

AGENDA

Meeting: Joint Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee Meeting

Place: Council Chamber, County Hall, Trowbridge

Date: Tuesday 16 February 2010

Time: 10.30 am

*******Briefing Arrangements*******

**For the Chairman and Vice Chairman of each Select Committee
Monday 15th February at 10:00am Committee Room 3**

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Ros Low, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718372 or email Ros.low@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

Membership:

Overview & Scrutiny Management & Resources Select Committee

Membership:

Cllr Nigel Carter
Cllr Chris Caswill
Cllr Tony Deane (Vice Chair)
Cllr Christopher Devine
Cllr Peter Doyle
Cllr Nick Fogg
Cllr Charles Howard

Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Jeff Osborn (Chairman)
Cllr Bill Roberts
Cllr Ricky Rogers
Cllr Judy Rooke
Cllr Jonathon Seed

Environment Select Committee

Membership:

Cllr Chuck Berry
Cllr Rosemary Brown (Vice Chair)
Cllr Nigel Carter
Cllr Brian Dalton
Cllr Peter Doyle
Cllr Jose Green
Cllr Mollie Groom (Chairman)

Cllr Alan Hill
Cllr Chris Humphries
Cllr Tom James MBE
Cllr Ian McLennan
Cllr Stephen Oldrieve
Cllr Leo Randall

Children's Services Select Committee

Membership:

Cllr Paul Darby
Cllr Andrew Davis
Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Peter Fuller
Cllr Mark Griffiths
Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr J Hubbard (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Peter Hutton
Cllr Jacqui Lay
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Helen Osborn
Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Carole Soden (Chairman)

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Mr Neil Owen
Mrs Rosheen Ryan
Dr Mike Thompson

Non-Elected Non-Voting Members:

Di Dale
Chris Dark
Mrs Judith Finney
John Hawkins
Chris King

Health & Adult Social Care Committee

Membership:

Cllr Chuck Berry
Cllr Jane Burton
Cllr Peter Colmer
Cllr Christine Crisp
Cllr Peter Davis
Cllr Mike Hewitt (Chairman)
Cllr Malcolm Hewson
Cllr Peter Hutton
Cllr Tom James MBE
Cllr Simon Killane
Cllr Nina Phillips
Cllr Pip Ridout (Vice Chairman)
Cllr William Roberts

Stakeholders:

Wiltshire Involvement Network:

Dr Peter Biggs
Phil Matthews (Chairman – WIN)

Wiltshire & Swindon User's Network:

Brian Warwick

AGENDA

1. **Election of Chairman for the Meeting**

2. **Apologies and Membership**

3. **Public Participation**

This meeting is open to members of the public who may ask a question or make a statement. Written notice of questions or statements should be given to the Head of Democratic Services by 12.00 noon on Friday 12 February. Anyone wishing to ask a question or make a statement should contact the officer named above. Speakers are limited to two minutes.

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. The Chairman will, however, exercise discretion in order to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to contribute.

4. **Explanation of Proceedings**

A report explaining the background, purpose and proceedings of this meeting is enclosed.

5. **2010/11 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme**

10.45am: the Leader of the Council will present the 2010/11 budget recommendation by Cabinet and provide the context and rationale for the proposals.

11.15am the chairman of the joint committee will invite councillors to consider and comment on what the leader has said and on the overall budget recommendation.

Cabinet members will then be invited to briefly highlight any particular issues associated with their part of the draft budget followed by questions on each department's budget proposals, as in the order listed below:

11.15am: Department of Children and Education
11.40am: Department of Community Services
12.05pm: Department of Neighbourhood and Planning
12.30pm: Department of Public Health and Wellbeing
12.55pm: Department of Resources and Chief Executive
1.20pm: Any other strategic and operational matters

1.30pm: the chairman of the joint meeting to summarise the main points, and to close the meeting.

The following documents from the 11 February Cabinet meeting have been circulated and will be relied on as evidence for the debate:

- (i) Revenue Budget Proposals 2010-11
- (ii) Capital Programme Proposals 2010-11 to 2012-13
- (iii) Fees and Charges
- (iv) Treasury Management Strategy
- (v) Housing Revenue Account Budget Proposals 2010-11
- (vi) Cabinet 2010/11 budget recommendation - to follow

The papers can be found on the Wiltshire Council website using the following link:

<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=249&Ver=4>

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE 16 FEBRUARY 2010

BUDGET SCRUTINY – EXPLANATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Purpose of the Report

1. To clarify the purpose of the joint overview and scrutiny budget meeting and how it will run.

Background

2. It goes without saying that the annual budget, and therefore the setting of the council tax, is one of the most important decisions which the Council is tasked with making each year.
3. The overall aim of this joint meeting is for non-executive councillors to have the opportunity to question the Leader and Cabinet on the content, pressures and rationale of the draft budget before it is put to the full council for agreement.
4. Councillors will recall that a similar event took place last year during transition and for a number of previous years in the County Council.
5. The Budget & Performance Scrutiny Task Group (of the Management & Resources Select Committee) considered an approach for this year and agreed that the new unitary council should continue with a joint meeting of the select committees which complements Scrutiny's monitoring of the budget throughout the year. This approach is regarded as a model of good practice and Wiltshire has received a number of enquiries from other authorities about its arrangements.
6. Rather than create a burdensome and bureaucratic model for the coming together of the four scrutiny select committees, essentially the committees are meeting to consider the draft budget in unison. The first item of business will be for councillors to elect a chairman for the meeting.
7. The intentional outcome of this joint meeting is to submit a summary of the views expressed and for these to be taken into account by Council at its meeting on 23 February 2010 when agreeing the 2010/2011 budget.

Evidence and Informed Discussion

8. Councillors will be familiar with the need for any discussion, conclusions and recommendations arising from a scrutiny exercise to be informed and evidence based.
9. Consequently, if any councillor wishes to make a proposal on the content of the Cabinet recommendation, s/he should be able to demonstrate credible evidence

for the proposal. The case for a proposal will need to be strong enough to convince the joint meeting to support such a recommendation, and to stand up to challenge at the Council meeting on the 23 February.

10. Equally, councillors will be familiar with the need to focus their questions on strategic and operational matters when considering matters of budget and policy. To assist you in directing your questions at the meeting, a list of the Executive councillor responsibilities is appended to this report.

Roles and Responsibilities

11. The Leader of the Council will be invited to present the overall budget recommendation by the Cabinet and to provide the context and rationale for the proposals.
12. Councillors will then be given the opportunity to question the Leader based on the evidence presented. She can be supported in answering questions by the Deputy Leader / or Chief Executive.
13. Based on the order set out in paragraph 18 below, Cabinet members will be invited to briefly highlight any particular issues associated with their part of the draft budget that they feel would be helpful to the debate.
14. Councillors will then be given the opportunity to question the respective Cabinet members based on the evidence presented. He/she can be supported in answering questions by the relevant portfolio holder(s) and / or Corporate / Service Director.

Budget Material

15. Budget reports written for Cabinet's 11 February meeting in preparation for the setting of the 2010/2011 budget have been circulated. Councillors will need to bring their copy with them to the joint meeting. The Cabinet's budget recommendation from the meeting will be circulated as soon as it is available.

Order of Debate & Procedure

16. The meeting will be based on the normal rules of procedure and debate as are set out in the council's constitution.
17. In consultation with the chairman and vice chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Management & Resources Select Committee, the meeting has been structured around the following themes and will proceed according to the approximate timings indicated:
 - 10.45am: the Leader of the Council to present the 2010/11 overall budget recommendation by Cabinet.
 - 11.15am the chairman of the joint committee to invite questions and comments from councillors on the budget recommendation for each department in the following order:

11.15am: *Department of Children and Education*
11.40am: *Department of Community Services*
12.05pm: *Department of Neighbourhood and Planning*
12.30pm: *Department of Public Health and Wellbeing*
12.55pm: *Department of Resources and Chief Executive*
1.20pm: *Any other strategic and operational matters*

1.30pm: the chairman of the joint meeting to summarise the main points, and to close the meeting.

Conclusion

18. A summary of the comments made at this meeting will be submitted to Council for it to consider on 23 February as part of the budget setting debate.

IAN GIBBONS
HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Report Author: Ros Low, Scrutiny Officer, 01225 718372

No unpublished documents have been relied upon for the writing of this report

Cabinet

Jane Scott	Leader of the Council
John Thomson	Deputy Leader
John Brady	Economic development, planning and housing
Fleur de Rhe-Philipe	Finance, performance and risk
Lionel Grundy	Children's services
Keith Humphries	Health and wellbeing
John Noeken	BMP, ICT, HR, procurement and customer services
Toby Sturgis	Waste, property and environment
Dick Tonge	Highways and Transport
Stuart Wheeler	Leisure, sport and culture

Portfolio Holders

Laura Mayes	Organisational culture
Jemima Milton	Adult care
Richard Beattie	Economic Development
Howard Greenman	Housing
Alan Macrae	Schools
Richard Clewer	Youth and skills
Allison Bucknell	Customer care
Chris Cochrane	ICT
Linda Conley	Waste
Richard Gamble	Transport
Jerry Kunkler	Leisure
Chris Williams	Communities
Sheila Parker	Vulnerable children