

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: **Annual Council**
Place: **Council Chamber - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN**
Date: **Tuesday 13 May 2014**
Time: **10.30 am**

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on **2 May 2014** and indicated that the reports detailed below would be to follow. These 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

9 **Notices of Motion: Recognition of Trade Union Rights - Councillors Jeff Osborn and Terry Chivers** (*Pages 1 - 4*)

Report attached to assist Council in its consideration of this motion.

APPOINTMENTS

10 **Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups and Appointment of Committees** (*Pages 5 - 6*)

A proposed schedule of committee places as agreed with Group Leaders.

12 **Constitutional Changes Recommended by the Standards Committee** (*Pages 7 - 10*)

An updated version of Part 12A is attached.

MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES

16 **Minutes of Cabinet and Committees** (*Pages 11 - 14*)

Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting on 29 April 2014.

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

18 **Councillors' Questions** (*Pages 15 - 24*)

Questions from Councillors Terry Chivers, Jeff Osborn, Graham Payne and George Jeans, together with responses.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 9 May 2014 (updated)

Wiltshire Council

Annual Council

13 May 2014

Notice of Motion – Recognition of Trade Union Rights

From Councillors Jeff Osborn and Terry

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the motion to be raised by Cllrs Jeff Osborn and Terry Chivers at the next full council meeting on 13 May 2014 regarding trade union recognition being included in all future tenders.

Main Considerations

2. Under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE), trade union recognition agreements transfer where the transferred group of employees maintains an "identity distinct" from the remainder of the transferee's undertaking after the transfer (regulation 6(1), TUPE).
3. The term "identity distinct" has been defined as requiring the group of transferred employees to have the power to govern itself without the direct intervention of the transferee. If the group of staff, therefore, is reorganised and fully integrated into the transferee's business on transfer, union recognition will not transfer. The transferred employees can still retain their union membership even if the trade union is not recognised.
4. There is also a statutory process, entirely separate to TUPE, where the unions, if certain conditions are met, can require an employer to recognise them for collective consultation processes. In any event, employees have a statutory right to be represented by a colleague or union representative in certain processes such as disciplinary and grievance procedures.
5. The International Labour Conventions merely state that employees should have the freedom of association to join a trade union and the right not to suffer a detriment if they do so. All employees currently have these rights by virtue of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Employees still have the right to join a trade union whether a union is recognised by their employer or not.

6. Section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988 (LGA 1988) requires a local authority to avoid the inclusion of “non-commercial” considerations in its tender documents. This has been much amended since 1988 to allow, for instance, inclusion of criteria related to the Equalities Act. However, it still contains as a prohibited non-commercial consideration “the terms and conditions of employment by contractors of their workers or composition of, the arrangements for the promotion, transfer or training of or the other opportunities afforded to, their workforces” except to the extent that it is necessary to take this into account to allow an authority to meet its duty to ensure continuous improvement in the way it exercises its functions.
7. The Public Contract Regulations 2006 (PCR) are a transposition of an EU directive and as such sit higher in the interpretative hierarchy than the 1988 Act. Regulations 23 and 45 do provide limited mandatory grounds for excluding prospective tenderers from tenders. These grounds relate generally to insolvency, criminal wrong-doing or grave professional misconduct. Matters in relation to employee/union relations are not in this list. It is very unlikely that a Court would rule that the non-recognition of unions by a private employer would amount to grave professional misconduct such as to justify exclusion from a tender.
8. Further, (and mirroring to some extent the LGA 1988 section 17 provision referred to in paragraph 6 above) regulation 30 (2) requires that evaluation of tenders is done using criteria that are “linked to the subject matter of the contract”. Regulation 30 (2) does give a list of things that are linked to the subject matter of the contract, which includes such things as “technical merit”, “running costs”, “quality” etc. There is, however, nothing in the list that makes any reference to a tenderer’s organisation of its workforce.
9. Case law shows that evaluation criteria which are not specifically in this list (or are otherwise made good evaluation criteria by other parts of the regulations, such as environmental considerations), and which go beyond a proportionate reflection of the authority's legitimate requirements in connection with the contract, are likely to be prohibited by the regulations. Requirements which are applied to economic operators' business activities as a whole, as opposed to the service, goods or works to be supplied under the contract, run a high risk of being prohibited by the regulations.
10. In terms of any future considerations to outsource staff, it would be very difficult to enforce trade union recognition for the following reasons:

- Evaluation criteria for tenders are very specific and trade union recognition is not a valid evaluation criteria.
- There is also the likelihood that requiring trade union recognition may deter some tenderers from bidding, particularly small employers or those who do not currently have a unionised workforce.
- Furthermore, it may affect the cost of any bid as there would be some additional costs for any new providers in relation to requirements to provide facilities and other financial support as outlined in any recognition agreement.

Financial implications

11. As outlined above the requirement to recognise trade unions may increase the cost of the contract and may limit the number of contractors who are prepared to bid.

Legal Implications

12. Legal considerations are set out in the body of the report.
13. The introduction of a non-commercial consideration such as is proposed is likely to be held by a Court to be prohibited by the legislation rendering the tender process unlawful.

Conclusion

14. There are already statutory processes for considering union recognition during the TUPE process and with contracting parties.
15. There is already statutory protection for employees' freedom of association to join a union and for union representation for employees within certain employment processes.
16. However, in terms of any future contracts it would not be possible within the current statutory framework to use as evaluation criteria a public commitment to recognise Trade Unions for collective bargaining purposes.

Recommendation

17. Council is asked to consider its response to the proposed motion in the light of the legal advice contained in this report.

.Ian Gibbons
Associate Director Law & Governance

Report author: Frank Cain, Head of Legal Services

SCHEDULE OF COMMITTEE PLACES

Committee	Total Number of Places for Elected Members	Conservative Group Allocation (59 seats)	Liberal Democrat Group Allocation (24 seats)	Labour Group Allocation (4 seats)	Independent Group Allocation (10 seats)	UKIP (1 seat)
Strategic Planning	11	7	3	-	1	-
Area Planning Committees						
North	11	7	3	-	1	-
South	11	6	2	2	1	-
East	8	7	-	-	1	-
West	11	7	2	-	2	-
Licensing	12	7	3	-	2	-
Overview and Scrutiny Management	15	8	4	1	2	-
Children's Select	13	8	3	1	1	-
Environment Select	13	7	4	1	1	-
Health Select	13	7	3	1	2	-
Standards	11	7	3	-	1	-
Police and Crime Panel	7	4	2	-	1	-
Audit	11	6	3	-	1	1
Appeals	8	5	2	1	-	-
Staffing Policy	9	5	3	-	-	1
Officer Appointments	5	3	1	-	1	-
Pension Fund	5	4	1	-	-	-
TOTALS:	174	105	42	7	18	2

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Part 12-4A – Role and Function of the Corporate Parenting Panel and the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

Corporate Parenting Panel

Composition

The Corporate Parenting Panel will comprise up to 12-8 elected councillors ~~nominated by group leaders~~ politically balanced and nominated by group leaders.

Group leaders may also appoint substitute members to cover absences.

Role and Function

To secure councillor involvement and commitment throughout the council to deliver better outcomes for children and young people who are looked after.

To ensure that corporate parenting is a key mechanism by which councillors and officers can ensure that for children and young people in its care, Wiltshire Council is providing:

- warm, welcoming and safe accommodation
- high quality care, nurturing supportive and meaningful relationships that encourage the growth of self-esteem, confidence and resilience, enabling young people to cope with change and difficult times
- the highest standard of education for all and consistent with the needs and abilities of the child
- opportunities and encouragement for self-development and keeping fit and healthy
- encouragement to take up hobbies, acquiring life skills and being a good citizen
- assistance with transition from care to looking after themselves, including the provision of suitable accommodation
- placement stability that will avoid disruption and maintain continuity of care, education placements and relationships.

The Corporate Parenting Panel will:

- undertake regular monitoring of the outcomes associated with these priorities
- make a commitment to prioritising the needs of looked-after children and young people and their carers
- receive reports from the Children in Care Council and act on their views

- provide clear strategic and political direction in relation to corporate parenting
- show ambition and aspirations for all looked-after children and care leavers
- ensure that all councillors and Wiltshire Council departments are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities as corporate parents proactively. This may involve, for example, the Corporate Parenting Panel organising specific education and training events for all members to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to be corporate parents
- receive regular/annual reports on the level and quality of services to looked-after children and care leavers
- promote achievement and acknowledge the aspirations of children and young people looked after by supporting celebration events
- investigate on behalf of all councillors ways in which the role of corporate parenting can be improved, using examples from other local authorities
- listen to the views of children, young people and their carers to involve them in the assessment and development of services
- engage with children and young people who are looked after, or have left care, by inviting them to act as advisers to the Panel
- meet with government inspectors, where appropriate, for their input into inspections
- ~~anticipate~~participate as members of the adoption and fostering panel
- champion the provision of council-based work experience placements and apprenticeships for looked after young people
- agree a work plan, review progress, membership of the panel and attainment of its role and terms of reference and report to the Cabinet and Children's Services Select Committee as appropriate, and in any case to the Full Council annually.

Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

1. Background

In response to the April 2012 Ofsted report on Safeguarding and Looked After Children a number of recommendations were put to Cabinet in 18 June 2013. Cabinet agreed to establish a Safeguarding and Young People Panel. This would be in addition to the robust scrutiny of safeguarding, undertaken by the Children's Select Committee or a task group. The Panel should run in a similar manner to the Corporate Parenting Panel, in the following ways:

- Membership to include both members and officers;
- Close liaison with the broad range of teams and local agencies involving parents, children and young people (when appropriate) to develop policy; and
- A clearly defined and mutually agreed distinction between the Panel's liaising role and the monitoring and scrutinising role of Scrutiny.

2. Purpose

The Panel's purpose will be to secure councillor involvement and commitment throughout the council to deliver better outcomes to ensure that all Wiltshire children and young people are safe.

3. Structure of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

The Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel will comprise up to 8 elected councillors politically balanced and nominated by group leaders.

Group leaders may also appoint substitute members to cover absences.

The Cabinet member with responsibility for Children's Services will be an observer to the meeting.

The Associate Director and other relevant Council Officers will be part of the Panel, including front line Social Workers.

Core members will include:

- Health Visitors/ School Nurses
- Child protection Social Workers
- Wiltshire Police
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

Relevant partner agencies and children and young people and their families/carers would be invited to attend as appropriate.

4. Responsibilities of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel

The Safeguarding Panel is a key mechanism by which councillors and officers can ensure that children and young people are safe by:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

5. Chairing

The Panel will be chaired by the Lead Member for Children's Services' designated representative. The Vice Chair will be appointed by the Panel.

6. Administration

- Democratic Services, Wiltshire Council will be responsible for the preparation of the agenda in consultation with the Chairman and relevant officers and minutes for the meetings of the Panel.
- The agenda and papers will be issued in advance of the meeting.

7. Cancellation of Meetings

Meetings where not required may be cancelled following consultation with the Chairman.

8. Links with existing groups

The Panel will maintain links with other bodies with a focus on safeguarding children. These should include but not be limited to:

- Cabinet
- LSCB
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Children's Trust Commissioning Executive
- Complex Families Project Board
- Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Commissioning Group
- 13 to 19 Strategy Board
- Children in Care Commissioning Group
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Wiltshire Association of Secondary Heads
- Primary Heads Forum

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 APRIL 2014 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Desna Allen, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Mr Philip Gill MBE JP, Cllr Julian Johnson (Chairman), Mr Paul Neale, Cllr Paul Oatway, Cllr Sheila Parker (Substitute), Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr Pip Ridout (Substitute), Cllr Ian Tomes and Miss Pam Turner

11 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allison Bucknell, Howard Greenman, Howard Marshall, John Noeken and Mr John Scragg.

Councillor Bucknell was substituted by Councillor Sheila Parker.

Councillor Noeken was substituted by Councillor Pip Ridout.

12 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2014 were presented for consideration, and it was,

Resolved:

To APPROVE as a true and correct record and sign the minutes.

13 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

14 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

15 **Public Participation and Questions**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

16 **Recommendations and Update from the Constitution Focus Group**

The Monitoring Officer introduced the reports and recommendations from the Constitution Focus Group on Part 4 of the Constitution in relation to Petitions, Part 9 - Financial Regulations and Procedure Rules - and Part 12A in relation to the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel.

In discussing Petitions it was explained that with the repeal of the underpinning Act of Parliament, the Council's statutory petition scheme had lapsed, and the Constitution Focus Group had considered what details should be retained or added to the discretionary petition scheme. The Focus Group had recommended that once petitions reach a specific threshold they should be able to trigger specific actions such as a council debate, and that the previous thresholds had been too high. The Focus Group had therefore recommended new thresholds, as well as clarifying the rules on e-petitions and who was eligible to sign a petition.

It was clarified that the changes to Part 9 were largely to remove duplication with other parts of the Constitution and updates to reflect council practice, management structure and legislative changes.

The changes to Part 12A of the Constitution were stated to incorporate details of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Panel established by Cabinet as part of its acceptance of the recommendations of the Safeguarding Task Group. This provides consistency in approach as this Panel runs parallel to the Corporate Parenting Panel.

The Committee discussed the proposed changes, requesting details of how population would be determined for the community areas and the associated thresholds for petition actions. In relation to Part 9 members were assured that with removal of information from Part 9 that other parts of the Constitution contained the relevant details on Overview and Scrutiny.

The Monitoring Officer then updated the Committee on progress of the work to revise Part 3 of the Constitution - Responsibility for Functions and Scheme of Delegation - which would be brought forward for the Committee's approval at a future date.

At the conclusion of debate, it was,

Resolved:

To recommend that Council adopt the proposed revisions to Part 4, Part 9 and Part 12A of the Constitution.

17 **Review of Whistleblowing Complaints Procedure**

The Head of Governance presented a report on the review of the Whistleblowing Complaints Procedure, noting the current procedure had been in place for 8 years, with minor amendments in 2012 and 2013 following internal

reviews and requests from the Care Quality Commission, such as the inclusion of external regulator contract details.

In 2013 a Whistleblowing Commission was established to examine the effectiveness of whistleblowing policies, recommending the introduction of a statutory code of practice for whistleblowing arrangements. The Head of Governance explained that the recommendations made by the Commission, including the maintenance of confidentiality where requested and clear assurance to staff about protection from reprisal, formed part of the Wiltshire arrangements for many years, and it was not anticipated that a statutory code would result in any significant changes to the council's existing policy.

The Committee discussed the report, requesting further details about contact information for whistleblowing, and the difference between reporting a grievance and the need to blow the whistle. In response to queries it was stated that while despite assurances some staff might fear reprisal for whistleblowing, the council's policy made it a disciplinary offence to victimise a whistleblower.

At the end of debate, it was,

Resolved:

To note the report.

18 Update on Review of the Effectiveness of Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure

The Head of Governance introduced a report on the review of the effectiveness of Code of Conducts Complaints procedure, with details in the report on the number of complaints received and the actions taken.

The Committee discussed the report, and noted that since the implementation of the new standards regime, no complaint in Wiltshire taken under the new system had been referred for investigation. The Committee felt that this could result in public perception of the new system as ineffective, and further work was required to look at the system operation in depth to properly assess its effectiveness.

At the end of discussion, it was,

Resolved:

To arrange a seminar as soon as possible for members of the Committee and any other Wiltshire Councillors who wish to attend, together with the council's three Independent Persons and Mr Paul Hoey of Hoey Ainscough Associates Ltd. to review the operation and effectiveness of the standards regime and consider whether any changes to the current system are appropriate.

19 **Forward Plan**

The proposed forward plan was noted, with the addition that an update would be provided to the Committee following the meeting proposed under minute 18.

It was also noted that a briefing on the constitutional changes recommended to Council would be held on 6 May.

20 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 2.50 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

Wiltshire Council

Council

13 May 2014

Item 18 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Terry Chivers, Melksham Without North Division

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

Question 1

At the Strategic Planning Committee, on 16th April, the Conservative Group voted on block to refuse the application for a solar farm at Sandridge.

Can you assure me and the residents of Wiltshire that applications aren't being decided on party lines, and every application is decided solely on planning issues?

Response

I attended the meeting on 16th April and I can give the assurance that for the Conservative Members on the Committee, every application is determined solely on planning issues.

Item 18 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division

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

Question 2

Please can I be told that why after all the promises made, BBLP have once again failed to provide the residents of my division with a decent and reliable grass cutting service?

Response

As you are aware WC officers and BBLP spent a lot of time earlier in the year producing definitive maps of all grass cutting areas and issued these to the town and parish councils so that they too would have a definitive record.

From these definitive maps BBLP were tasked with producing grass cutting schedules and identifying the resource they would apply to each area. BBLP did this, showing the levels that would be applied to each area, north, south, east and west. During our regular service meetings with BBLP we expressed concern about the resource being allocated to the West, and to a lesser extent the South. We made it clear to BBLP that we did not think enough resource was being applied to the West.

However, this is a service contract, and we can only determine the outcome of the service not the input. We therefore monitored the situation through the first cut of the year and into the second cut of the year.

Because of our concerns about resource levels, and through our regular weekly review meetings, we elicited a number of response measures that would be invoked if BBLP were to fall behind the agreed schedules.

At the end of cut 1 BBLP were on schedule in the East and the North, but behind in both the West and the South. However the situation was redeemable so we did not invoke the special measures agreed.

During the last week of April our concerns increased re the West falling further behind so on 30th April we requested that the special measures be invoked immediately. Additional teams were employed over the bank holiday weekend at the start of May and by 7th May an additional 3 teams of grass cutters, 9 personal, were allocated to the West to bring it back to schedule. This additional resource will be

provided for the foreseeable future to support grass cutting across the county to ensure appropriate standards are maintained.

The impact of these additional teams could be seen immediately and we will remain until the schedules and all back on time.

Wiltshire Council

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Item 18 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Jeff Osborn, Trowbridge Grove Division

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

Question 3

Will Balfour Beatty Living Places publicly apologise to the residents of Trowbridge for repeated failures to provide an effective grass cutting service?

Should this aspect of the overall Balfour Beatty contract be curtailed?

Response

BBLP apologise, both to Trowbridge residents, and to the Council for any inconvenience caused by any service shortfall in grass cutting in and around Trowbridge. We have now trebled the resources in the area, and are totally committed to providing an excellent service to Wiltshire Council. We will continue to invest more time, more people and more machines until the end of the season.

My comments:

The grass cutting element is a very small part of the contract. Grass cutting in many areas has been delivered in line with the contractual requirements. The implications of changing the grass cutting service arrangements would have considerable financial and contractual implications to the council. The contract has processes and procedures to manage services not delivering to the contract requirements. Corrective action is the most appropriate action to take when issues arise. Balfour Beatty Living Places have given assurances that the grass cutting arrangements will be delivered in line with the contractual requirements across the county.

Item 18 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Graham Payne, Trowbridge Drynham Division

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

Question 4

Do you think that Trowbridge will win the "Dandelions in Bloom" competition this year or is it your viewpoint that it would be better for the Town to be entered in the "Best Kept Roadside Verge" category?

Response

By the time judging takes place the Dandelions will no longer be there so we suggest collecting as many as possible now and using one of the following recipes:

Dandelion Wine (2)

- 2 qts dandelion flowers
- 3 lbs granulated sugar
- 4 oranges
- 1 gallon water
- yeast and nutrient

This is the traditional "Midday Dandelion Wine" of old, named because the flowers must be picked at midday when they are fully open. Pick the flowers and bring into the kitchen. Set one gallon of water to boil. While it heats up to a boil, remove as much of the green material from the flower heads as possible (the original recipe calls for two quarts of petals only, but this will work as long as you end up with two quarts of prepared flowers). Pour the boiling water over the flowers, cover with cloth, and leave to steep for two days. Do not exceed two days. Pour the mixture back into a pot and bring to a boil. Add the peelings from the four oranges (again, no white pith) and boil for ten minutes. Strain through a muslin cloth or bag onto a crock or plastic pail containing the sugar, stirring to dissolve. When cool, add the juice of the oranges, the yeast and yeast nutrient. Pour into secondary fermentation vessel, fit fermentation trap, and allow to ferment completely. Rack and bottle when wine clears and again when no more lees form for 60 days. Allow it to age six months in the bottle before tasting, but a year will improve it vastly. This wine has less body than the first recipe produces, but every bit as much flavour (some say more!).

Dandelion Fritters

For the fritters you only need the tops which are very easy to pick. Do pick them in the sunshine when they are open, and when you have time to make the fritters right after gathering. Bring your basket of flowers inside, find a bowl, and mix together one egg and one cup of milk. Stir in a cup of flour and your fritter batter is ready to go. (If you like your fritters sweet you can add a little maple syrup or honey.)

Now, prepare a skillet on the stove with gently warmed olive oil – keep it over medium heat. Take one of the flowers and hold it by the greens at the base of the flower petals. Dip the petals into the batter and twirl until the flower is covered.

Drop it into the skillet, flower side down. Continue dipping and dropping flowers, checking the first ones every once in a while to see if they are brown. When they've lightly browned, flip them over and brown them on the other side. When they're brown on both sides remove them from the skillet and drain the excess oil on paper towel.

For a sweet treat, drizzle them with maple syrup, honey, jam, or powdered sugar. For savoury fritters try dipping in mustard or adding some savoury herbs to the batter.

Enjoy!

Item 18 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor Graham Payne, Trowbridge Drynham Division

To Councillor Jane Scott OBE, Leader of the Council

Question 5

Could you outline the recent successes of the Local Enterprise Partnership together with a report on the strategy to take this organisation forward? What specific benefits have accrued for Trowbridge as a result of LEP activities?

Response

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (S&WLEP) is one of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships established by business and local authorities and approved by government. The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership comprises of 8 private sector board members and the 2 Local Authority Leaders, plus a representative from the Higher Education/Further Education sector and the military (43 Wessex Brigade).

To date the S&WLEP has delivered the Growing Places Infrastructure Fund, a £10 million revolving fund that is currently supporting the delivery of 3 Wiltshire projects: Gateway to Growth, a £1 million fund to provide business support including a web based portal and intensive support for growth, focusing on development of; new markets, products and processes, leadership and management capacity. In the first round, 4 local businesses were provided with support, and further rounds are available. Additionally, Wiltshire Council and S&WLEP are working to deliver 'The Enterprise Network', providing incubation space and business support for local businesses.

Currently, S&WLEP is working to develop its Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), setting out the schemes and infrastructure necessary to deliver economic growth through Swindon and Wiltshire. From this, the S&WLEP will negotiate with government its allocation of the Local Growth Fund which constitutes a competitive £10bn funding source for strategic infrastructure projects delivered between 2015 and 2021. As part of this, work is ongoing to establish the governance procedures, including the democratic mandate of the two Local Authorities which is being developed from the initial proposition outlined in the bid to establish S&WLEP, submitted in 2011.

While many schemes as mentioned above are LEP-wide, some bring specific benefits to Trowbridge including:

- Gateway To Growth, which has selected Trowbridge based Wessex Chamber of Commerce as its delivery partner

- White Horse Business Centre at Ashton Court Trowbridge, which is one of the centres in The Enterprise Network. Currently 4 businesses are utilising space at the centre, and through the support scheme 96 businesses have been supported across the 4 centres.

In addition, the Strategic Economic Plan, with reference to Trowbridge specifically, sets out the LEPs bid for £8.74million of Local Growth Funding to support essential transport infrastructure across Trowbridge. These projects seek to ensure that the Trowbridge transport network is developed sustainably to accommodate the future growth of the town and will help lever in an additional £8.84million in private sector contributions. In particular, proposed improvements to the West Ashton/Yarnbrook junctions are expected to create around 1470 jobs, opening up land for employment and housing. The SEP also makes provision for strategic improvements to both the local road network, sustainable transport network and the local rail network, supporting the sustainable development of Wiltshire as a whole up to 2026. These projects collectively amount to over £36million of Local Growth Fund matched by over £35million of private sector contribution.

Details of what this will comprise will be available once negotiations are concluded, but the first version of the Strategic Economic Plan is available at:

<http://www.swlep.biz/docs/1>

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13 May 2014

Item 18 - Councillors' Questions

From Councillor George Jeans, Mere Division

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

Question 6

I am confused about Area Board Funding for 2014-15.

I am proud of what Area Boards have achieved as I know many Councillors would be. I welcomed the impression during the Budget debate that the Area Board Funding would be maintained at the same level as 2013-14.

However I find that SWWAB has been allocated £56,800 (Capital & Revenue) this year, the similar figure for 2013-14 was £96,467 i.e the amount is reduced by some £40K this year.

I have taken last years' amount from the summary attached to the delegated decision reference ACCH-001-13.

The Budget book for this year has the same amount of £1,027,000 as the prior year for Capital Funding, how can this be?

Would it be possible to have the breakdown of Area Board Funding in a similar format to that produced in Spring of 2013 as part of the delegated decision at the time, as it appears that Administration has substantially reduced the base monies of Area Board funding for this year.

Response

The total funding allocated to Area Boards is £1 million in line with Council's budget setting process. However Area Board funding varies from year to year for a number of factors. Last year's allocation included some one off grants for youth funding initiatives, Rural Support Funding and Digital Literacy Funding as well as one off funding for CATG Community Speed initiatives. This year further funding may be allocated following the conclusion of the Youth Services Review when that has been considered by Cabinet. The allocations per Area Board for this year are as follows

2014 Allocation :

Area Board	Capital	Revenue	CATG	Total
Amesbury	57,519.51	£10,151	17,731	85,401
Bradford on Avon	32,922.54	£5,810	10,062	48,795
Calne	38,536.98	£6,801	12,465	57,803
Chippenham	78,525.62	£13,857	18,087	110,470
Corsham	34,938.68	£6,166	10,951	52,055
Devizes	58,551.41	£10,333	15,751	84,635
Malmesbury	34,527.87	£6,093	13,360	53,981
Marlborough	35,437.57	£6,254	13,615	55,307
Melksham	47,438.90	£8,372	13,225	69,035
Pewsey	29,392.01	£5,187	12,377	46,956
Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade	49,892.98	£8,805	14,205	72,903
Salisbury	75,926.93	£13,399	14,758	104,084
Southern Wiltshire	37,335.35	£6,589	13,676	57,600
South West Wiltshire	48,299.52	£8,523	17,079	73,902
Tidworth	38,300.43	£6,759	11,757	56,816
Trowbridge	75,942.18	£13,402	15,354	104,698
Warminster	44,968.33	£7,936	15,226	68,130
Westbury	31,543.19	£5,566	10,320	47,430
TOTALS	850,000	150,000	250,000	1,250,000