

CABINET

MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 30 APRIL 2019 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE (Chairman), Cllr John Thomson (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Pauline Church, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr Philip Whitehead and Cllr Jerry Wickham

Also Present:

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Anna Cuthbert, Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Russell Hawker, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, Cllr Tony Jackson, Cllr Bob Jones MBE, Cllr Gordon King, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Steve Oldrieve, Cllr Horace Prickett, Cllr John Smale, Cllr Ian Thorn, Cllr Christopher Williams, Cllr Graham Wright, Cllr Robert Yuill, Cllr Jonathon Seed and Cllr Brian Mathew

44 **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

45 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019 were presented.

Resolved:

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019.

46 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

47 **Leader's announcements**

The Leader of the Council reported that the Children's Centres Building Consultation report would be considered earlier in the meeting due to the public attendance for the agenda item.

48 **Public participation and Questions from Councillors**

1. Philip Salaman, Vice-Chair of Governors of Five Lanes VC Primary School, spoke in support of the proposals for the closure of the Potterne site of Five Lanes primary School with effect from 31 August 2019.

The Leader thanked Mr Salaman for his comments.

2. A question from Adrian Brabazon was received in relation to agenda item 7 – Wiltshire Local plan Review Update, and the housing figures for Options CH-A and CH-C detailed in appendix 4 of the report.

A response from the Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property had been provided to Mr Brabazon prior to the Cabinet meeting and published on the Council's website.

3. The Cabinet received statements and questions from Nadine Crook, Hebe Mitchell, Lydia Wiltshire, Delcey Orchard-Smith and Cllr Ian Cunningham (Mayor of Westbury) in relation to the proposals detailed at agenda item 11 – Children's Centre Buildings Consultation.

Responses from the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills had been provided prior to the Cabinet meeting and published on the Council's website.

49 **Five Lanes VC Primary School - Proposed Discontinuance of the Potterne Site**

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills presented the report which provided information about the proposed closure of the Potterne Site of Five lanes Primary School.

Cllr Mayes explained that since 2006 the School has run Key Stage 1 classes at its Potterne site and Key Stage 2 classes at its Worton site. Following informal consultation, the Governors of the school published a statutory Notice in January 2019 proposing to close the Potterne site from August 2019, with all pupils being taught at the Worton site. The majority of those responding supported the closure. The Cabinet noted that, due to declining numbers of pupils, the number of classes had reduced to three across the two sites, with only one class at the Potterne site.

The Leader of the Council welcomed Philip Salaman, Vice-Chair of Governors of Five Lanes VC Primary School, who spoke in support of the proposals to close the Potterne site.

The Cabinet heard from Cllr Anna Cuthbert, local member for Bromham, Rowde and Potterne, in support of the closure. Cllr Cuthbert explained that Five Lanes Primary School provided outstanding care and learning for all the children at both sites, however the needs of the children would be better served at one site.

The desire of the younger children, currently at the Potterne site is to be with the older children at the Worton site, which amongst other things, would provide suitable play or sports areas for all the children. Cllr Cuthbert indicated that one of her children had attended Five Lanes Primary School and the other one was a current pupil.

Resolved: That the proposal to discontinue (close) the Potterne site of Five Lanes Primary School with effect from 31 August 2019 be approved, with all pupils being educated at the Worton site from 1 September 2019.

Reason for Decision:

There is insufficient demand for places at Five Lanes Primary School to sustain two school sites. Surplus places on the Potterne site will be over 50% from September 2019 and the school faces a rising deficit budget if it continues to try and maintain two sites, making the school financially unsustainable.

50 **Wiltshire Local Plan Review Update - Strategy Development**

Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property, presented the report which (i) set out the next stage of plan making in the light of the changes to national policy and the outcome of consultations; and (ii) sought agreement for the appropriate scale of housing growth to be tested for Wiltshire and the alternative development strategies to be considered through the plan-making process to inform a preferred strategy.

Cllr Sturgis commented on the consultation undertaken in relation to the Local Plan to date and referred to the previous update report considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 26 March 2019. He also referred to the alternative development strategies for each housing market area that had been developed, as an example he highlighted the figures for Westbury and the high need for affordable housing in that area. The Cabinet noted that: the figures and strategies would be tested and this may lead to a hybrid development strategy being created; wider work is continuing on reviewing Core Strategy policies, which would include climate change issues and subject to testing for their compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Cabinet noted that maintaining an up-to-date Local Plan in accordance with the NPPF would support Plan led growth across the county to support sustainable and resilient communities, safeguarding the authority from speculative and unplanned development.

The Cabinet received a statement from Adrian Brabazon about the housing numbers for Option CH-C. Cllr Sturgis reported that in light of the issues raised by Mr Brabazon, an addendum had been published to update and clarify some of the figures detailed in the original report.

In response to a question from Cllr Thorn about (i) the potential for the Government to impose a further increase in the housing numbers for Wiltshire,

and the timing and methodology for this; and (ii) the possibility of repeating the workshops undertaken during the autumn of 2018, for communities (parish councils and neighbourhood planning groups) on the options detailed in the report, Cllr Sturgis explained that (i) the critical part related to the response from the Government on changes to the formula and updated figures, this was not anticipated any time soon. However, once the process was at the submission stage, the figures were fixed for two years, and (ii) that the responses from the earlier consultation with Parish Councils were included in the report. The report highlighted that further consultation would take place similar to that undertaken in the autumn 2018.

In response to questions from Cllr Wickham, Cllr Clewer and the Leader of the Council in relation to a previous resolution of the Cabinet on 12 September 2017 (minute 117 – Wiltshire Local Plan Development Scheme Update) and 10 October 2017 (minute 130 – Wiltshire Core Strategy Review – Regulation 18 Consultation) about the Cabinet being satisfied that plans are in place to maintain a deliverable 5 year housing land supply in both Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council areas before approving the plans, Cllr Sturgis confirmed that there was a duty to cooperate with Swindon Borough Council and agreed that Wiltshire Council land would be protected by ensuring there was a 5 year land supply as part of the plan making processes, and the resolution referred to above could be restated in the current resolution.

In response to an additional question from Cllr Wickham about the growth proposals for Westbury in relation to additional housing, the Hawkeridge Business Park and infrastructure, Cllr Sturgis commented that the main aim of the next stage of the process was to test strategies. He confirmed that there was a high need for affordable housing in Westbury and that any future proposals would not include reductions in employment land.

The Cabinet heard from Cllr Smale, Chairman of the Environment Select Committee. Cllr Smale confirmed that the Wiltshire Local Plan Review was already being heavily scrutinised through input with key stakeholders, and it was not pragmatic for the item to be added to the Select Committees Forward Work Programme.

Resolved:

- 1. Endorse a housing range of between 40,840 and 45,600 homes as the basis to test and then inform an appropriate local plan housing requirement for Wiltshire for the period 2016 to 2036.**
- 2. Agree that the alternative development strategies, as set out in Appendices 4 to 7, identified for the Chippenham Housing Market Area, Salisbury Housing Market Area, Swindon Housing Market Area (Wiltshire part) and Trowbridge Housing Market Area are an appropriate basis for further assessment for the purpose of testing the upper end of the proposed housing range and develop a preferred strategy for the plan.**

- 3. To reaffirm its commitment to joint working with Swindon Borough Council, however given the Council's responsibilities to support the interests of Wiltshire's communities, that Cabinet will need to be satisfied that plans are in place to maintain a deliverable 5 year housing land supply in both authority areas before approving the plans.**

Reason for Decision:

To ensure that progress continues to be made on maintaining an up-to-date development plan for Wiltshire in line with revised national policy (NPPF, February 2019).

The NPPF requires local planning authorities to keep their Local Housing Need under review as new data becomes available and confirms that the local plan housing requirement is not set until the plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination. It is therefore important to adopt a flexible approach to calculating the plan's housing requirement as part of the plan making process to respond to future data if necessary.

51 **ICT and Digital Strategy**

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Portfolio Holder for IT and Digitalisation, presented the report seeking approval for the Council's ICT and Digital Strategy to cover the period April 2019 to April 2022.

Cllr Blair-Pilling reported that Information Technology (IT) was fundamental to all the operations undertaken and services delivered by the Council. With technology constantly evolving, users expectations continue to change and appropriate investment in IT is required. The last ICT strategy was written to cover the period up to 2015. Since that time the infrastructure has become old, expensive to maintain and increasingly unfit for purpose, especially since the recent introduction of the Microsoft Digital Programme. He explained that the adoption of coherent ICT and Digital Strategy would ensure that the operational services in the Council are undertaken efficiently, through the provision of appropriate technology that is supportable and updated when needed, and users are assisted in making best use of it. The Cabinet noted that this approach would extend to users of Council services in the community.

Cllr Philip Whitehead referred to the addendum attached at supplement 2 to the Cabinet papers, detailing the costs associated with the ICT and Digital Strategy which had been refined since the publication of the main report. The addendum identified those budget elements already approved, and those seeking approval by Full Council.

The Cabinet heard from Cllr Graham Wright, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. Cllr Wright reported that the Digital Strategy and Implementation Task Group raised concerns at their February meeting about the pace of work within ICT and the Task Group felt that the Strategy did not

adequately detail how the Council would achieve its ambitions. It was confirmed that this was now identified in the most recent version of the Strategy. Following a meeting with Senior Management it was agreed that the task Group would help the Programme Office to shape Policy in this area.

In response to a question from Cllr Thorn about the identification of savings against investments for each scheme, Cllr Whitehead explained that the decisions already taken by Cabinet detailed the savings to be made. and future schemes would identify savings to be made. Financial implications of future schemes would be considered by Cabinet at the appropriate time.

In response to a question from Cllr Jones MBE about the recent internal ICT survey not being made available for Councillors to complete, Cllr Whitehead apologised that the survey had not been available for Councillors and that arrangements would be made for this to take place.

Cllr Blair-Pilling thanked the Interim Director, Digital Transformation & IT for his contributions in the preparation of the Strategy.

Resolved: To recommend Full Council

- 1. To approve the ICT & Digital Strategy, which covers the period April 2019 to April 2022.**
- 2. Approve an additional capital budget for Applications and Key IT of £11.100m for the period 2019/2020 to 2023/2024.**

Reason for Decision:

The council has not had an ICT strategy since 2015, and it is vital that it has one to allow:

- Proper planning of ICT investments to meet the council's strategic and operational needs*
- An understanding of key trends in technology of relevance to the council*
- An understanding of best practice in the sector*
- A clear view of current ICT provision, and its shortcomings*
- A definition of appropriate governance in the ICT & Digital area*
- The creation of an achievable vision for future ICT and Digital capabilities*
- A 'roadmap' of improvement activities to realise the vision*
- Quantification of the investments that will be required in the coming years to realise the strategy.*

52 **Procurement Plan 2019-20**

Cllr Philip Whitehead, Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement, ICT and Operational Assets, presented the report which provided information about planned procurements in the financial year 2019/20 and seeking authority for named Directors to award the resulting contracts.

Cllr Whitehead explained that the report identified the contracts within the Procurement Plan for the year 2019-20 that are mainly limited to contracts considered Key Decisions. They are also considered low risk operational re-procurements of existing works, services or supplies contracts but fall in to the Key Decision category because of their value.

The Cabinet heard from Cllr Ian Thorn, Chairman of the Financial Planning Task Group. Cllr Thorn thanked the Director of Finance and Procurement for the recent briefing on the Procurement Plan and expressed support for the report.

Resolved:

- 1. To approve the planned contract awards for the financial year 2019-20 as detailed in appendix A to the report.**
- 2. To delegate authority for each contract to the alongside named Director to authorise officers to do all those things necessary to conduct a proper process, finalise the documentation, and execute the resulting contracts following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, plus, Director of Legal Services and Director of Finance.**

Reason for Decision:

The reason for this report is to inform Cabinet of the Procurement Plan for the financial year 2019/20 and by providing this consolidated information in advance. This approach for the procurements listed will support the wider objective of being an efficient and effective council.

53 **Extension of Streetscene and Amenity Contract**

Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste, presented the report seeking approval to extend the novated idVerde Grounds and Streetscene Maintenance Services contract from 30 November 2020 to 30 November 2022.

Cllr Wayman explained that the request to extend the contract to 2022 was due to a significant financial risk to the Council if a new contract was to be awarded in 2020, due to the unknown implications resulting from the Council's new Asset Transfer and Service Delegation Programme.

The Cabinet heard from Cllr John Smale, Chairman of the Environment Select Committee. Cllr Smale reported that the Select Committee had considered the proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for the proposed extended contract at their meeting on 12 March 2019. The Select Committee supported the proposed KPI's and requested that the colour scheme for the KPI's could be aligned with Wiltshire Council colours and listed in numerical form.

In response to a question from Cllr Ruth Hopkinson about the idVerde contract and asset transfers to town and parish councils, Cllr Wayman confirmed that the proposal did not tie the town or parish council into the proposed contract extension.

Resolved: That the extension of the idVerde novated subcontract to 30 November 2022 be approved.

Reason for Decision:

Extending the current idVerde sub-contract to 30 November 2022 will mitigate the financial risk that tendering a new Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Contract in 2020 would create due to the unknown changes in: volumes, processes and requirements caused by the Service Delegation Programme which will run until January 2022.

54 **Children's Centre Buildings Consultation**

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills, presented the report which outlined proposals to move Children's Centre Services from buildings to community venues.

Cllr Mayes reported that Children's Centre Services are a vital resource for parents with very young children, they provide a one stop service of advice and support. Due to the rurality of Wiltshire it is not easy for all parents to access services in a building in a particular area of a community. It is more important to offer services in the places that are accessible to families and to ensure that the delivery of outreach services in the home to those who are most in need is available. Children's centre services are an important part of the early help offer in Wiltshire and they must be aligned with all partner services to ensure that there is a joined up streamlined service for families.

Cllr Mayes, in confirming the proposals for consideration by the Cabinet and in light of the statements and questions received from concerned parents, indicated that there was an additional proposal in relation to the Westbury Children's Centre, as detailed below:

'To delay the Westbury Children's Centre closure until September 2019 to allow advantage to be taken of Wiltshire Council's transfer of Old Westbury Youth Centre, Edenvale Road to the Westbury Community Project Trust (WCPT). Children Centre services can be run from this building when it is ready. Should the transfer not take place, then the services will be run from alternative venues in the town.'

The Cabinet noted that the report comments on the consultation and responses to consider the proposal to extend the activities of Children's Centres into more community venues. This would achieve savings and further develop the outreach work of Children's Centres, bringing services closer to families.

The Leader invited statements and questions as detailed below:

Nadine Crook read out a statement and asked for detailed evidence to show how, through the proposals put forward in Westbury, it will be meeting its statutory duties under the Childcare Act 2006. Ms Crook also presented a petition to Cllr Mayes in support of the retention of Westbury Children's Centre.

Lydia Wiltshire read out statements from herself and Hebe Mitchell and asked (i) if there were only 4 families in Westbury who receive outreach support that meet the intervention level or are targeting methods not finding other families; and (ii) the methods used to advertise the services that Westbury Children's Centre provides and the improvements needed to improve advertising in the future.

Delcey Orchard-Smith read out a statement and asked about the privacy required for people using the Centre and the need for a neutral location for the services run from the Centre.

Cllr Ian Cunningham (Mayor of Westbury) read out a statement and asked if the Cabinet agreed that deprivation, rather than specific need for services, should be the main factor for the receipt of support.

The Leader thanked the parents and Mayor of Westbury for their comments, questions and valuable contributions towards the debate on the Children's Centres and highlighting the concerns of residents in Westbury.

The Cabinet heard from Cllr Bob Jones MBE and Cllr Russell Hawker, members of the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise on the Children's Centres Consultation which took place on 15 April 2019. It was noted that the Rapid Scrutiny Exercise considered the results of the consultation, the proposed closures, plans for alternative venues and produced seven recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Skills. Cllr Hawker, member for Westbury West, asked for a plan for the continuation of early years help in Westbury, setting out the times and days that the Service would be available. He further commented that the Westbury Area Board would be monitoring the situation closely.

The Cabinet also heard from Cllr King, member for Westbury East, who expressed great pride in hearing the comments from the public. He welcomed the additional proposal, detailed above, but that his preference would be for the proposals to be withdrawn and reviewed. Recent vandalism at the Old Westbury Youth Centre would delay any proposal to use the Centre as it would need considerable investment to bring it up to standard and be ready to open in September 2019.

The Cabinet also received a number of comments from Cllr Thorn. Cllr Hopkinson, the Leader of the Council, Cllr Kunkler, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Cuthbert, Cllr Mathew about the following:

- The challenge to find alternative venues that provide a safe and private environment.
- Adoption of the rapid Scrutiny Exercise recommendations.
- The advantages and disadvantages of access and engagement with communities via the internet.
- The purpose of the Centres and the move towards the provision of targeted services.
- The ability to provide support for families in crisis through drop-in facilities.
- Identification of the people needing to be signposted to the services.
- Provision and cost of public transport can be an inhibitor for people to use the Centres.
- Finance is a driver for the closure of Centres.
- Evidence confirms that alternative solutions need to be found to target those in need of the service.
- The challenge in Westbury to reach those in need.
- Consideration of how the service can be delivered to every family.
- Potential to use leisure centres as drop-in centres.
- The need for detailed plans in relation to staffing and opening times and days of the Centres.
- Alternative venues need to have a degree of privacy.
- Improved marketing of the services available.
- Potential for discussions with Westbury Town Council to ascertain their willingness to take over the Westbury Children's Centre building.
- No suitable premises for the Children's Centre to relocate to in Cricklade and the proposed use of the Library would not be appropriate.

In addition to the responses published in relation to the public questions, Cllr Mayes made the following comments:

- That the Council will continue to provide services that meet the Childcare Act 2016, through the delivery of appropriate services which parents will have advice and assistance on how to access.
- The future plan is to dovetail services with Health Visitors more effectively so that all targeted families are aware of the Children's Centres services offer.
- All Children's Centre services are advertised on social media and through e-mail to parents. They are also promoted to maternity services, Health Visitors, nurseries and pre-schools.
- Venues and locations of Centres will be appropriate for the specific requirements of families. There is no intention to make families feel uncomfortable. Other venues are currently being considered to make the service as friendly and accessible as possible.
- The proposals are for the new Centres facilities to be more local, to encourage accessibility for families.
- The recommendations from the rapid Scrutiny Exercise can be accommodated and appropriate action taken.

- The Early Support Hub offer help and advice to families that need specific help.
- Westbury Town Council are involved in the community project at the Old Youth Centre.

Cllr Mayes agreed to amend the additional proposal detailed above to take into account the comments about the potential use and need for refurbishment of the Old Westbury Youth Centre following the recent damage inflicted on the fabric of the building, and to review the venue for the Children's Centre in Cricklade.

Resolved:

- 1. To reduce the number of children's centre buildings by six and focus the work in the community, using space in libraries, leisure and health and well-being centres where possible and practical.**
- 2. To work closely with maternal health and community child care providers to support the choice of future community venues and keep and expand the scope of services to families in the most deprived areas of Wiltshire.**
- 3. To work closely with families to utilise social media and community networks to raise the profile of available provision.**
- 4. To delay the Westbury Children's Centre building closure until the autumn of 2019 to allow advantage to be taken of Wiltshire Council's transfer of Old Westbury Youth Centre, Edenvale Road to the Westbury Community Project Trust (WCPT). Children Centre services can be run from this building when it is ready. Should the transfer not take place, then the services will be run from alternative venues in the town.**
- 5. To review the venue to be used for the Children's Centre services in Cricklade, and in the event that there are any issues arising from this recommendation and the recommendation at (4) above, that the matters be referred back to a future Cabinet meeting.**

Reason for Decision:

Children's centre services provide an important role in offering early help to families with young children. It is vital that this resource is maintained and spread wider into rural communities, particularly those in the most deprived areas. Reducing to 12 buildings will mean that finances can be concentrated on front line staff in priority geographical areas and work directly with families

55 **Staff Engagement Survey Results 2018**

Cllr Richard Clewer, Cabinet Member for Housing, Corporate Services, Arts, Heritage and Tourism, presented the report which provided an overview of the

results of the 2018 staff engagement survey, including a summary of the key themes from the survey results and an assessment of the results against the four “enablers” contained within the adopted engagement model. The report also contained the agreed corporate priorities following the results of the staff survey 2018.

Cllr Clewer was pleased to report that the staff engagement index score (which measures the extent that staff feel emotionally connected with their organisation i.e. that staff believe in the organisation’s goals and priorities and therefore care about doing the best job they can), had risen from 58% in 2016 to 70% in 2018.

The Cabinet noted that there were a number of issues in connection with ICT, in particular the intranet, and staff engagement would be key to the development of any revisions to the current format.

In response to a question from Cllr Clare Cape about recruitment and retention Cllr Clewer reported that the Staffing Policy Committee would be the most appropriate forum to consider issues of recruitment and retention of staff.

In response to a question from Cllr Ian Thorn about the visibility of Senior Management, Cllr Clewer reported that the figures from previous years indicated that staff considered improvements were needed in this area, and he was pleased to report that there had been a significant improvement in this area between 2016 – 30% positive response and 2018 – 76% positive response. It was suggested that the rise in positive responses were the result of changes within the Senior Management team over the last two years and a challenge from Cabinet to be more visible to staff.

Resolved: To note the report.

Reason for Decision:

To update Cabinet on the results of the 2018 staff engagement survey and to highlight the agreed corporate priorities for corporate and service action planning.

56 **Wiltshire Council's Housing Board Annual Report**

Cllr Richard Clewer, Cabinet Member for Housing, Corporate Services, Arts, Heritage and Tourism, presented the report which provided an update of the Council’s Housing Board activities between December 2017 and November 2018, in compliance with its Terms of Reference to provide an update to Cabinet.

Cllr Clewer explained that throughout the period of the Annual report, the Board had engaged in a range of activities to shape the service offered to residents and their families, increased service quality via appropriate monitoring mechanisms, encourage resident engagement and protected the reputation of the council as a landlord by ensuring a robust Business Plan is implemented.

The report set out the areas focused on by the Board during the year, with the primary focus of the Board being (i) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan; and (ii) the Asset Management Strategy (AMS).

In response to a question from Cllr Jonathan Seed about the Chairmanship of the Housing Board and whether it was in accordance with the Governance review. Cllr Clewer reported that when the Housing Board was originally established, it was envisaged that the Cabinet Member or Portfolio Holder would take on the role of Chair. Currently, Cllr Clewer, as Cabinet Member was Chair. Cllr Clewer indicated that he would check the current arrangements were in accordance with the recommendations of the Governance review.

Resolved: To note the Housing Board Annual Report.

Reason for Decision:

Wiltshire Council's Housing Board's Terms of Reference require an Annual Report to be presented to Cabinet.

57 **Transfer of ownership of 2No Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Sites, together with the Transit site at Odstock**

Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property, presented a report recommending the transfer of ownership of the two council-owned gypsy and traveller sites that remain undeveloped at Dairy House Bridge, Oak Tree Field and the transit site adjacent to Oak tree Field (Odstock transit site) to enable them to receive the much needed investment to remain in use as Gypsy, Roma and traveller (GRT) sites.

Cllr Sturgis reported that the Council owned a number of permanent gypsy and traveller sites and one transit site. Of these sites, those detailed above required investment to enable them to continue in use to provide gypsy and traveller accommodation.

The Cabinet noted that resident engagement continued throughout the marketing process, with the key concerns and issues raised by residents being addressed.

Resolved:

- 1. That Bidder B is selected as preferred purchaser of the Dairy House Bridge, the Oak Tree Field site and the Odstock transit site.**
- 2. To transfer the Dairy House Bridge, the Oak Tree Field site and the Odstock transit site to Bidder B, on the terms of the bid received.**

3. **The Director of Housing & Commercial, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation for the transfer.**

Reason for Decision:

Dairy House Bridge site, Oak Tree Field site and the Odstock transit site are in need of substantial investment. Transfer of ownership of the sites to a new owner will enable this investment to ensure the sites are able to remain in use as gypsy and traveller sites within Wiltshire.

58 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

59 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Resolved:

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Minute Number 60 and 61 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

60 **Transfer of ownership of 2No Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Sites, together with the Transit site at Odstock**

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Resolved: That the recommendation in the report referring to the preferred bidder for the purchase of Dairy House Bridge site and the Oak tree Field site and the transit site at Odstock be agreed.

Reason for Decision:

Dairy House Bridge site, Oak Tree Field site and the Odstock transit site are in need of substantial investment. Transfer of ownership of the sites to a new owner will enable this investment to ensure the sites are able to remain in use as gypsy and traveller sites within Wiltshire.

61 **Ashton Park - Housing Infrastructure Fund**

Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property, presented a report seeking approval to enter into a contract with Homes England, consideration of the terms the Council is prepared to agree to secure the housing infrastructure funds for the Ashton park development.

Resolved:

- 1. To agree that the Council enters into a contract with Homes England to access £8.784m Housing Infrastructure Fund offered through the Marginal Viability Programme for the Ashton park development.**
- 2. Agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth, Investment and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property and Cabinet Member Finance, Procurement, IT and Operational Assets to undertake detailed contract negotiations to secure funding including those relating to meeting the conditions presented by Homes England associated with the drawdown of funding.**

Reason for Decision:

Homes England have indicated that they are willing to provide £ 8.784m of Housing Infrastructure Fund but require a number of conditions to be met by the 30 April to secure the offer of funding. This report recommends entering into a contract with Homes England to secure the offer of funding.

(Duration of meeting: 9.30 am - 12.30 pm)

These decisions were published, earlier, on the 2 May 2019 and will come into force on 10 May 2019.

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Stuart Figini of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718221, e-mail stuart.figini@wiltshire.gov.uk

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