

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Council
Place: Council Chamber - County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JN
Date: Tuesday 12 November 2013
Time: 11.00 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 1 November 2013. 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

8 **Councillors' Questions_***(Pages 1 - 64)*

Questions 1 - 67 are attached.

12 **Review of Proportionality and Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups** *(Pages 65 - 74)*

A schedule of committee places will be circulated at the meeting.

For the assistance of members, the list of committee membership as agreed at Council on 9 July 2013 is attached for information.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 8 November 2013

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Nicholas Fogg, Marlborough West Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 1

Is the Cabinet member aware that the herbicide "Roundup" has been used recently in the environs of both an infants and a kindergarten in Marlborough? Would he agree that, while concerns about its effects on humans and the environment are growing, it would be advisable to discourage its use in areas where children gather?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (excluding Strategic Housing)

Question 2

Do you agree with the Bedroom Tax?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 3

How many families have Wiltshire Council been able to help to move to smaller homes that have been affected by the Bedroom Tax?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 4

How many smaller homes have become available since the introduction of the bedroom tax for families to transfer to?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 5

How much has rent arrears increased since the introduction of the bedroom tax?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 6

How many tenants are deemed to be under-occupying, and needing smaller accommodation?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 7

What steps have Wiltshire Council been taking to help tenants that have been hit by this tax? And are we working with local housing associations?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 8

How many people are already on the waiting list for smaller properties?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (excluding Strategic Housing)

Question 9

Does Wiltshire Council have any notion as to how many Food Banks there are in the county?

What is our relationship with such organisations?

Are they utilised and/or assisted by the Council?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 10

In September I contacted you regarding the delays to the signage works that was due to be undertaken on the Western Way Melksham. I have been advised by Officers that the work has been delayed due to BBLP being unable to provide a temporary traffic management plan, and due to this we are still waiting for a start date.

To date I still await your reply. Can you tell me when I can expect a reply, and why I have had to wait so long for an answer?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Helen Osborn, Trowbridge Lambrook Division

To Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Childrens' Services

Question 11

What is the situation regarding children's social workers in this authority? How many vacancies are there? How many locums are employed – numbers and percentage of overall establishment?

Response

Frontline Social Workers (caseholding Social Workers excluding Disabled Children's team)

- We have 78 posts of which 71 are filled. That leaves 7 vacancies.
- There are currently 30 agency social workers. We have recruited 23 agency staff over establishment to respond to the increase in referrals and need for social care interventions in line with national and SW trends.

Wiltshire Council

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Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Helen Osborn, Trowbridge Lambrok Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 12

When did the Cabinet member for Highways first know that Balfour Beatty Living Places was losing a million pounds over the first months of the contract and that redundancies and redeployment of staff were happening? In light of these factors how does he consider this contractor will cope with a harsh winter? Has he any contingency plans?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Hurst, Royal Wootton Bassett South Division

**To Councillor Jonathan Seed, Cabinet Member for Communities, Campuses,
Area Boards, Leisure, Libraries and Flooding**

Question 13

Is the Council genuinely committed to providing a 'Campus' for Royal Wootton Bassett and if so, what action is the Council proposing to bring the Campus project to fruition?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 14

With hundreds of our staff being made redundant Melksham Without Parish Council, decided that they would try and encourage applicants for the post of Assistant Clerk which would be on a part time basis of 20 hours per week, from any former members of Wiltshire Staff that may wish to apply.

Both I and Melksham Without Parish Council felt disappoint to be told by Wiltshire Councils HR department that this would cost £65 to advertise the post on an internal basis.

I felt that this must have been a mistake and a kick in the teeth to all the members of staff that may be about to lose their job. I emailed you asking for a full explanation and received a holding reply from your PA saying that a full reply would be sent later. It wasn't until I chased the reply that I received one which was most helpful. I also emailed you regarding an issue after the May Full Council meeting I received a holding reply but regret that you have never replied as promised.

The Councils protocol states that a response should be given within 10 days does this not apply to yourself and your Cabinet?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 15

Wiltshire residents wishing to pay for Council services at Council Offices across the County cannot do so by cash. What arrangements are made by the Council for residents that are unable to obtain, or don't want a bank account to pay in cash?

Response

The preferred arrangement for people who want to pay in cash is to provide them a payment card. This card contains their reference number and name and can be used in any post office or store which displays the Pay Zone facility. The post office or store will accept cash or cheques and process the payment on behalf of the council. This credit card sized product is externally sourced and dispatched by the manufacturer to the payer from a list we send them weekly. It is estimated there are around 12,000 cards currently in circulation across Wiltshire which are used to pay approximately £1.4million per month, 6% of net council tax income, per annum.

Cash is accepted at all our libraries and leisure centres for services provided at those locations.

Processing cash costs the Council approximately £300k annually. Over the coming years different methods of payments will be introduced and promoted so that this overhead cost is reduced.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 16

How much did it cost to install and how much will it cost to remove the parking ticket machines at Melksham House, and how much income have they made for the Council?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 17

Why is it that the Council fail to enforce illegal parking in rural areas? For example vehicles parked on footways etc. Is it because motorist over staying, for a few minutes, in town centre car parks are an easy target?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 18

How many parking wardens are the Council planning to send to this year's Boxing Day Hunt, at Lacock, and how much will this cost the taxpayers of Wiltshire?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 19

How many parking tickets were issued at last year's Boxing Day Hunt at Lacock?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (excluding Strategic Housing)

Question 20

There has recently been considerable concern expressed in the national media over a survey by Leonard Cheshire Disability which highlighted that many local authority organised home care visits were of only fifteen minutes duration and that this was inadequate for any meaningful human interaction. What is the situation in Wiltshire?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Helen Osborn, Trowbridge Lambrok Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 21

When I attended the recent Trowbridge CATG meeting, it was apparent that a number of metro count requests had not been actioned.

This seems to be related to a staffing capacity matter.

What is going on?

Are these metro counts, which are an essential part of the Speed Watch initiative, not now considered important?

Are the police aware of this hold up?

Unless prompt action is taken the extension of Speed Watch will be seriously undermined.

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Ricky Rogers, Salisbury Bemerton Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 22

In July/August 2013 The Leader authorized the appointment of an additional Wiltshire Councillor to the Salisbury Vision Board following consultation with the Salisbury Vision Board Chairman.

Will the Leader of the Council confirm who the Additional Wiltshire Councillor is representing: The Wiltshire Council Conservative Group or himself?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham South Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 23

In light of the significant pressures that will be facing Town and Parish councils this year in light of the changes to the precepts being forced on both Wiltshire Council and the Parishes as a result of central government, does the leader agree that some of the out-of-date boundaries that we have across Wiltshire do not help particularly the towns with forward planning and provision of services.

As an example, the recent East of Melksham development has resulted in houses on one side of a street being in Melksham Town and those on the other side being in Melksham Without Parish. Residents in the area assume they are in the town and look to the Town Council for provision of services.

Would the Leader consider making undertaking a Community Governance Review a priority and if so could she give some indication of when it may take place?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham South Division

To Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Childrens' Services

Question 24

Is the Cabinet Member aware that the back page of the recent edition of Primary Times, which I understand is distributed to all children in our primary schools, carried an advertisement which included a large photo of the pop group "The Saturdays" dressed in Santa hats in a range of sexually provocative poses.

Could the Cabinet Member please tell me how supplying this image to every child in Wiltshire fits in with the council's priorities regarding Child Sexual Exploitation?

Furthermore, does the Cabinet Member agree that pushing such images of glamour models on young children does nothing to help with increasing young people's self esteem?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham South Division

To Councillor Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Childrens' Services

Question 25

I am sure that the Cabinet Member is aware that there have been a number of issues raised in the national press with regard to images and videos on FaceBook. Whilst I would normally adopt the attitude that if someone chooses to watch something then that is their choice I am concerned that there is evidence that some young people in Wiltshire are being presented with materials on FaceBook which are quite inappropriate.

One such example that has been brought to my attention is of a young teenager in Salisbury who had a video posted to her timeline on FaceBook which showed a donkey being pushed off a cliff by two men. I understand that this video caused considerable distress to the young person concerned.

Would the Cabinet Member be prepared to send a joint letter from myself as Chair of the Children's Select Committee and herself as the Lead Member for Children's Services in Wiltshire to FaceBook expressing our concerns about the accessibility of these types of materials to young people in our communities?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Dr Helena McKeown, Salisbury St Edmund and Milford Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (excluding Strategic Housing)

Question 26

Is the Cabinet member aware of the evidence of trees in cities improving air quality and would the Council make use of the strategy of planting more trees in Salisbury city centre to improve air quality?

http://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/jrnl/2013/nrs_2013_nowak_002.pdf

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 27

Is the Cabinet member aware of a newly published large scale study linking even low air pollution from traffic and industrial emissions to low birth-weight and can the Cabinet member update me on what if any progress has been made on identifying links in the health of our population to areas of pollution in Salisbury city centre please?

<http://news.sky.com/story/1154600/air-pollution-linked-to-low-birthweight>

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Dr Helena McKeown, Salisbury St Edmund and Milford Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 28

Why were views of the Area Board not sought between January and April 2013 regarding possible sites for the new bus stops in Salisbury prior to Atkins being instructed to look at only five roads? What attempt to seek alternative locations was made and consideration given to potential alternative whereby a better overall compromise may be achievable?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 29

Is the Cabinet member aware that the implementation of the new bus stops in Milford Street, Salisbury ignores Wiltshire Council's own recommended minimum carriageway width of 3.2 m?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 30

Is the Cabinet member aware of the CTC (the National Cycling Charity) has recently reported that it is not legal for cyclists to access advanced stop if there is no lead-in and the discrepancy in the Wiltshire Council published report that says the advanced stop line reservoir that is being retained does not legally require a feeder lane to be provided?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 31

How does the Cabinet member propose to monitor the impact on pavement congestion, air quality and road safety of the new bus stops in Salisbury and at what

point will ensuing problems be deemed to be significant enough for remedial measures to be considered and what would such remedial measures consist of?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Ian West, Till & Wylve Valley Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 32

Over many years Wiltshire County Council and its successor Wiltshire Council had a policy "no closure of the A344 until the A303 is improved (dualled)". We know that as recently as 11 April 2011, Wiltshire Council wrote to the then Minister of Transport to remind him that the Council was against any plan to close the A344 without an improvement to the A303 because of the likely impact on traffic in local communities - a likely consequence that has now happened.

Can the leader tell me what happened at some point between 11th April 2011 and June 2011 for the Council to abandon its long held policy?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Ian West, Till and Wylve Valley Division

To Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Transport

Question 33

Somerset County Council commissioned an Economic Impact Study in May 2012. This assessment of transport and wider economic impacts has demonstrated that there will be significant benefits associated with dualling the full length of the A303 / A30 between Amesbury and Honiton and the A358 between Ilminster and Taunton. Could the Cabinet member tell me what work/studies Wiltshire Council has done to further the case for dualling of the A303 in South Wiltshire?

Response

Wiltshire Council's position in relation to the latest initiative to improve this vital transport infrastructure was captured in a prospectus which we produced in partnership with Devon and Somerset County Councils and the Local Economic Partnerships in our area. Since submission of the prospectus to the minister, the government has announced funding for a feasibility study on the whole route and we will be working with Highways Agency and other local authorities to progress the study. We will also continue to promote the much needed improvements at every opportunity.

Wiltshire Council

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Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Ian West, Till and Wylve Valley Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 34

At the A344 Stopping Up Public Inquiry, the expert witness David Lear of Halcrow, traffic engineers, put English Heritage's defence against Orcheston Parish Council's traffic concerns forward. Wiltshire Council, by granting the Planning consent for the visitor centre, and by not objecting to the Stopping Up were effectively saying that they accepted all Mr Lear's traffic projections for the local road network. (Likewise the Highways Authority for the A303). John Hobson QC for English Heritage, in questioning the Orcheston Parish Council Chairman, stated that surely Orcheston as a small parish with limited resources should rely on, and trust, Wiltshire Council to investigate these claims.

Wiltshire Council officers have stated in the past, that they will monitor the traffic if there is a problem, local residents in the local villages know there is a real traffic problem since the A344 closure. When will the monitoring begin? and where? If the traffic flows turn out to be different from those projected they said that they will look at restricting the routes. if this is the case when will this happen?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 35

A council officer quoted in the Salisbury Journal after the March 2010 Amesbury Area Board meeting, said "Telegraph Hill was not likely to be affected by the closure, and said the impact on the Packway would be not significant as to cause a capacity problem We can't avoid people taking different routes if they can. What we need to do is to monitor whether that traffic is appropriate traffic using that route. If there is large traffic diverting on a regular basis, we should be looking at restricting these routes."

This hardly needs monitoring it is plain for all to see that there is a problem of HGV's diverting from the A303 at Solstice Park over Telegraph Hill to beat the congestion when travelling West, when can we expect some action to restrict these routes ?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 36

The High Street in Shrewton has a school and limited pavements throughout its length, since the closure of the A344 residents have experienced a major increase in traffic which has included HGV's and Car Transporters.

Will the Council consider some major changes and improvements at Rolleston Cross roads as a matter of urgency?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Glenis Ansell, Calne North Division

To Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Transport

Question 38

An increasing number of people are finding themselves financially excluded as a result of the current economic climate; what support is the council offering to people who need financial help and support and feel that their only options are 'doorstep lending' or Pay Day loan companies. What is the council's policy on Financial Exclusion and what proactive steps are the council taking to promote alternative borrowing options such as credit unions?

Response

The council recognises the effects of financial exclusion and has taken a number of steps over several years to support individuals.

Policy

The council is a key partner on Wiltshire Money which is the strategic financial inclusion partnership for the county. Wiltshire Money has a strategic plan and the council is fully signed up to this:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wiltshiremoney/publications>

Wiltshire Money is hosting a strategic conference in December which the council has been asked to take an active role in.

A financial inclusion plan has been prepared for the council's housing management service. This plan will be published shortly and sets out measures to support the council's housing tenants in respect to financial inclusion.

Proactive steps

The council has worked closely with the county's three credit unions over a number of years. The council recognises the valuable service they offer to people who cannot easily access affordable financial services and products including loans. The support which has been provided includes:

- Action for Wiltshire provided a grant of £40k to Wiltshire Credit Union in order to sustain operations following the cessation of Growth Fund. Growth Fund

(DWP funding) provided revenue funding and loan capital for the credit unions to offer affordable loans to new members without a history of savings. When Growth Fund ended the loan capital remained with the credit unions for recycling but revenue funding ceased and this was provided by the council instead. The funding was spread over two years and came to an end in August 2013.

- Wiltshire Council has provided a grant funding to support credit unions
- Wiltshire Council's communications and branding team has assisted with the production of a leaflet which promotes Credit Union membership.
- The council recently adopted a payroll savings scheme to help promote membership amongst its staff. This enables staff to save direct from their monthly salary.
- The council has brokered volunteer recruitment assistance through WREN (Wiltshire Responsible Employer Network) and GROW's Volunteer Centre.

In addition to this, and relevant to this issue, is the council's administration of Local Welfare Provision. This provides advice and support to people who are either in a crisis situation or need help to move back into or stay in the community. Although the council does not give cash awards, there is a variety of help for people in financial crisis:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/counciltaxhousingandbenefits/localwelfareprovision.htm>

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Glenis Ansell, Calne North Division

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

Question 39

Across the UK there are an increasing number of councils who are imposing planning restrictions on the opening of Pay Day loan shops on High Streets. Can the Cabinet Member tell me what action Wiltshire has taken /or is planning to take to impose restrictions on these companies.

Response

The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order allows use of a building or land within a particular class set out in the Order for any purpose which is within the same class. For example, a bank falls within Class A2 of the Use Classes Order, as does an estate agency (both 'financial and professional services'). It follows that in normal circumstances a bank can change to an estate agency with no requirement for a planning application to be made to the local planning authority. Equally, a pay day loan shop would be a Class A2 use, so again it follows that a bank, estate agency or any other financial and professional service use could change to a pay day loan shop with no requirement for a planning application to be made to the local planning authority, this not being considered 'development'.

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order also grants planning permission for certain changes of use between different use classes without the need for a planning application. This includes a permanent change from a Class A5 use ('hot food takeaways') to a Class A2 use, from a Class A4 use ('drinking establishments') to a Class A2 use, and from a Class A3 use ('restaurants and cafes') to a Class A2 use. The Order also allows a temporary change of use for up to two years to a 'flexible use', which can include a Class A2 use, from a Class A1 use ('shops'), a Class B1 use ('business'), a Class D1 use ('non-residential institutions') and a Class D2 use ('assembly and leisure'). This is 'permitted development' under the terms of the Town and Country Planning Act.

The Order includes a provision which allows permitted development entitlement to be removed (referred to as an 'Article 4 Direction'). Guidance on their use states that local planning authorities should consider making Article 4 directions only in those exceptional circumstances where evidence suggests that the exercise of permitted development rights would harm local amenity or the proper planning of the area, and in deciding whether an article 4 direction would be appropriate, local

planning authorities should identify clearly the potential harm that the direction is intended to address. Article 4 directions can only be used to remove permitted development entitlements – it follows that they cannot remove the right to move between uses which are within the same use class, this not being development.

The question refers to an increasing number of councils imposing planning restrictions on the opening of pay day loan shops in high streets. An example of this is Southwark Council which has begun the process of making Article 4 Directions as referred to above. Southwark Council's cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy is quoted on its website as saying "the spread of payday loan shops, pawnbrokers and betting shops is out of control. This [the Article 4 direction's] innovative, proactive approach to addressing planning legislation will make a tangible change to the lives of people living in areas where so-called 'financial services' businesses are so prolific. I hope it will help to stem the flow of the growing number of businesses that prove hugely tempting to those struggling financially but can result in awful debt and further stress." In taking this action Southwark Council has acknowledged that it does not have the power to control uses or changes of use within Class A2 itself. It also acknowledges that its approach does not mean that it will be able to block any such pay day loan shops or bookmakers, but it will increase the number of hoops a prospective operator has to jump through.

As is evident from the quote, Southwark apparently has an "out of control" situation as far as the number of pay day loan shops opening in its high streets is concerned. There is no evidence to suggest that this is the case in Wiltshire. There are therefore no exceptional circumstances that would warrant consideration of an Article 4 Declaration.

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Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Simon Killane, Malmesbury Division

To Councillor Richard Tonge, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Procurement and Welfare Reform

Question 40

Residents often perceive that it costs the council more to do a job than it would cost a private company or individual. How does the council negotiate with all their suppliers and play one off against the other and is there any substance to this perception?

Response

This is a difficult question to answer as one person's perception differs from another's in the same situation. What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing; it also depends on what sort of person you are. Put another way if you are in the trench digging your perception differs from the person watching you.

The Council has strong procurement rules, and just like all public bodies has UK and European rules to comply with to ensure there is strong competition. As part of these processes and in determining what to include in a contract the Council looks at its current in house provision and costs and benchmarks those against other providers. The Council has many examples of where it has done this from Adult Care to Printing, IT and Utilities. Contract awards are assessed based on cost and quality, and part of that includes the current versus future costs. The Council uses procurement to drive down costs, but remains focussed on quality. With the continuing financial pressures the Council will be under over the coming years we are committed to making improvements ensuring that we get best value for the people of Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Simon Killane, Malmesbury Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 41

How was the 50 mph sign implementation across the County funded?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Simon Killane, Malmesbury Division

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

Question 42

Can you explain the council position on fracking and what steps are being taken to deal with applications through the Wiltshire planning system. Are there any proposed planning approvals or licences being sought?

Response

Introduction and context

The fracking process is principally governed by a licensing regime, which allows companies to search for and obtain the Crown's resources. These licences are granted by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and not the council.

In simple terms, after an initial licence has been granted by DECC, an interested company must then come to the local authority for planning permission for exploration. Following this, the company must then obtain 'well consent' from DECC, and undertake further checks. To move beyond the exploration stage into production, planning permission must again be granted, alongside further requirements relating to other legislative regimes (e.g. pollution control measures governed by the Environment Agency and the Health Protection Agency). Further details in relation to the role of the local planning authority in terms of controlling fracking proposals are set out below.

Dealing with the planning aspects of fracking proposals

Should a planning application be submitted for fracking in Wiltshire it will be considered in the light of the national planning policy framework (the NPPF) and the local development plan.

In terms of national policy, the NPPF requires that planning authorities assess applications for all minerals developments, including oil and gas developments, so as to ensure that operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural or historical environment or on human health, including from noise, dust, visual intrusion, or migration of contamination from the site. In doing so, planning

authorities are also advised to take into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality.

The NNPF makes it clear that the phases of development – i.e. exploration, appraisal and production of on-shore oil and gas extraction (including unconventional sources such as shale gas) should be clearly distinguished. Planning applications for each stage must be subject to consultation with the local community and with relevant statutory consultation bodies such as the Environment Agency before the local planning authority takes a decision. Furthermore the applicant is required to provide sufficient information that is relevant, necessary and material to the proposed development.

Shale gas wells, whether for exploration or production, are subject to the environmental impact assessment regime established by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive. The EIA Directive is transposed into English law through the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. Under the Regulations, all deep drilling operations, including shale gas wells, will be screened by the local planning authority to assess whether they are likely to have any significant effects on the environment. Where significant effects are identified, an environmental statement will need to be submitted to the relevant planning authority before the planning application is consulted on and considered.

At the local level, the council does not have a policy to govern specifically the control of fracking proposals. However, the policies set out in the adopted Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Development Control Policies Development Plan Document; the 'saved' District Local Plan policies; the South Wiltshire Core Strategy; and those of the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy will be used to test the merits of any such proposals.

Current Position

At this stage, the government has not granted any exploration or development licenses for sites within Wiltshire, nor has the council received any request from potential developers to engage in pre-planning application discussions. As outlined above and notwithstanding the current position, it is important to note that any planning application on this matter would be subject to the usual consultation with the public.

There are likely to be a number of reasons why Wiltshire has received no interest from fracking companies. However the principal reason is likely to relate to the fact that extensive exploration undertaken by hydrocarbon companies in the later 1980s do not identify geological structures required to support viable oil / gas production.

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Simon Killane, Malmesbury Division

To Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Transport

Question 43

How is Wiltshire Council making sure that SWLEP funding streams from Europe and Government will be targeted fairly around the County to address the diverse needs of both rural and town areas? Can the Council give an update on its input into the preparation of proposals for submission to government for ERDF funding?

Response

The Swindon & Wiltshire LEP (SWLEP), comprising Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough Council, 43 Wessex Brigade, Further Education Colleges and the Business Sector, is currently developing applications for both of these funding streams: the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Strategy, which draws upon the European Structural Investment Fund, and a Strategic Economic Plan, which informs the development of a Growth Deal, an agreement between the LEP and central government, utilising funds from the Single Local Growth Fund.

For the ESIF, the SWLEP has been charged by HM Government to produce a Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) strategy to set out the priorities, objectives and targets in the area for investment from the EU funding round 2014-2020. An officer group, fielded from both local authorities has been assembled to develop the strategy. Single commissioning and delivery across the entire area is a requirement of the strategy.

The ESIF fund is subject to the LEP's priorities, and 5 priority themes were identified by the LEP board in July. The 5 priorities are:

- i. Realising growth opportunities from the military presence and rebasing;
- ii. SME growth and survival;
- iii. Support for priority sectors and growth businesses;
- iv. Building a low carbon economy;
- v. Social inclusion (including workforce skills and employability).

The nature of discussion and focus of the groups has been to find ways to support those businesses which will (a) deliver most in terms of jobs, growth and continued economic sustainability, and (b) the workforce skills needs for now and in the future. Whilst some of those activities will lend themselves to specific locations across

Wiltshire and Swindon, at this stage the LEP ESIF does have a spatial distribution model.

Firstly, ESI funds are not core funding and must only be used additionally and complementarily to what the EC regards as normal member state spending. It is important to note that the Government has set important 'ear-marking' rates for all 39 English LEPs, so that 80% of funding is spent on 3 of the 10 EU-wide thematic objectives. These are support for SMEs, support for economic innovation and research by businesses and measures to be taken to build low carbon economy. This will heavily influence the type and scope of the eventual interventions which are taken from 2014 onwards.

For the Single Local Growth Fund, work is on-going with an officer task group across Swindon and Wiltshire to develop a Strategic Economic Growth Plan, recognising key opportunities and challenges for delivering economic growth (GVA). From this, specific requests will be selected to form a Growth Deal with government. As the fund is competitive nationally, the projects that Government chose to support will be prioritised according to return, that is, the impact they will have on economic growth. The SWLEP will therefore prioritise these projects in their applications for funding. Officers are working to identify these opportunities across the geography.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Simon Killane, Malmesbury Division

To Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cabinet Member for Economy, Skills and Transport

Question 44

I would like to obtain the Wiltshire Councils view on this "Change of Use Consultation". Also I would be grateful if you could let me know whether or not Wiltshire Council will be responding to the Governments' consultation. Is the Council concerned about the loss of commercial rates revenue that will be incurred as a product of increased change of use to residential

The current Consultation information is on:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226632/Greater_flexibilities_for_change_of_use.pdf

Reply details are on: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NHXVK66>

Response

The Government consultation on proposed changes to permitted development rights to allow for more changes of use to take place without the need for planning permission from the local planning authority closed on 15th October 2013. The Council did respond to the consultation.

In relation to the questions asked about whether there should be increased permitted development rights for changes of use for shops and professional services to residential, the Council made the point that there is no evidence that the existing requirement for planning permission is creating any problems and that introducing a prior approval process would add more complication to the system. The Council objected to the proposal for permitted development rights for the change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellings on several grounds. These included the loss of potential for economic development from the re-use of these buildings for employment purposes; the failure to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework that promotes sustainable development; the adverse impact on the character and appearance of the landscape, including the World Heritage Site and areas of outstanding natural beauty, and the potential for additional costs to be imposed on local taxpayers through the need for providing school bus services to isolated locations remote from services and schools.

A copy of the response is attached.

The loss of commercial rates revenue is not a material planning consideration that the Council could raise in a consultation response to DCLG that can only address planning matters.



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Consultation questions - response form

We are seeking your views to the following questions on the proposals to support sustainable development and growth through encouraging the reuse of empty and redundant existing buildings where the original use was no longer required or appropriate.

How to respond:

The closing date for responses is 15 October 2013

A response form is available on the DCLG website, and can also be submitted via Survey Monkey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NHXVK66>

Responses should be sent preferably by email:

Email responses to: Changeofuse.planning@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Written responses can also be sent to:

Saima Williams
Consultation Team (Greater flexibilities to change use)
Planning Development Management Division
Department for Communities and Local Government
1/J3, Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

About you

i) Your details:

Name:	Mike Wilmott Bsc Dip TP DM MRTPI
Position:	Area Development Manager
Name of organisation (if applicable):	Wiltshire Council
Address:	Development Services Wiltshire Council County Hall Bythesea Road Trowbridge
Email:	Mike.wilmott@wiltshire.gov.uk
Telephone number:	01225 716775

ii) Are the views expressed on this consultation an official response from the organisation you represent or your own personal views?

Organisational response

Personal views

iii) Please tick the box which best describes you or your organisation:

District Council

Metropolitan district council

London borough council

Unitary authority

County council/county borough council

Parish /community council

Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB)

- Planner
- Professional trade association
- Land owner
- Private developer/house builder
- Developer association
- Residents association
- Voluntary sector/charity
- Other

(please comment):	
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**iv) What is your main area of expertise or interest in this work
(please tick one box)?**

- Chief Executive
- Planner
- Developer
- Surveyor
- Member of professional or trade association
- Councillor
- Planning policy/implementation
- Environmental protection
- Other

(please comment):	
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Would you be happy for us to contact you again in relation to this questionnaire?

Yes No

ii) Questions

Please refer to the relevant parts of the consultation document for narrative relating to each question.

Question 1: Do you agree there should be permitted development rights, as proposed, for shops (A1) and financial and professional services (A2) to change use to a dwelling house (C3) and to carry out building work connected with the change of use?

How do you think the prior approval requirement should be worded, in order to ensure that it is tightly defined and delivers maximum benefits?

Yes No

Comments

There is no evidence that the existing requirement for planning permission is creating any problems and the proposed prior approval process simply adds more complication to the system for users and landowners. The wording of the text implies that approval could be refused on principle (eg impact on economic health) but this conflicts with the usual idea of prior approval that the principle is already accepted and it is only the details that are up for agreement.

If, despite the lack of evidence of a problem, the idea is accepted, then the change should not apply in article 1(5) areas and should have the limitations suggested

Question 2: Do you agree there should be permitted development rights for retail units (A1) to change use to banks and building societies?

Yes No

Comments

This should be for a change of use only. Physical alterations, particularly in Article 1(5) areas should continue to require planning permission. Listed buildings should be exempted from the permitted development right.

Question 3: Do you agree there should be permitted development rights, as proposed, for existing buildings used for agricultural purposes to change use to a dwelling house (C3) and to carry out building work connected with the change of use?

Yes No

Comments

This is by far the worst of the proposals with the potential for a devastating impact on the countryside. Already, the mere suggestion of it is leading to a drop in potential economic activity as landowners and their agents are not pursuing the earlier permitted development rights for employment use as the potential to convert to residential offers a more lucrative return.

The NPPF promotes sustainable development – but how is allowing new houses in the countryside in any way sustainable? Wiltshire is a rural county with many barns and agricultural buildings in isolated locations. Converting these to houses means that any children will need to be provided with a school bus service at more cost to the local taxpayer.

How does this marry with the statutory duty on public bodies in areas of outstanding natural beauty to protect the landscape for its beauty if every tin barn in the countryside can suddenly become a dwelling?

How does this comply with the policies in the NPPF to protect the openness of the green belt?

How will World Heritage Sites, such as the rural Avebury and Stonehenge WHS be protected from inappropriate housing development – this runs the risk of putting such designations at risk – has UNESCO been consulted?

There are huge numbers of barns, many of them open sided with no roofs or sides in isolated positions in the middle of fields that will suddenly be available for demolition and rebuilding to houses – with a concomitant adverse impact on the character and appearance of the countryside.

One of the main planks of national and local planning policy since 1947 has been the desire to protect the character and appearance of the rural landscape for future generations by resisting housing development in inappropriate locations. This proposal would overturn this and would spoil the countryside for generations to come.

This is simply a completely unacceptable proposal and one that should be ditched now. It flies completely in the face of the NPPF and makes a mockery of its introduction less than 2 years ago and its claim to be about the golden thread of sustainable development.

Question 4: Do you agree that there should be permitted development rights, as proposed, to allow offices (B1), hotels (C1); residential institutions (C2); secure residential institutions (C2A) and assembly and leisure (D2) to change use to nurseries providing childcare, and to carry out building work connected with the change of use?

Yes No

Comments

There will need to be exemptions in Article 1(5) land for building work and listed buildings will also need to be exempted from such changes of use. A key element here will be the need to ensure adequate parking provision which may need to be part of the highways impact of any prior approval.

Question 5: Do you agree there should be permitted development rights, as proposed, for buildings used for agricultural purposes to change use to new state funded schools and nurseries providing childcare and to carry out building work connected with the change of use?

Yes No

Comments

Whilst the Council is unaware of any problems that the current requirement for planning permission brings, and does not experience a significant demand for such uses, the proposal could support rural communities. In article 1(5) land there will need to be prior approval for the alterations to buildings to protect the character and appearance of the landscape and any conservation area.

Question 6: Do you have any comments and further evidence on the benefits and impact of our proposals set out in the consultation?

Yes No

Comments

The economic disbenefits of the proposed permitted development rights for the change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellings should not be underestimated. These include loss of potential employment in rural areas as barns suitable for re-use for rural employment are instead used for housing. This simply means that those living in rural areas have even less access to employment opportunities as these will be more concentrated than ever in towns – and this at a time when rural bus services to towns are declining as subsidies are cut. Meanwhile, Councils will have to run more school buses at an increasing cost to the local taxpayer to take children from these remote locations to the nearest school

Then there is the economic hit from the potential reduction in tourism – rural areas will simply become less attractive to those seeking walking holidays and open countryside if every barn in the landscape is recreated as a dwelling. This is going the way of the Irish planning system where the countryside has been blighted by numerous houses and bungalows dotting the countryside.

Government aims to increase sustainability and cut carbon emissions down will also be adversely affected – people will simply have to travel by private car to reach services – using more fossil fuel and clogging up roads into town centres.

The existing planning system has provided a pretty good balance in protecting the character and appearance of the countryside from intrusion from unwarranted residential development, whilst fostering diversification of the agricultural economy into business use. This proposal tips the balance the other way and removes the protection that has served the country well for decades.

It is unwarranted, unjustifiable and unacceptable.

Thank you for your comments.

Consultation criteria

About this consultation

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent, and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, there is a statutory code of practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. Individual responses will not be acknowledged unless specifically requested. Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

If you have any queries regarding the consultation process, please contact:
DCLG Consultation Co-ordinator
Zone 6/H10 Eland House
London SW1E 5DU
email: consultationcoordinator@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Simon Killane, Malmesbury Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (excluding Strategic Housing)

Question 45

Residents living in sheltered and specialist accommodation for older people (Over 55s) have expressed concern about the suitability of placing younger people to live in such accommodation and the possible issues that arise due to the differing social habits of each age group. What is the policy of the council with respect to age restricted housing areas and what is the relationship between Housing Associations and the council when setting age requirements for Social housing?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Simon Killane, Malmesbury Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 46

Can you give an update on progress with any policy initiative to allow Full Council meetings to be streamed to the general public through the new systems that have been installed in the council chamber?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Trevor Carbin, Holt and Staverton Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 47

Following on from the briefing note circulated to members and parish councils in September, what subsequent work has been done to reduce the on-going congestion on the A303 and local roads around Stonehenge?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

COUNCILLORS BRIEFING NOTE

No. 161

Service Area: Sustainable Transport

Further Enquiries to: Allan Creedy

Date Prepared: September 2013

Direct Line: (01225) 713444

Traffic in Vicinity of the New Stonehenge Visitors Centre

This note is intended as an update for Parishes and Members regarding recent changes to roads near Stonehenge

It is acknowledged that there have been significant delays on the A303 this summer, and that these delays will have been affected to some degree by the closure of the A344 at Stonehenge Bottom.

The planning application for the new visitor centre proposal by English Heritage was supported by Wiltshire Council, but the stopping up of the A344 in the vicinity of Stonehenge was subject to an independent inquiry (arranged by the Department for Transport) following an application by English Heritage. Neither the Council nor the Highways Agency objected to the stopping up of the A344, but many others did; it was accepted that there would be a degree of additional delay on the A303. The Inquiry Inspector heard the objections to the road closure, but found the proposal to be acceptable, and approved the making of an Order to stop up a length of the A344.

Two roundabouts were constructed for different reasons. The A303/A360 Longbarrow junction was improved by the Highways Agency to provide capacity for the forecast flows on both routes through the junction. The A360/B3086/A344 junction was provided by English Heritage to accommodate the forecast flows at this junction, and to provide a safer form of junction for the future traffic flows.

We do not yet have data available to indicate the extent to which traffic flows on the A303 and local roads might have increased this year, but the Council understands that the July visitor numbers to Stonehenge were at a peak. This could be an indicator that A303 traffic levels have increased during the same period.

We have been aware that, in addition to the effects of traffic slowing to view the Stones, there was also an issue with drivers attempting to turn across the traffic stream to enter Byway 12, which passes close to the Stones. Action has been taken to address this latter problem, with traffic regulation orders being secured to prohibit right turning into and out of the byway at its A303 junction. It is hoped that this measure will be respected by drivers, including those whose satnav devices might otherwise have directed them onto the byway.

The Highways Agency is responsible for the traffic on the A303, and they are well aware of local concerns. Wiltshire Council will continue to work with the Highways Agency to find ways to mitigate the problems of delays on the A303 and the additional traffic on the alternative local routes.

Next Steps

The traffic situation is anticipated to stabilise over the months following the opening of the new visitor centre, when an objective assessment can be made in relation to necessary actions. These are expected to include monitoring, and, if necessary, address the anticipated impact of vehicles on Byway 12, and to make arrangements to collect some traffic data to assess the ongoing impacts on local communities.

Visitor numbers to Stonehenge will also be monitored so that before and after comparisons can be made. English Heritage intend to erect local fold-down signing to alert drivers who are not pre-booked not to enter the visitor centre on those days when visitor numbers are at their highest. This could lead to some issues on the local network.

We will continue to work with the DfT and Highways Agency to press for a resolution to the constraints on the A303 trunk road, particularly as it affects journey time reliability around Stonehenge.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Dr Helena McKeown, Salisbury St Edmund and Milford Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 48

The Salisbury Transport Strategy Options Assessment Report dated 11/1/2010 recommended that the proposed strategy be further refined and be subject to stakeholder consultation. The Options Assessment Report Addendum dated 2/8/2011 similarly expected "*that a more extensive stakeholder consultation is undertaken to refine the Salisbury Transport Strategy*" (para 6.14).

The Inspectors Report on the Examination into the South Wiltshire Core Strategy dated 14.10.11 made the point in relation to the Options Assessment Report that "*the Council has yet to decide what its Transportation Strategy will be*" (para 147) and indicated that "*the Salisbury Transport Strategy needs to be finalised*" (para 155).

This position is reflected in the Local Development Scheme for Wiltshire (dated November 2011, updated August 2012) where the Salisbury Transport Strategy had a 'date complete/anticipated' given as 'Anticipated June 2012'.

It is clear from recent developments in Salisbury that the work done to date on the Salisbury Transport Strategy has failed to consider in sufficient detail a number of key areas, including public transport interchange facilities, city centre pedestrianisation, and steps necessary to encourage active travel, reduce city centre congestion and address air quality issues.

In the light of the above would the Cabinet member please clarify the opportunities and time-frame for local stakeholder consultation and finalisation of an agreed Salisbury Transport Strategy?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Dr Helena McKeown, Salisbury St Edmund and Milford Division

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

Question 49

The September 2013 version of Wiltshire Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) includes various items for Salisbury and South Wiltshire which have not featured in the South Wiltshire or Wiltshire Core Strategies and it is not clear how these have been selected for inclusion. As an example, the IDP for Salisbury includes (ref SAL017) a Boathouse for Wiltshire Scullers School estimated to cost £275K. This would appear to be linked with the requirement in the Wiltshire Strategic, Regional and General Appendix (ref WC020) to "Fully equip 22 rowing schools in

Wiltshire with good quality boats" with an estimated cost of £2 million.

Could the Cabinet member please clarify the process whereby items have been selected for inclusion in the September 2013 version of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and indicate how local support for these proposals has been confirmed?

Given the proposals to redevelop the existing bus station and the coach park in Salisbury, will the Council be adding the requirement for replacement bus facilities, and equivalent coach facilities which will enable Salisbury to retain its Coach Friendly accreditation, to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan?

Response

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) is an iterative document that is designed to be updated on a regular basis to reflect the infrastructure required to support growth. The process of preparing the IDP involves gathering information from infrastructure and service providers, as well as the community to arrive at a list of requirements to support the development proposals set out in the Core Strategy. The information gathered is then categorised in line with Core Policy 3 of the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy as being either - "essential" (i.e. required to make development happen") or "place-shaping".

The latest version of the IDP presents information received from 'Wiltshire Scullers' (Ref SAL017) and the items listed have been categorised as 'place-shaping'. As

such, they do not comprise essential infrastructure and would take lower priority to essential infrastructure requirements including sustainable transport infrastructure.

In terms of funding, it is important to note that the items listed may in fact be funded in part, or wholly by the Wiltshire Scullers themselves. Therefore, the draw-down on traditional funding mechanisms such as Section 106, or new revenue streams such as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) may in fact be negligible. These matters will be continuously monitored and re-assessed as required.

As outlined above, the IDP is an iterative document and will be kept under review. It is likely that infrastructure requirements will change over time and the life of the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy. As such, the process of nominating new requirements and prioritising accordingly will be matters for the council to assess on an annual basis.

It is also important to note that the IDP is also used as evidence to support the council's proposals for CIL. Once the local CIL arrangements have been finalised and adopted, the council is required to set out details of how it intends to spend revenue accrued through the application of the levy. In addition, local communities will gain direct access to CIL receipts to spend as they see fit on local priorities. At this stage, the government have determined that 15% of CIL revenue will be passed onto town and parish councils to spend on delivering local priorities. This figure rises to 25% for those communities who have a neighbourhood plan.

With regard to the Bus Station in Salisbury, both the Salisbury Vision and the Core Strategy share the objective of improving public transport in Salisbury and encouraging more people to use it.

Project 5 of the Vision states the following:

5 Bus station

'Develop as a residential led scheme with other associated commercial use such as restaurant, bar and café'

Rationale:

- To support the traffic management and transport projects in creating a more pedestrian focused centre.
- To provide a high quality scheme in the centre of Salisbury.

Projects:

- a) The redevelopment of this site should only be considered if suitable alternative arrangements are in place for the buses and coaches.
- b) Any development should ensure active frontages through windows and doors onto Endless Street and Rollestone Street.

The redevelopment of the Bus Station is an identified project of the Vision for Salisbury. However, as criteria (b) above sets out; it should only go ahead when suitable alternative arrangements are made for buses and coaches.

Wiltshire Council

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12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Stephen Oldrieve, Trowbridge Paxcroft Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 50

Are you satisfied with the way bottom up (from a local member point of view) policy development is being dealt with by your administration.

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Ernie Clark, Hilperton Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 51

Why do Section 220 notices (sometimes requesting hundreds of thousands of pounds) remain registered against properties as a local land charge sometimes years after the developer has discharged their obligation to the highway authority by entering into a road adoption agreement?

This causes delays when home owners come to sell their properties with the Notices still being unduly registered.

I am aware of a number of occasions when solicitors have written to this authority asking if they intend to enforce the notice against individual home owners, only to be told it should not still be registered and that they will ask Land Charges Dept. to remove the entry.

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Stephen Oldrieve, Trowbridge Paxcroft Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (excluding Strategic Housing)

Question 52

Further to your email below, please can you provide me with a summary of your review into provision of an out-of-hours Environmental call-out service and does it include a protocol for the gaining the support of Wiltshire Constabulary where excessive & extreme noise incidents are reported?

Email from Cllr Humphries dated 28 January 2013: *Not yet. This is work in progress. Officers are gathering data, analysing the last few years and bench marking against other authorities. I should have data by next week so we can explore any options.*

I believe there is to be a review of all the out of hours services the council operates and Public Protection will obviously be part of that but I'm waiting for further info. In the meantime we will continue with our review. I'll keep you informed.

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Stephen Oldrieve, Trowbridge Paxcroft Division

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

Question 53

WC policy development on maintaining/disposing of small pockets of open green space.

Please can I have an update on your email below, with a target date to present a draft proposal to the Trowbridge Area Board?

Sent: 29 August 2013 15:42

To: Oldrieve, Steve

Subject: Open Space

Dear Steve,

John has forwarded your email to me and I will try and expedite the policy. I understand it has got delayed due to long term illness and another officer being on maternity leave. I will raise the issue with the property team at my monthly meeting next month and then update you.

Regards,

Toby.

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 54

What are the Terms of Reference of the Wiltshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) which you chair, and where are they publicly available? Do they include a commitment to the principles of a public NHS?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 55

How is the work of the HWB to be accountable to this Council? Noting that the publicly stated principles of the HWB include "*accountability to the communities it serves*", how is that accountability to be delivered?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 56

The papers for the September meeting of the HWB included a brief 6 lines on the upcoming CCG retendering of the Community Services contract and an appended timeline. This seems an extraordinarily brief, even careless approach to the first major competitive tendering exercise in Wiltshire, which will open up previously publicly-funded health services in Wiltshire to private sector organisations. Given the huge sensitivity of this process, what steps has the HWB taken to assure itself (and the public) that the CCG has the capacity to write the specification in such a way that the outcome will be determined on grounds of clinical quality, and will not allow for loss-leader private sector bids?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 57

Reference is made in the Appendix to the role of a Joint Commissioning Board, but there is no information on this Board on the CCG web site nor in published HWB material. What is the role of this Board and who are its members?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 58

After the redistribution of Licensing services around other Council service areas, where does responsibility for Wiltshire Council licensing policy and strategy lie within the Council leadership?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (excluding Strategic Housing)

Question 59

How long has the Council had access to (a) Early Morning Restriction Orders, (b) Late Night Levies and (c) Cumulative Impact Policies?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 60

Why have none of these powers been adopted by the Council, with the sole exception of the initial work now being done on a possible policy on Cumulative Impact in the Milford Street area of Salisbury?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Question 61

Does the loss of to voluntary redundancy of two of the three senior staff in the Council's Licensing Services, and the dismantling of the service, mean that in effect the Council has abandoned a capacity for any proactive Licensing intervention to reduce the effects and costs of late night alcohol-fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour in our town centres?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Highways and Streetscene and Broadband

Question 62

Why did it take so long to sign the new mega-contract with Balfour Beatty, and why was that followed so quickly by a public statement by Balfour Beatty that they had already lost a million pounds in their work for the Council and were having to move road repair staff to grass cutting work (just as winter was approaching)?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 63

In the Chippenham Monkton ward alone, the completion of the major road works on Langley Road have been delayed from July to this month; road safety improvements approved by the local CATG for the Lowden Hill tunnel are delayed from October to January at the earliest; and there is no information available at all about the delivery of white lining of a disabled bay in Tugela Road, and of dangerous junctions in Eastern Avenue which were promised and commissioned by Council officers in the summer. Assuming this pattern of delay is reflected across the County, is the contract with Balfour Beatty now out of the control of the Council and its members and officers? What assurances can you give to members of the public affected by these delays and what steps are going to be taken to improve outcomes from now on?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 64

How many staff are employed in the Comms Team?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Question 65

What is the ratio between the highest paid employee of Wiltshire Council and the lowest?

Response

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division

**To Councillor Richard Tonge, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Risk,
Procurement and Welfare Reform**

Question 66

The Welfare Reforms obliged some Wiltshire residents who previously received Council Tax Benefit to pay a proportion of Council Tax for the first time. Do we know how many of such people are in arrears? Have any been taken to court?

Response

The council tax reduction (CTR) scheme replaced council tax benefit for those of working age and around 16,000 households are currently entitled to CTR. CTR may cover some or all of the council tax the household is liable to pay.

Historically around 11,000 court orders are obtained by the Council for non-payment of council tax each year, equating to around 6% of all liable households. So far 7047 have been obtained for the current financial year to 31st October 2013. The careful design of the CTR scheme has meant that the impact has resulted in only a small increase in the number of court orders obtained.

To date, of the 7047 households, 1907 are in receipt of CTR have also been taken to court as a result of either non-payment or late payment.

Wiltshire Council

Council

12 November 2013

Item 8 - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division

To Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Protection Services, Adult Care and Housing (excluding Strategic Housing)

Question 67

Do Wiltshire Council Environmental Health officers inspect school kitchens?

Response

A verbal response will be given at the meeting.

As agreed at Council 9 July 2013

Appointment of Committee Members

Strategic Planning Committee (11)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
A Davis	G Ansell	-	T. Chivers	-
J Green	N Watts			
C Howard	G Wright			
W Moss				
C Newbury				
A Trotman				
F Westmoreland				
Substitutes:				
S Dobson	T Carbin		E Clark	
M Douglas	G King		D Drewett	
P Oatway	H Marshall		R Hawker	
P Whalley	I West		Jeans	

Area Planning Committee – East (8)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (0)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
M Connolly	-	-	N.Fogg	
S Dobson				
P Evans				
R Gamble				
J Kunkler				
P Oatway				
P Oatway				
Substitutes:				
E Bryant			T Chivers	
J Sheppard			E Clark	
P Whitehead			D Drewett	
C Williams			J Osborn	

Area Planning Committee – North (11)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (0)	UKIP (0)
C Crisp	B Douglas	-	-	-
M Groom	C Hurst			
P Hutton	H Marshall			
S Parker	M Packard			
T Sturgis				
A Trotman				
P Whalley				
Substitutes:				
C Berry	D Allen			
M Champion	G Ansell			
H Greenman	S Killane			
J Lay	N Watts			

Area Planning Committee – South (11)

Conservative Group (6)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (2)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
R Britton	B Dalton	I McLennan	G Jeans	-
R Clewer	I West	I Tomes		
C Devine				
J Green				
J Noeken				
F Westmoreland				
Substitutes:				
A Deane	P Edge	J Walsh	T Chivers	
L Randall	H McKeown		E Clark	
J Smale	G Wright		D Drewett	
B Wayman			R Hawker	

Area Planning Committee – West (11)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (2)	UKIP (0)
A Davis	T Carbin	-	E Clark	-
J Knight	M Macdonald		R Hawker	
C Newbury				
H Pricket				
P Ridout				
J Seed				
R While				
Substitutes:				
L Conley	N Blakemore		T Chivers	
F de Rhé Philipe	R Brown		D Drewett	
K Humphries	D Jenkins		J Osborn	
G Payne	G King		H Osborn	

Licensing Committee (12)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
A Bucknell	D Allen	-	G Jeans	-
S Evans	N Blakemore			
J Green	T Carbin			
M Hewitt	C Caswill			
S Jacobs				
L Randall				
P Ridout				
Substitutes:			Fogg	
E Bryant	G Ansell		E Clark	
A Davis	B Douglas		D Drewett	
H Greenman	J Hubbard		J Osborn	
W Moss	M Macdonald			

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (13)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
C Crisp	J Hubbard	J Walsh	J Osborn	-
S Dobson	S Killane			
A Hill	G King			
J Lay	M Packard			
P Ridout				
B Wayman				
R While				
Substitutes:				
M Douglas	G Ansell	R Rogers	R Hawker	
J Noeken	B Dalton		G Jeans	
P Oatway	H McKeown		H Osborn	
P Whalley	I Thorn		E Clark	

Children's Select Committee (13)

Conservative Group (8)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
M Champion	P Aves	R Rogers	H Osborn	-
M Douglas	J Hubbard			
S Evans	C Hurst			
J Lay				
S Jacobs				
W Moss				
S Parker				
P Whalley				
Substitutes:				
C Berry	D Allen	J Walsh	T Chivers	
C Crisp	N Blakemore		D Drewett	
A Davis	D Jenkins		R Hawker	
S Dobson	H Mckeown		J Osborn	

Environment Select Committee (13)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
P Evans	R Brown	I McLennan	D Drewett	
J Green	B Dalton			
M Groom	P Edge			
A Hill	M Macdonald			
H Pricket				
J Sheppard				
B Wayman				
Substitutes:				
A Deane	B Jones	I Tomes	T Chivers	
J Lay	S Oldrieve		N Fogg	
C Newbury	N Watts		G Jeans	
P Whalley	I West		J Osborn	

Health Select Committee (13)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (4)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
M Champion	C Caswill	R Rogers	J Osborn	
C Crisp	B Jones			
M Douglas	G King			
J Noeken	H Mckeown			
S Parker				
N Philips				
P Ridout				
Substitutes:	P Aves	I McLennan	T Chivers	
C Berry	R Brown		D Drewett	
S Evans	D Jenkins		R Hawker	
J Johnson	M Packard		H Osborn	
J Knight				

Standards Committee (12)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (1)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
A Bucknell	D Allen	I Tomes	T Chivers	
H Greenman	T Carbin			
J Johnson	H Marshall			
J Noeken				
P Oatway				
H Pricket				
C Williams				
Substitutes:				
M Douglas	R Brown	J Walsh	E Clark	
S Parker	C Caswill		D Drewett	
P Ridout	C Hurst		R Hawker	
R While	S Killane		G Jeans	

Police and Crime Panel (7)

Conservative Group (4)	Liberal Democrat Group (2)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
R Britton	G Ansell	-	R Hawker	
C Howard	L Packard			
P Hutton				
J Johnson				
Substitutes:	T Carbin		E Clark	
C Berry	C Caswill		D Drewett	
S Evans	P Edge		N Fogg	
T Trotman	I Thorn		J Osborn	

Audit Committee (12)

Conservative Group (7)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (1)
R Britton	D Jenkins	-	H Osborn	D Pollitt
A Deane	S Oldrieve			
S Dobson	L Packard			
H Greenman				
J Johnson				
S Parker				
J Sheppard				
Substitutes:				
P Evans	T Carbin		T Chivers	
M Hewitt	C Caswill		N Fogg	
J Lay	P Edge		G Jeans	
J Noeken	C Hurst		J Osborn	

Appeals Committee (8)

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (0)	UKIP (0)
C Berry	D Allen	-	-	-
A Bucknell	N Blakemore			
A Davis	B Douglas			
A Deane				
S Parker				
Substitutes:				
M Hewitt	P Aves			
J Knight	B Dalton			
P Oatway	I West			
F Westmoreland				

Staffing Policy Committee (9)

Conservative Group (5)	Liberal Democrat Group (3)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (0)	UKIP (1)
A Bucknell	J Hubbard	-	-	D. Pollitt
M Hewitt	D Jenkins			
J Scott	G King			
J Smale				
S Wheeler				
Substitutes:	D Allen			
F de Rhé Philipe	R Brown			
P Evans	M Packard			
W Moss	I Thorn			
A Trotman				

Officer Appointments Committee (5)

Conservative Group (3)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (1)	UKIP (0)
F de Rhe Philipe	J Hubbard	-	N Fogg	-
J Scott				
J Thomson				
Substitutes:				
K Humphries	P Edge		T Chivers	
L Mayes	B Jones		D Drewett	
J Seed	M Macdonald		G Jeans	
S Wheeler	H McKeown		J Osborn	

Pension Fund Committee (5)

Conservative Group (4)	Liberal Democrat Group (1)	Labour Group (0)	Independent (0)	UKIP (0)
A Deane	M Packard	-	-	-
C Howard				
S Parker				
G Payne				
Substitutes:				
F de Rhe Philippe	D Jenkins			
R While	I Thorn			
P Whitehead	G Wright			

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