

AGENDA

Meeting: Joint Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee Meeting
Place: Council Chamber, County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Thursday 10 February 2011
Time: 10.30 am

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Sharon Smith, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718378 or email sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

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Overview & Scrutiny Organisation & Resources Select Committee

Membership:

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

Cllr Jon Hubbard
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
Cllr Nigel Carter (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Peter Colmer
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 Peter Davis
Cllr Mary Douglas
Cllr Peter Fuller
Cllr Mark Griffiths
Cllr Russell Hawker
Cllr J Hubbard
Cllr Jacqui Lay (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Bill Moss
Cllr Helen Osborn
Cllr Pip Ridout
Cllr Carole Soden (Chairman)

Non-Elected Voting Members:

Mrs Alice Kemp
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 Select Committee**Membership:**

Cllr Desna Allen
Cllr Chuck Berry
Cllr Jane Burton
Cllr Christine Crisp
Cllr Peter Davis
Cllr Mike Hewitt (Chairman)
Cllr Malcolm Hewson
Cllr Peter Hutton
Cllr Tom James MBE
Cllr Nina Phillips
Cllr Pip Ridout (Vice Chairman)
Cllr William Roberts
Cllr Judy Rooke

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**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

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 his/her discretion in order to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to contribute.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question should give written notice (including details of any question) to the officer named above by **5:00 pm on Thursday 3 February 2011**.

4. **Explanation of Proceedings** (*Pages 1 - 4*)

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

**COUNCILLORS ARE ASKED TO BRING THEIR BUSINESS PLAN/
FINANCIAL PLAN DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING.**

5. **2011/12 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme**

The Leader of the Council to introduce the 2011/12 overall draft budget and respond to questions.

The chairman of the joint committee to invite questions and comments from councillors on the budget proposals, section by section.

The chairman of the joint meeting to summarise the main points, and to close the meeting.

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEE 10 FEBRUARY 2011

BUDGET SCRUTINY – EXPLANATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Purpose of the Report

1. To clarify the purpose of the meeting and how it will run.

Background

2. As experienced last year the meeting provides an opportunity for non-executive councillors to question the Leader and Cabinet on the draft budget before it is put to the full council.
3. Rather than create a burdensome and bureaucratic model for the coming together of the four scrutiny select committees, essentially the committees are meeting jointly to consider the draft budget. The first item of business will be for councillors to elect a chairman for the meeting.
4. The intended outcome of the meeting is to submit a summary of the views expressed and for these to be taken into account by Council at its meeting on 22 February 2011 when agreeing the 2011/2012 budget. However this year Cabinet has cancelled its meeting on 8 February and will now be considering the budget report on 15 February. Cabinet will take the opportunity to also consider the views of Scrutiny prior to report to Council.

Evidence and Informed Discussion

5. Councillors will be familiar with the need for any discussion, conclusions and recommendations arising from a scrutiny exercise to be informed and evidence based.
6. Consequently, if any councillor wishes to make a proposal on the content of the draft budget, 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 22 February.
7. Equally, councillors will be familiar with the need to focus their questions on strategic and policy matters when considering the budget. Any “political” comments are best left to full Council.

Roles and Responsibilities

8. The Leader of the Council will be invited to introduce the draft budget and to provide the context and rationale for the proposals. Although Cabinet has not yet met to approve the budget, the Leader has confirmed that she and her Cabinet colleagues are in full support of the proposals in the report.

9. 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.
10. Councillors will then be given the opportunity to question the respective Cabinet members 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

11. The Business Plan and appended Financial Plan reports have been circulated to all Councillors in preparation for the setting of the 2011/2012. Councillors are asked to bring their copy with them to the joint meeting.

Order of Debate & Procedure

12. The meeting will be based on the normal rules of procedure and debate as set out in the Council's Constitution.
13. In consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Organisation & Resources Select Committee, the meeting has been structured as follows:
 - (1) the Leader of the Council to introduce the 2011/12 overall draft budget and respond to questions on the context and rationale;
 - (2) the chairman of the joint committee to invite questions and comments from councillors on the budget proposals section by section;
 - (3) the chairman of the joint meeting to summarise the main points, and to close the meeting.

Conclusion

14. A summary of the comments made at this meeting will be submitted to Council for it to consider on 22 February as part of the budget setting debate, and be made available to Cabinet on 15 February when it determines its budget recommendation.

Paul Kelly
Scrutiny Manager (and Designated Scrutiny Officer)

Report Author: Ceri Williams, Scrutiny Officer, 01225 713079

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