutton, Chairman of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Details were provided on the number of children in care, unaccompanied asylum seekers, and those young people with experience of being in care who were being supported by the council. The ongoing need for more foster carers was highlighted, along with planned updates to the corporate parenting strategy, the STAR awards for children in care, and commending the work of team in children's services.

The Chairman then allowed Group Leaders to comment on the report and update.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, provided his endorsement for the report. Councillor Gordon King, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, stated he was confident from the report the council was performing well in supporting the young people, and offered praise to the Cabinet Member and the Corporate Parenting Panel for their work. Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, offered sincere thanks to staff and to the foster parents taking in young people across the county.

The item was then opened up for general debate. A comment was made thanking the Corporate Parenting Panel for taking on board feedback from scrutiny on the contents of the report and noting a report from Oxford Brookes had spoken highly of the provision of care for looked after children in Wiltshire.

At the conclusion of the debate, and with no further comments in summation from the Cabinet Member, it was then,

**Resolved:**

- 1) To receive and note the Annual Report and the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel to date, its functions and impact of its work and to ratify**

**the improvements required to further strengthen Corporate Parenting in Wiltshire.**

- 2) To receive and note the Annual Report of the Child and Youth Voice Team from April 2022 to March 2023, attached as Appendix 1 to the report.**

**42 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2022/23**

The Chairman invited Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management, and Strategic Planning, to present the Treasury Management Outturn Report as detailed in the Summons. Councillor Botterill proposed a motion to note that the contents of the report were in line with the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23. This was seconded by the Councillor Richard Clewer.

In moving the motion Councillor Botterill stated treasury management was a constant activity, and that those local authorities which had significant financial difficulties did not ask appropriate questions or undertake appropriate scrutiny of their own treasury management. He assured Council that in Wiltshire an approach was taken to challenge and interrogate the figures and details, noting that with interest rates so high a more active approach needed to be taken regarding deposits and loans.

The Chairman then allowed Group Leaders to comment on the report and presentation.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, noted not all councils adopted as thorough and transparent an approach as Wiltshire, and affirmed the importance of sensible treasury management. Councillor Gavin Grant, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, welcomed the report and endorsed the work of the senior finance officers, with a good permanent team in place which had followed a previous period of a number of interim Directors. Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, stated he was happy to note the report and hoped contract inflation would be less of an issue going forward.

The item was then opened to general debate.

Queries were raised about the strategy for periods of interest rate increases, as well as criticism of slippage within the council's capital programme, with a comment that this showed poor project management and a lack of appropriate investment.

In response other comments raised during debate included highlighting investment in special schools, leisure facilities, and the housing revenue account, and that it was incorrect to characterise a level of slippage within the programme as a failure to invest appropriately.

There were a series of comments in relation to investment and Salisbury City Hall, but the meeting was reminded that the item was in relation to treasury management, borrowing what was needed when it was needed rather than

seeing it as money already held, which was of particular importance when interest rates were so high, and the vital importance of prudence financial management.

At the conclusion of debate Councillor Botterill reiterated the difference between treasury management with capital expenditure. He stated authorities often include lists of capital projects which are not imminent, and a practical approach was always taken.

It was then,

**Resolved:**

**That Council note that the contents of the report are in line with the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23**

*In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote.*

*Votes for the motion (77)*

*Votes against the motion (0)*

*Votes in abstention (3)*

*Details of the vote are attached as an appendix to the minutes.*

43 **Capital Programme Additions**

The Chairman invited Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management, and Strategic Planning, to present the Capital Programme Additions Report. Councillor Botterill proposed a motion to approve additions to the programme as set out in the report. This was seconded by the Councillor Richard Clewer.

In moving the motion Councillor Botterill provided details of proposed housing acquisitions to provide long term solution to several service needs, including housing for refugees and others for whom there was a statutory requirement to house.

The Chairman then allowed Group Leaders to comment on the report and presentation.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, stated the proposals were a sensible allocation to deliver cost effective projects, and noted the importance of housing people properly. Councillor Gavin Grant, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, stated there had been lots of time in scrutiny looking at these matters, and welcomed it as a positive report. Councillor Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, endorsed the report, in particular the allocation for Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Groups (LHFIG). Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, sought clarity on how the LHFIG funding would be divided across Area Boards.

The item was then opened to general debate.

Points raised during debate included supporting the investment in housing to address problems such as homelessness, the importance of capital programmes reflecting the possibility of significant delays, and the need for prudent assessment of which properties should be purchased, demonstrating value as well as addressing a problem.

During debate queries were also raised about external grant funding being withdrawn because of developers missing deadlines for Homes England to provide funding relating to the Ashton Park expansion, and the impact on that development, on the possibility of funding being used for compulsory purchasing, funds received by the council to support Ukrainian refugees, and viability assessment of Stone Circle projects.

At the conclusion of debate Councillor Botterill confirmed the additional funding for Area Boards would be according to a formula as they were not equal in scale, noted the LHFIG budget had doubled in 2022, and that compulsory purchase was not a simple or inexpensive process.

It was then,

**Resolved:**

**That Council approve:**

- 1) The addition to the capital programme of £40m, funded through £10m reserves and £30m debt, to enable the Council to acquire housing for long term investment to deliver service solutions.**
- 2) The allocation of £0.800m CIL funding to finance £0.400m per year for 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets for Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Groups.**

*In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote.*

*Votes for the motion (76)*

*Votes against the motion (0)*

*Votes in abstention (2)*

*Details of the vote are attached as an appendix to the minutes.*

44 **Wiltshire Local Plan Review**

The Chairman invited Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management, and Strategic Planning, to present the pre-submission Draft Plan as set out in the Summons and supplementary documentation. Councillor Botterill proposed a motion to endorse the pre-submission draft plan, subject to minor modifications as set out in the agenda supplement, and approve it for Regulation 19 consultation, as well as appropriate delegations to officers to undertake document finalisation and consultation arrangements. This was seconded by the Councillor Richard Clewer.



Councillor Botterill noted that preparing a Local Plan was one of the most important functions of the council. He drew attention to the large reduction in housing coming forward in the plan compared to the previous consultation, with much of the amount on sites already developing or allocated, as this was felt to meet the reasonable need identified. Provision of 40% affordable housing had been included, along with new details to address the council's zero carbon ambitions, with tougher standards for new buildings. There would be allocation of employment spaces in the right areas to go alongside new homes, as a failure to anticipate and provide for future business need would see the council area miss opportunities.

It was emphasised that the Plan process is evidence led, and that a failure to progress and approve a Plan which could be approved by an inspector, would result in many negative consequences for the residents of Wiltshire. It was stated that the Plan complemented the Business Plan, advocated sustainable financial, social and environmental growth, and it was overwhelmingly in the public interest to move on to the next stage of the Plan process, which was known as Regulation 19 consultation.

The Chairman then allowed Group Leaders to comment on the report and presentation.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, thanked officers for their work in preparing the documents, Members for their robust discussions, and Councillor Botterill for overseeing the preparation. He highlighted the evidenced based approach to selecting sites and developing the Plan policies to shape development in the county, with proposals that new housing be built to zero carbon requirements, 20% biodiversity net gain, cycle routes to connect settlements, affordable housing for villages to meet local need, delivering employment land and meeting demand. He commended the pre-submission Draft Plan to Council.

Councillor Gordon King, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, welcomed the professionalism of the draft Plan, and noted positive aspects such as regarding biodiversity and sustainability. However, he raised concerns around the process in particular relating to site selection for new housing and proposed that rather than moving forward to the Regulation 19 stage, a motion relating to Regulation 18 would be more appropriate to give people further say about what was best for their communities.

Councillor Ernie Clark, Leader of the Independent Group, noted that many refused planning applications were currently being approved on appeal as a result of a lack of five-year housing land supply. He raised concerns that not to move forward to Regulation 19 would exacerbate difficulties and enable developers to further benefit at the expense of communities. He also questioned the depth of evidence on suitability of a selected site beyond the wish of a landowner for its allocation, sought confirmation that any consultation on the pre-submission draft would follow the summer break, and raised issues relating to descriptions of sites around Hilperton and Trowbridge.

Councillor Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, noted the historic and ongoing issue of local authorities struggling against national housing targets and resultant allocations. He noted the encouragement of the council for neighbourhood plans in the past, and raised concerns that it appeared the new Plan in effect abandoned those neighbourhood plans.

*A break for lunch was then held from approximately 12:40-13:25.*

On the opening of general debate Councillor Dr Brian Mathew then moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Gavin Grant, seeking to amend the second part of the Cabinet Member's motion. This was in order to approve the pre-submission Draft Plan for a further Regulation 18 consultation, rather than a Regulation 19 consultation, as follows:

*That the Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Pre-Submission Draft Plan at Appendix 1 (subject to modification in (3) and as detailed in Agenda Supplement 1) be approved for publication in line with Regulation ~~19~~18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), for a period of at least six weeks public consultation.*

Councillor Mathew stated the purpose of the amendment was to ensure that Members and the public were brought up to speed on the process and that it could be ensured the Plan was sound and that best practice was adopted. He considered the process was being rushed, that other authorities had repeated Regulation 18 stage, and to do so would ensure the pre-submission Draft Plan was sound.

Councillor Botterill confirmed he would not accept the amendment within his motion.

The Chairman then allowed Group Leaders to comment on the amendment.

Councillor Clewer stated there had already been two Regulation 18 consultations and there was no benefit to a third, which would have the effect of further delaying the Plan process by another year. He said that the amendment would mean the council would continue to need to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply, which it currently could not, for longer which would result in further speculative developments gaining approval on appeal. It would also delay the targets and aspirations on biodiversity and net zero. He argued the recommendation from officers was very clear that moving to Regulation 19 was the most appropriate action at this time.

Councillor Gordon King urged Members to listen to local councils and communities and support the amendment. He argued that a delay of a year was less problematic than taking forward a flawed Plan, and that it was right to seek further public comments under Regulation 18.

Councillor Clark supported the statement of the Leader and commented that there came a point where the process had to move on, and that moving forward with Regulation 19 would at least see building take place according to a plan

and prevent speculative applications. He could not therefore support the amendment.

Councillor Ricky Rogers stated he would listen carefully to the debate before deciding whether he could support the proposed amendment.

The amendment was then opened up for general debate.

Comments in support of the amendment included that there was significant controversy over many of the sites selected and it was appropriate for the public to have further opportunity to provide comment on those areas. It was argued the process had been delayed several years already and a pause to undertake an additional Regulation 18 stage would not lead to more harm. Some Members considered the process to date had been flawed, with the previous Regulation 18 consultation undertaken during Covid-19 restrictions, and that there were errors within the Plan which needed to be addressed. Concerns were raised that any sites included in the pre-submission Draft Plan would not be able to be removed at a later date no matter the views of communities, and that there had been insufficient engagement with Members in developing the Plan.

Comments in opposition to the amendment included that a failure to progress to the next stage of the process would put more power in the hands of developers to submit speculative developments due to the impact of the lack of a 5-year housing land supply. It was argued that the positive aspects of the Plan such as new provision for schools, nurseries and other aspects of local policies such as affordable housing provision would be delayed if a further Regulation 18 consultation were held, and that towns and villages would lack the protection of even a developing Plan if the amendment were approved.

It was stated the Regulation 19 process included formal consultation and further opportunities for public engagement, and that previous Plan processes showed that it was not the case that all sites within the pre-submission Draft Plan would definitely remain. The level of consultation which had taken place already was highlighted, including with local councils. It was also stated that the Plan was Member led in that policies and direction had been shaped by the priorities on which the Conservative Group had been elected, but that the drafting and formulation quite appropriately was led by officers analysing the evidence which had been collected.

Other comments raised in debate included welcoming the additional commitments to biodiversity and carbon neutral targets, as well as the reduction in overall housing numbers compared to the previous consultation. A comment was made relating to permitted affordable housing for rural sites, and if this could be strengthened further.

In response to queries raised in debate, the Monitoring Officer, Perry Holmes, provided details on the distinction between the Regulation 18 and 19 stages, including clarification on future consultation as part of the latter, and the final opportunity for local communities and Members to engage at a public examination when a planning inspector would receive all evidence and

determine the soundness of a submitted Plan. The Monitoring Officer also stated in response to issues raised in debate that a part of Government's proposed changes to the planning system was that authorities which had undertaken Regulation 19 consultation would only have to demonstrate a four-year housing land supply, however that change had not yet received approval and the timescale for this was not clear.

Following an opportunity for the mover of the amendment to exercise their right of reply, the mover of the original motion, Councillor Botterill, responded to some of the points raised in debate. He stated not moving forward to Regulation 19 would undermine the council's processes, there was no requirement or best practice to repeat Regulation 18, and no advantage to a delay had been made clear, especially considering the numerous known disadvantages of repeating the Regulation 18 stage. He advised that a draft Plan only had any weight in planning terms at the Regulation 19 stage, and it was not the case it could be taken into account if the amendment were approved.

There was then a recorded vote on the amendment as follows:

*Votes for the amendment (23)*

*Votes against the motion (43)*

*Votes in abstention (12)*

*Details of the vote are attached as an appendix to the minutes.*

The amendment was therefore lost, and the meeting returned to debate the original motion.

During that debate Councillor Ian McLennan sought to move an amendment seeking to amend a detail at Paragraph 27 of the report in order to retain previous restrictions on infill development in built-up areas of small villages within the Plan policies, and to remove Policy 30 in relation to Land East of Church Road, Laverstock, a site allocated for 50 dwellings. In accordance with the constitution the Chairman requested details of the amendment be provided in writing, and the meeting was adjourned to enable consideration of the validity of the amendment.

*The meeting was therefore adjourned from approximately 14:40-14:55.*

On resuming the meeting, the Chairman, following advice from and discussion with the Monitoring Officer, stated he had determined the proposed amendment was not a valid amendment under Part 4B of the Constitution. He therefore permitted Councillor McLennan to speak to what had been the intent of his proposed amendment, before returning the meeting to debate on the tabled motion from the Cabinet Member. Councillor McLennan stated he was seeking to prevent predatory development, and that he was deeply concerned that moving to Regulation 19 would prevent any practical opportunity to address the problems with inclusion of specific sites or policies.

Comments in support of the original motion included further supportive comments on the policies relating to carbon neutrality and biodiversity, with specifics relating to sustainable construction and low carbon energy, which included significantly reduced heating demand requirements and details for onsite energy generation. Support was expressed for the increased provision for affordable housing, and details relating to how housing schemes should assist older people to live securely and independently within their communities.

Other comments raised in debate included requesting any consultation be more thorough than previous examples, seeking clarity on what was considered a minor change for purposes of the delegation to officers to finalise the pre-submission Draft Plan documents, and how neighbourhood plans could be refreshed. Policies on conserving and enhancing dark skies were welcomed, though it was raised whether there were potential conflicts with that policy and those relating to renewable energy and on preserving and enhancing landscapes as it related to development considered in the overriding public interest, and whether AONB teams been consulted as part of the Plan development.

At the conclusion of debate Councillor Botterill responded to some of the points raised during debate. He welcomed that many aspects of the Plan were supported across the Chamber. He clarified that the motion authorising minor changes included examples such as clarifications to improve understanding without altering the meaning of the document. In relation to Neighbourhood Plans he noted these were not all strategic or of the same quality, though neighbourhood planning was of significant importance. He confirmed that the consultation would not begin until September 2023, and would be as outward focused as possible. He noted the process had begun in 2017, there had been significant public engagements in 2018 and 2021. He reiterated the consequences of not moving forward with the pre-submission Draft Plan and urged council to support the proposal.

It was then,

**Resolved:**

**That Full Council:**

- 1) Endorses the Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Pre-Submission Draft Plan at Appendix 1 subject to amendment in (3).**
- 2) That the Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Pre-Submission Draft Plan at Appendix 1 (subject to modification in (3) and as detailed in Agenda Supplement 1) be approved for publication in line with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), for a period of at least six weeks public consultation.**
- 3) Authorises the Director for Planning, in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance and Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning, to: make any necessary minor**

**changes to the Pre-Submission Draft Plan before it is published; and to enable the finalising of the associated evidence documents for publication alongside the Plan; and to make arrangements for, and undertake statutory consultation.**

*In accordance with the constitution there was a recorded vote.*

*Votes for the motion (58)*

*Votes against the motion (4)*

*Votes in abstention (13)*

*Details of the vote are attached as an appendix to the minutes.*

#### 45 **Announcements from Cabinet and Committees**

There were no announcements from Cabinet or Chairs of Committees.

#### 46 **Membership of Committees and S.85 Requests**

The Chairman introduced the report detailing a request from Councillor Charles McGrath for an extension to the 6-month rule of non-attendance for medical reasons under S.85 of the Local Government Act 1972. He moved that Council grant the request. This was seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, provided detail on Councillor McGrath's current medical status, and his continued work even though he could not currently attend committee meetings.

Group Leaders then provided details of changes to membership of committees they wished to request, and these were accepted as part of the substantive motion, along with procedural ratification of changes to the Local Pension Board membership.

There being no debate or further comments, it was then,

#### **Resolved:**

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

**Councillor Charles McGrath**

- 2) That such an extension be granted until the end of October 2023, which would allow for any request for a further extension being considered by Council at its meeting on 17 October 2023.**
- 3) 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.**

4) **To ratify the appointment of Mr George Simmonds as a Member of the Local Pension Board**

5) **To make the following changes to membership of committees:**

- **Councillor Adrian Foster to be made a Substitute for Northern Area Planning;**
- **Councillor Trevor Carbin to be removed as a Member of Southern Area Planning Committee, and be made a Substitute for Southern Area Planning Committee;**
- **Councillor Richard Budden to be made a Member of Southern Area Planning Committee;**
- **Councillor Edward Kirk to be removed as a Member of the Audit and Governance Committee;**
- **Councillor Howard Greenman to be added as a Member of the Audit and Governance Committee;**
- **Councillor Laura Mayes to be made a Substitute for the Eastern Area Planning Committee;**
- **Councillor Bridge Wayman to be made a Substitute for the Western Area Planning Committee;**
- **Councillor Tamara Reay to be made a Substitute for the Eastern and Western Area Planning Committees, and a Substitute for the Strategic Planning Committee.**

#### 47 **Questions from Members of the Council**

A total of two questions were received from Members, as set out in the agenda supplement, together with written responses.

Councillor Dr Mark McClelland asked a supplementary question in relation to question 23-18, asking the Leader if he agreed arguments to immediately reopen Salisbury City Hall were irresponsible in respect to public safety, insurance and public liability.

Councillor Richard Clewer, Leader of the Council, stated it would be a mistake to listen to demands to reopen a building where there is very clear evidence from officers and surveyors stating it could not be reopened as a live entertainment venue due to risk of damage as a result of acoustic shock.

In response to an attempted intervention the Chairman reminded the meeting that there was no debate on questions.

Councillor Richard Budden asked a supplementary question in relation to question 23-19. He asked if road safety was a priority as stated in the answer, would Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG) funding increase accordingly.

Councillor Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management, and Strategic Planning, responded by stating that in April 2022 the LHFIG budget increased from £250,000 to £500,000, and the substantive schemes pot increased from £150,000 to £250,000. The Executive would continue to review the position moving forward but it was noted there had been substantial increases.

Question P23-21 in relation to the Wiltshire Local Plan from Sonja Kotevska, who had not been able to be present at the meeting, was also received, with the Local Member, Councillor Ernie Clark, on her behalf asking a supplementary question seeking further clarification on potential amendment to references in the Local Plan to Land North of Trowbridge to include reference to Hilperton, the parish in which a listed site was actually located, noting the site was to the east of Hilperton village itself.

Councillor Botterill responded that he would look at the matter further with officers, though there would likely remain reference to both Hilperton and Trowbridge, the wider settlement area.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 3.30 pm)

The Officers who have produced these minutes are Kieran Elliott, Max Hirst, and Cameron Osborn, of Democratic Services, e-mail [committee@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:committee@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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



**Full Council Meeting – 18 July 2023 - Members Attendance**

<b>Councillor Name</b>	<b>Time in (Meeting start – 10:30)</b>	<b>Time Out (Meeting close – 15:30)</b>
Phil Alford	10:30	Meeting close
Liz Alstrom	10:30	14:55
Helen Belcher OBE	Apologies	Apologies
Chuck Berry	10:30	Meeting close
Ian Blair-Pilling	10:30	Meeting close
Nick Botterill	10:30	Meeting close
David Bowler	10:30	Meeting close
Richard Britton	10:30	15:00
Allison Bucknell	10:30	Meeting close
Steve Bucknell	10:30	Meeting close
Clare Cape	10:30	Meeting close
Trevor Carbin	10:30	Meeting close
Daniel Cave	10:30	Meeting close
Mary Champion	10:30	Meeting close
Sam Charleston	10:30	Meeting close
Pauline Church	10:30	Meeting close
Ernie Clark	10:30	Meeting close
Richard Clewer	10:30	Meeting close
Zoë Clewer	10:30	Meeting close
Mark Connolly	10:30	Meeting close
Caroline Corbin	Apologies	Apologies
Kevin Daley	10:30	Meeting close
Brian Dalton	Apologies	Apologies
Jane Davies	10:30	15:10
Andrew Davis	10:30	Meeting close
Matthew Dean	10:30	Meeting close
Dr Monica Devendran	10:30	15:25
Adrian Foster	10:30	Meeting close
Sarah Gibson	Apologies	Apologies
Gavin Grant	10:30	Meeting close
Howard Greenman	10:30	Meeting close
Ross Henning	10:30	Meeting close
Sven Hocking	10:30	Meeting close
Nick Holder	Apologies	Apologies
Ruth Hopkinson	10:30	Meeting close
Jon Hubbard	10:30	Meeting close
Peter Hutton	10:30	Meeting close
Tony Jackson	10:30	Meeting close
Mel Jacob	10:30	Meeting close
Simon Jacobs	Apologies	Apologies
George Jeans	10:30	Meeting close
Bob Jones MBE	Apologies	Apologies
Johnny Kidney	10:30	Meeting close

Carole King	10:30	Meeting close
Gordon King	10:30	Meeting close
Edward Kirk	10:30	Meeting close
Jerry Kunkler	10:30	Meeting close
Jacqui Lay	10:30	Meeting close
Kathryn MacDermid	10:30	14:55
Dr Brian Mathew	10:30	Meeting close
Laura Mayes	10:30	Meeting close
Dr Mark McClelland	10:30	Meeting close
Charles McGrath	Apologies	Apologies
Ian McLennan	10:30	Meeting close
Dominic Muns	Apologies	Apologies
Dr Nick Murry	Apologies	Apologies
Nabil Najjar	10:30	Meeting close
Kelvin Nash	Apologies	Apologies
Christopher Newbury	10:30	13:00
Ashley O'Neill	10:30	Meeting close
Jack Oatley	Apologies	Apologies
Paul Oatway QPM	Apologies	Apologies
Andrew Oliver	Apologies	Apologies
Stewart Palmen	10:30	Meeting close
Bill Parks	10:30	Meeting close
Sam Pearce-Kearney	10:30	Meeting close
Antonio Piazza	10:30	Meeting close
Tony Pickernell	10:30	Meeting close
Horace Prickett	10:30	Meeting close
Nic Puntis	10:30	Meeting close
Tamara Reay	10:30	Meeting close
Pip Ridout	10:30	Meeting close
Rich Rogers	10:30	Meeting close
Ricky Rogers	10:30	Meeting close
Tom Rounds	10:30	Meeting close
Paul Sample JP	10:30	Meeting close
Mike Sankey	10:30	Meeting close
Jonathon Seed	10:30	Meeting close
James Sheppard	10:30	Meeting close
Martin Smith	10:30	Meeting close
Caroline Thomas	10:30	Meeting close
Ian Thorn	Apologies	Apologies
Elizabeth Threlfall	10:30	Meeting close
Jo Trigg	10:30	Meeting close
Tim Trimble	Apologies	Apologies
Tony Trotman	10:30	Meeting close
Mark Verbinnen	10:30	Meeting close
David Vigar	10:30	Meeting close
Iain Wallis	10:30	Meeting close

Derek Walters	Apologies	Apologies
Bridget Wayman	10:30	Meeting close
Stuart Wheeler	10:30	Meeting close
Philip Whitehead	Apologies	Apologies
Suzanne Wickham	10:30	Meeting close
Christopher Williams	10:30	Meeting close
Graham Wright	10:30	15:25
Robert Yuill	10:30	Meeting close

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## Recorded Votes – Council – 18 July 2023

### Item 8 – Treasury Management Strategy Outturn Report 2022/23

**That Council note that the contents of the report are in line with the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23.**

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Richard Budden, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill	77
Against	None	0
Abstain	Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Matthew Dean and Cllr James Sheppard	3

## Item 9 – Capital Programme Additions

That Council agrees to:

- 1) the addition to the capital programme of £40m, funded through £10m reserves and £30m debt, to enable the Council to acquire housing for long term investment to deliver service solutions.
- 2) the allocation of £0.800m CIL funding to finance £0.400m per year for 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets for Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Groups.

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Liz Alstrom, 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 Sam Charleston, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Matthew Dean, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr David Vigar, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill	76
Against	None	0
Abstain	Cllr Richard Budden and Cllr Andrew Davis	2

## Item 10 – Wiltshire Local Plan Review

### Amendment

#### That Full Council:

- i. **Endorses the Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Pre-Submission Draft Plan at Appendix 1 subject to amendment in (iii).**
- ii. **That the Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Pre-Submission Draft Plan at Appendix 1 (subject to modification in (iii) and as detailed in Agenda Supplement 1) be approved for publication in line with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), for a period of at least six weeks public consultation.**
- iii. **Authorises the Director for Planning, in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance and Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning, to: make any necessary minor changes to the Pre-Submission Draft Plan before it is published; and to enable the finalising of the associated evidence documents for publication alongside the Plan; and to make arrangements for, and undertake statutory consultation.**

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Liz Alstrom, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Richard Budden, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Carole King, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Kathryn Macdermid, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr Martin Smith, Cllr Jo Trigg and Cllr David Vigar	23
Against	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Jane Davies, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr James Sheppard, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill	43
Abstain	Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall and Cllr Tony Trotman	12

## Item 10 – Wiltshire Local Plan Review

### Resolution

#### That Full Council:

- i. **Endorses the Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Pre-Submission Draft Plan at Appendix 1 subject to amendment in (iii).**
- ii. **That the Wiltshire Local Plan Review - Pre-Submission Draft Plan at Appendix 1 (subject to modification in (iii) and as detailed in Agenda Supplement 1) be approved for publication in line with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), for a period of at least six weeks public consultation.**
- iii. **Authorises the Director for Planning, in consultation with the Director for Legal and Governance and Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning, to: make any necessary minor changes to the Pre-Submission Draft Plan before it is published; and to enable the finalising of the associated evidence documents for publication alongside the Plan; and to make arrangements for, and undertake statutory consultation.**

Vote	Councillors	Count
For	Cllr Phil Alford, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Nick Botterill, Cllr David Bowler, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Daniel Cave, Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Zoë Clewer, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Kevin Daley, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Dr Monica Devendran, Cllr Adrian Foster, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Ross Henning, Cllr Sven Hocking, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Johnny Kidney, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Dr Brian Mathew, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cllr Nabil Najjar, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Bill Parks, Cllr Antonio Piazza, Cllr Tony Pickernell, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Nic Puntis, Cllr Tamara Reay, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Rich Rogers, Cllr Tom Rounds, Cllr Mike Sankey, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall, Cllr Jo Trigg, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr Mark Verbinnen, Cllr Iain Wallis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Suzanne Wickham, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright and Cllr Robert Yuill	58
Against	Cllr Carole King, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Martin Smith, and Cllr Ricky Rogers	4
Abstain	Cllr Steve Bucknell, Cllr Richard Budden, Cllr Mary Champion, Cllr Sam Charleston, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Mel Jacob, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Edward Kirk, Cllr Stewart Palmen, Cllr Sam Pearce-Kearney, Cllr Paul Sample JP, Cllr James Sheppard and Cllr David Vigar	13