


CABINET

MINUTES of a MEETING held in COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 1ER on Monday, 10 September 2012.

Cllr John Brady	Cabinet Member for Finance Performance and Risk
Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Cllr John Noeken	Cabinet Member for Resources
Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philippe	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Leader of the Council
Cllr Toby Sturgis	Cabinet Member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control Services
Cllr John Thomson	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing
Cllr Dick Tonge	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Cllr Stuart Wheeler	Cabinet Member for Transformation, Culture, Leisure and Libraries

Also in Attendance:	Cllr Trevor Carbin
	Cllr Peter Colmer
	Cllr Christine Crisp
	Cllr Richard Gamble
	Cllr Jon Hubbard
	Cllr Jerry Kunkler
	Cllr Alan MacRae
	Cllr Laura Mayes
	Cllr Jemima Milton
	Cllr Bill Moss
	Cllr Jonathon Seed

Key Decisions Matters defined as 'Key' Decisions and included in the Council's Forward Work Plan are shown as 

89 **Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet member for Public Health and Protection Services.

90 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24 July 2012 were presented.

Resolved:

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2012.

91 Minutes - Capital Assets Committee

The minutes of the Cabinet Capital Assets Committee held on 24 July 2012 were received and noted.

92 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

93 Leader's announcements

No announcements were made.

94 Public participation

No requests for public participation had been received and no public representations made at the meeting.

95 2012 - A Year of Celebration - Impact and Evaluation

The Leader of the Council presented a report which acknowledged and assessed the impact of the celebratory events held in Wiltshire during 2012.

It was noted that over 225,000 people - half the population of Wiltshire - turned out to welcome The Queen when she visited Salisbury in May and to see the Olympic Torch when it was carried through sixteen towns, villages and Salisbury City in May and July. It was also noted that Wiltshire was the only County to have the Torch visit on two separate occasions, and that combined with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 2012 had presented an opportunity to bring communities together, to showcase what the County had to offer in front of the national and worldwide media, and to provide a boost to the local economy.

A DVD was presented which showed highlights of these events and how well received they had been which would be made available to Area Boards on request.

Whilst the economic impact on the County as a result of the celebrations had yet to be fully assessed and realised, it was anticipated that the £290,000 spent by the Council had more than been justified.

The Leader explained that the emphasis now was to keep the momentum and legacy going in our communities, the Council and the economy. In this regard, it was proposed to establish a Legacy Steering Board to be chaired by the Leader and although the membership was yet to be agreed, would include relevant Cabinet members and officers and representatives from appropriate partner organisations. The Board would be supported by a delivery group, chaired by Laurie Bell to ensure delivery and evaluation of the ongoing legacy work.

The Leader paid tribute to and thanked all staff; the large number of staff who assisted at the events to ensure they were a success, but also to staff who ensured business as usual in delivering services to the residents of Wiltshire. The Leader also thanked the partner organisations involved.

Councillors commented on how successful and well managed the events had been and also thanked staff for their efforts and hard work. A comment was made that any legacy work should involve the whole County and not just the town, villages and city where the celebrations took place and this was confirmed by the Leader.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

- a) acknowledges the events and the impact of these events in 2012 and the return on the Council's investment and**
- b) approves the proposal to set up a Legacy Steering Board and delivery group, membership to be agreed by the Leader, to ensure that the investment continues in future years.**

Reason for Decision:

It is vital that the impact and outcomes delivered this year become part of an ongoing legacy that continues to strengthen and bring our local communities together and boost the local economy.

96 The Role of Wiltshire Council in Informal Adult Education

Cllr Lionel Grundy, Cabinet Member for Children's Services presented a report on the outcome of the consultation on adult education in Wiltshire, and invited the Cabinet to determine the future role of Wiltshire Council in the provision of this service.

This followed the Cabinet decision dated 17 January 2012 which included the disposal of Urchfont Manor (as part of the transformation programme) and noted that future adult education service provision would be determined by Cabinet following consultation. Cabinet was therefore asked to consider the results of the consultation exercise undertaken. Details of the consultation arrangements which included Area Boards were presented.

Informal adult education was a non-statutory service and therefore, the Council was able to decide the extent of its involvement in the planning and provision of the service and balance it against the financial pressures on the Council particularly in its provision of statutory services.

The available options were explained as presented in the report. An earlier version of the report was considered by the Children's Services Select Committee on 26 July 2012. The Committee had recommended the adoption of options 2 and 3 as presented in the report; namely:

- to facilitate the provision of informal adult education at a local level;
- to co-ordinate and promote informal adult learning opportunities offered across the County.

It was noted that the level of response to the public consultation indicated that the provision of adult education was of concern to many people in Wiltshire who wished to be able to access provision reasonably near their homes and for a reasonable price. Responses from outside of Wiltshire mainly related to a desire for continued residential education as provided by Urchfont Manor College.

Cllr Grundy thanked Simon Burke for all his hard work in bringing this complex matter forward

Resolved:

That Cabinet agree:

- a) that the Council adopt the role to facilitate the provision of informal adult education at a local level;**
- b) to approve the appointment of a 0.6 full-time equivalent part-time adult education officer to work with local community networks to develop a sustainable locally-based adult education provision including information on, and promotion of, opportunities and**
- c) To allocate budget of £32,000 from the revenue savings accrued from the closure of Urchfont Manor College to meet the costs associated with the appointment.**

Reason for Decision:

The Council has been a direct provider of informal adult education through Urchfont Manor College until its closure on 3 September 2012. The Cabinet therefore needs to determine whether the Council should continue to be a direct provider or take another, or no, role in respect of informal adult education.

97 **Business Plan Scorecard Update**

Cllr Brady, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk presented a report which provided a summary of progress against Wiltshire Council's Business Plan for the first quarter of 2012/13.

In February 2011 Wiltshire Council published its four year Business Plan, which set out what the council would deliver by 2015 and how it would make the savings required whilst continuing to invest in key front line services, and set out the priorities, targets and actions for the council. Cllr Brady in drawing attention to a correction at paragraph 13 of the report, explained that on the whole, the Council was working well and achieving most of its targets, some of which were very challenging.

Cllr Tonge, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport commented that the Council should review its indicators in cases where their achievement was beyond the Council's control. The Leader requested that Scrutiny be asked to also consider the indicators.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the progress against the Business Plan.

Reason for decision

To keep Cabinet informed of progress against the Business Plan.

98 **Report on Treasury Management Strategy 2012-13 - First Quarter ended 30 June 2012**

Cllr John Brady, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk presented a report on the Treasury Management Strategy for the first quarter of the year 2012-13.

The Council adopted a Treasury Management Strategy for 2012-13 at its meeting on 28 February 2012, incorporating Prudential Indicators (Prls), Treasury Management Indicators (Trls) and an Annual Investment Strategy, in accordance with the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

This report reviewed management actions in relation to:

- a) the Prls and Trls originally set for the year and the position at 30 June 2012;
- b) other treasury management actions during the period; and
- c) the agreed Annual Investment Strategy.

It was noted that in relation to the £12m investment caught up in the collapse of the Icelandic banks, the Council had received interim payments totalling around £8.1m. It was anticipated that the Council would over time, receive 95% of its deposit with Heritable Bank and 100% of its deposit in Landsbanki.

Cllr Brady explained that overall, the report was very positive and gave no cause for concern. He thanked the Treasury team for managing the Council's finances so well.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the contents of the report in line with the Treasury Management Strategy.

Reason for Decision:

The report is a requirement of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

99 **🔑 Community Infrastructure Levy - Wiltshire Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule**

Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning presented a report on the Wiltshire Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) together with the consultant's report. The report proposed a Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule which set out proposed rates of CIL to be charged on different types of development in Wiltshire for the purposes of consultation.

The Wiltshire CIL Charging Schedule, when adopted, would enable the Council to continue pooling contributions from new development across the County to offset a proportion of the costs of delivering local and strategic infrastructure. From April 2014 (or following the implementation of Wiltshire's CIL), the Council would be severely limited in its ability to use the existing mechanism of pooling contributions i.e. planning obligations (generally referred to as Section 106 agreements). The use of Section 106 agreements would largely be limited to securing site-specific infrastructure and affordable housing.

The outcome of consultation and any proposed changes to the proposed Charging Schedule would be reported back to Cabinet. This would then be followed by a final round of public consultation before its submission for independent examination.

Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philippe explained that it was proposed to have a flat rate charge across the County rather than having local variations.

Cllr Jon Hubbard explained that the Environment Select Committee was working with the Service Director for Economy and Regeneration and his team and thanked him for their assistance. A Task Group was being established to

look into this area in more detail. The Leader was pleased that Scrutiny was considering the consultant's report.

The options considered in drawing up the proposals were detailed in the report presented.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

- a) **approves the CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule at Appendix 1 as the basis for a six week period of public consultation, as proposed, in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement and**
- b) **authorises the Service Director for Economy and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning, to produce the consultation documentation to accompany the CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule.**

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that progress is made on preparing a CIL Charging Schedule that will enable the Council to charge CIL on new development to help pay for infrastructure within the county in accordance with the timetable set out in the recently approved Council's Local Development Scheme. The Council should be in a position to adopt the CIL Charging Schedule prior to April 2014, after which the Council will be severely restricted in its ability to pool infrastructure contributions from new development through the existing mechanism of Section 106 agreements.

100 Council Involvement in the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Nature Partnership

Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control Services presented a report regarding Wiltshire Council involvement in the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Partnership.

Following the Government's recent White Paper on the environment, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was in the process of establishing a national network of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs). Cabinet's agreement was sought for Wiltshire Council to support the recently established Wiltshire and Swindon LNP. It was noted that following application to DEFRA by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and its success in its bid to secure a £20,000 award and the involvement of a Steering Group which involved the Service Director for Economy and Regeneration, the Partnership received official Government recognition in July 2012.

Details of the proposed structure and membership of the Wiltshire and Swindon LNP, the draft Wiltshire Strategic structure and draft terms of reference for the LNP Board were presented.

The options considered as part of the proposals were detailed in the report presented.

Resolved:

That Cabinet agree to:

- a) **receive this update on the emerging Wiltshire and Swindon Local Nature Partnership (LNP);**
- b) **agree representation of Wiltshire Council on the LNP Board by Cllr Toby Sturgis;**
- c) **agree to redirect funding from the Wiltshire Biodiversity Action Plan to the Wiltshire and Swindon LNP;**
- d) **agree to replacement of the Wiltshire Environmental Alliance by the Wiltshire and Swindon LNP, subject to consensus by the wider Wiltshire Assembly and**
- e) **support the work of the Wiltshire and Swindon LNP and give due consideration to its advice on environmental matters.**

Reason for Decision:

DEFRA has strongly suggested that successful LNPs must have local authorities as part of their core membership in order to influence key strategic decision making. Wiltshire Council's input will be critical for the effective operation of the Wiltshire and Swindon LNP.

101 Delivering Local Sustainability Transport Fund - Improving Wiltshire's Rail Offer

Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport presented a report regarding the Council's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) project, 'Improving Wiltshire's Railway Offer.' This followed the award of £4.250 million by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 27 June 2012 with a local contribution of £1.500 million planned to be made up of a mixture of in-kind contributions, Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding and developer contributions as detailed in the report presented.

The LSTF project had three main elements and a projected total cost of £5.750 million (funded through the grant and a local contribution of £1.500 million):

- (i) Support for improved rail services on the Westbury to Swindon line.
- (ii) Interchange improvements at a number of Wiltshire's railway stations.
- (iii) Supporting smarter choices measures.

Cllr Tonge thanked officers for all their efforts and hard work on this project and in ensuring a successful bid for funding. He commented that this Council had received the highest percentage of grant funding applied for.

The report detailed the options considered in drawing up the proposals.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

- a) **welcomes the full grant award (£4.250 million) for the Council's Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid by the Department for Transport;**
- b) **approves the commencement and delivery of the package of complementary sustainable transport measures (£4.550 million) and delegates the management of this project to the Service Director for Highways and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport;**
- c) **approves the contribution of £0.300 million from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block allocation for 2012/13 to 2014/15, the contribution of circa £0.100 million 'in-kind' officer time and the allocation of up to £1.100 million developer contributions;**
- d) **reiterates its in-principle support for an improved TransWilts rail service and**
- e) **notes the uncertainties and risks associated with the implementation of the improved train service and requests that officers further liaise with the Department for Transport, Great Western franchise bidders and other relevant parties regarding the improved Westbury to Swindon train service, and submit a further report to a future Cabinet meeting.**

Reason for Decision:

To enable the LSTF project to commence so ensuring that the programme of measures and required spend can be made in accordance with the grant award.

102 Budget Monitoring Period 3 June 2012

Cllr John Brady, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk presented a report which advised Cabinet of the revenue budget monitoring position as at

the end of Period 3 (June 2012) for the financial year 2012/2013. The report also highlighted significant new cost pressures or changes since the budget setting report on 15 February 2012.

It was noted that officers had continued to monitor budgets with a focus on those budgets assessed to be subject to a higher risk of volatility due to factors such as changes in demand or assumptions. This had identified the areas where costs had risen quicker than forecast.

Budget monitoring was an ongoing process and budgets and expenditure were reviewed between budget managers and accountancy regularly, on a risk based approach.

The report presented included a detailed summary of the forecast variances set out by service areas. It was however, noted that budgets were profiled to reflect actual spend within the year. This leads to some variances between the current profiled budget and actual and committed to date. This was due to timing differences and work would continue to refine budget profiling within the year.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the outcome of the Period 3 (June) budget monitoring.

Reason for Decision:

To inform effective decision making and ensure a sound financial control environment.

103 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am – 11.30 am)

These decisions were published on the 14 September 2012 and will come into force on 24 September 2012

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