

MEMBERS BRIEFING NOTES

No. 26

Department: Economic Development, Planning and Housing

Further Enquiries to: Alistair Cunningham

Date Prepared: January 2010

Direct Line: (01225) 713203

WASTE SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT – ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION

Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council (the Councils) have recently adopted their Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) and Waste Development Control Policies DPD. These documents set out:

- The strategy for meeting forecast demand for new waste facilities;
- The broad strategic locations for new waste management facilities and the relationship with SSCTs and the settlement pattern of Wiltshire and Swindon; and
- The approach to managing the proposals for future development.

The final step in preparing the joint Waste Local Development Framework is the production of the Waste Site Allocations DPD.

Background

The Councils published and consulted on a long-list of potential sites during an initial 'Issues and Options' phase of work during March 2006. However, since that time, a combination of a change in regulations (2008) and a decision to concentrate resources on the production of the Waste Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPDs, has led to the need to refresh the initial work.

To augment the work previously undertaken, the Councils prepared and consulted on a consolidated Waste Site Appraisal Methodology in the summer of 2009 (<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/mineralsandwastedevelopmentplan/wastesiteallocations.htm>). All the sites contained in the Waste Site Allocations 'Issues and Options report' and the new sites that have come forward since, have been re-assessed in-line with the new site appraisal methodology.

Consultation

The forthcoming consultation document contains a consolidated list of sites and waste uses that have been appraised by officers and deemed potentially suitable for further detailed consideration. It is important to stress that the location of these potential sites conforms to the policy framework set out in the adopted Waste Core Strategy DPD (Policies WCS2 and WCS3) and thereby seeks to provide a flexible framework of facilities to meet forecast demand and, more importantly, the settlement framework of the Plan area.

Although many of the sites (and potential uses) remain unchanged since their inclusion in the original (2006) 'Issues and Options' consultation document, a small number of additional sites have since been put forward and appraised. A number of sites have also been removed due to issues such as availability, viability and/or by the landowners' request.

To assist the Councils with document preparation, evidence base collation, site design and proving deliverability, officers are finalising a procurement exercise for the use of consultants to undertake detailed environmental assessments of each nominated site. This work will supplement the consultation and help develop the final versions of the Site Allocations DPD. Where the consultants identify significant environmental issues that cannot be avoided or sufficiently mitigated, the site in question will not be carried forward for further consideration. Members will be briefed throughout this detailed appraisal process and on the outcomes of the informal consultation exercise.

Arrangements for Consultation

The arrangements for this additional consultation exercise will allow for a minimum 6-week period for submitting comments - running from 25th January 2010 to 8th March 2010.

The representations received from this additional informal consultation and the results of the consultants assessments will be used to finalise the pre-submission draft of the Waste Site Allocations DPD. It is anticipated that this work will be finished in July 2010 and reports will be presented to the relevant Cabinet and Full Council meetings of the two authorities. Once approved by Members, the document will be subject to **formal** public consultation before eventually being submitted to the Government for independent scrutiny and examination towards the end of 2010.

Electronic copies will be available at:

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/environmentandplanning/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/mineralsandwastedevelopmentplan/wastesiteallocations.htm>

For hard copies please call 01225 713429
or email: mineralsandwastepolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk.

COUNCILLORS BRIEFING NOTE

No. 27

Cabinet Member: Mr. R. Tonge

Department: Transport, Environment
and Leisure

Further Enquiries to: Tracy Carter

Date Prepared: February 2010

Direct Line: (01225) 713258

OPERATIONAL FLOOD WORKING GROUPS

Prior to Wiltshire Council becoming a unitary authority the responsibility for Land and Highway Drainage was divided between the County Council and four District Councils. This sometimes caused difficulties in resolving flooding and drainage issues due to the different responsibilities and powers of enforcement held by the respective councils.

Wiltshire Council is much better placed as a unitary authority to fulfil its legal obligations concerning flooding and has set up a flood risk management and drainage team comprising former county and district highway and land drainage staff. Information held by the different councils concerned with flooding and drainage has been consolidated and work is being carried out to enable officers to identify, prioritise and secure funding for flood relief and drainage schemes more efficiently. By combining some of the various schemes the Council has been able to apply for government funding which would not previously have been possible.

As part of this process Wiltshire Council has also set up two Operational Flood Working Groups (OFWG), one in the north and the other in the south of the county. These groups mirror the river catchment areas operated by the Environment Agency and offer an opportunity for all those stakeholders with an interest in highway surface water, surface water run-off, drainage and flooding to consider these issues within each respective area. Stakeholders included Wessex, Thames and Southern Water, the Environment Agency, Network Rail and the Highways Agency.

These issues include:

- Identifying lead authorities for each issue to enable a better, more focussed, efficient and co-ordinated response enabling resources and funding to be targeted effectively
- Making recommendations for bids to fund major projects
- Considering proposals for prioritising funding and programming of schemes
- Implementing Government legislation on drainage and flood management
- Complying with the legal requirement to map our surface water and establish collaborative information with our partners
- Responding to Community Area Boards in respect of flooding and drainage issues

- Communicating with members of the public regarding the work we are doing via the Wiltshire Magazine, Parish Newsletter and the Wiltshire Council website.

Over the coming months we will be engaging with Parish and Town Councils to update our mapping systems with their local knowledge and to identify any local issues which are not apparent on initial inspection that may be exacerbating problems. This work will be done in conjunction with the Community Area Boards. Towns and Parish Councils will each be sent a map of their area with a request that they identify any known flooding issues. This will enable Wiltshire Council to consolidate its information on flooding and drainage issues ensuring that every location of flooding is established, including those affecting property and residential and agricultural land.

We have successfully carried out much of this work by asking our highway engineers to mark all known flood sites so they can be imported into our GIS mapping system. Once we have added in the information from Town and Parish Councils we will be sharing this with the Environment Agency helping us to understand and evaluate all flooding within the county.

Good work has been carried out through the Flood Warden Scheme which has operated well over the last five years in the south of the county. We hope that this will be expanded to cover the remainder of the county over the coming months. We would encourage all Town and Parish Councils to nominate a Flood Warden and form a local Flood Working Group for those councils which are aware of flooding problems within their areas. The Flood Wardens are usually members of Parish Councils with considerable knowledge of their areas which can be passed onto the engineers working with them. In turn, they will develop knowledge of the causes of flooding problems and the options to solve them which can be shared with their fellow councillors. They are also the main point of contact during any incidents of flooding and may represent their Town or Parish Council Flood Working Group, if one has been established. External Agency funding can often only be delivered to a local area where a local Flood Working Group is in place to apply for such funding.

The procedure for reporting drainage and flooding issues is, in the first instance, to contact Clarence (0800 232323). If the problem cannot be resolved by the local Divisional Highways Office using available resources, it will be referred to the highway and land drainage engineers. They would work with the relevant Town or Parish Council, through a local Flood Working Group, to design a solution to the problem, engaging other agencies as necessary. If the solution is particularly complex it may be referred to the relevant Operational Flood Working Group.

The Operational Flood Working Groups cover considerable geographical areas and have to engage with partner organisations on strategic rather than site specific issues. However they recognise the importance and value of working with local councils and so are developing a protocol for engagement with Town and Parish Councils. This would enable the chairmen of the OFWG to invite either the Flood Warden or a representative of a Town or Parish Council Flood Working Group to attend a meeting of the OFWG. A period of time would be allocated on the agenda for the representative to raise any issues relating to a flooding problem that have not been satisfactorily resolved through other means. The OFWG should agree this protocol at their respective meetings in February.

We are organising two "Flood Fairs", during 2010 in conjunction with the Environment Agency. We propose to invite representatives of Community Area Boards and Town and Parish Councils and other interested stakeholders to participate. Their purpose would be to raise awareness of flooding and drainage issues and how local communities can help to manage these risks as well as to showcase available property protection measures. In addition we will launch the protocol on engagement with Town and Parish Councils at these events.

The Council is aware of the need to improve communications on the work of the OFWG and that of the flood risk management and drainage team. Work is currently underway to update the information held on the Council's website to include details of drainage work schedules, not only those of the Council but also those of stakeholders where they are available.

MEMBERS BRIEFING NOTES

No. 28

Department: Resources

Further Enquiries to: Rita Sanders

Date Prepared: February 2010

Direct Line: 01225 718375

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORK ACT 1998: ADMISSION AND EXCLUSION APPEALS

The Appeal Panel decisions from 1 July 2009 to 31 December 2009 are set out below for Councillors' information:

School	Appeal	Date(s)	Decision(s)
Amesbury Archer Primary School	3 Admissions	11 Dec 09 20 Aug 09	1 Allowed 2 Dismissed
Ashton Keynes Primary School	1 Admission		1 Settled
Box CE Primary	1 Admission	30 Sept 09	1 Allowed
Christchurch Primary School	2 Admissions	24 July 09	1 Settled 1 Withdrawn
Clarendon College	1 Admission		1 Withdrawn
Fynamore Primary School	1 Admission	15 Dec 09	1 Dismissed
Greentrees Primary School	2 Admissions	20 Aug 09 27 Aug 09	1 Settled 1 Withdrawn
Grove Primary School	1 Admission	27 Aug 09	1 Allowed
Kings Lodge Community Primary School	1 Admission	17 July 09	1 Dismissed
Monkton Park Community Primary	1 Admission	17 July 09	1 Dismissed
Neston Primary School	2 Admissions		2 Places Found
Ramsbury Primary	1 Admission	2 July 09	1 Dismissed
Shaw CE Primary	1 Admission	24 July 09	1 Place Found
Stonehenge (Secondary)	1 Exclusion	8 Sept 09	1 Dismissed
St Laurence (Secondary)	1 Admission	24 July 09	1 Withdrawn
The Corsham School (Secondary)	4 Admissions 1 Exclusion	4 Sept 09 17 July 09 18 Sept 09	1 Allowed 1 Dismissed 1 Place Found 1 Withdrawn Third Option
The Mead Community Primary School	3 Admissions	1 Sept 09	2 Dismissed 1 Settled
The Trafalgar School at Downton (Secondary)	1 Admission	2 Sept 09	1 Allowed
Walwayne Court Primary	1 Admission	11 Aug 09	1 Dismissed

Wandsdyke Community School (Primary)	1 Admission	24 July 09	1 Dismissed
Westbury Leigh C of E Primary School	1 Admission	11 Aug 09	1 Dismissed
Wootton Bassett (Secondary)	1 Exclusion	17 Sept 09	1 Dismissed

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPEALS HEARD: 33

Admission Appeals: 30 (5 allowed, 12 dismissed,)

Exclusion Appeals: 3 (2 dismissed, 1 Third Option)

TOTAL NUMBER OF ADMISSION APPEALS WITHDRAWN: 5

TOTAL NUMBER OF EXCLUSION APPEALS WITHDRAWN: 0

TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES FOUND PRIOR TO APPEAL: 4

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPEALS SETTLED: 4

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPEALS RECEIVED: 33

COUNCILLORS BRIEFING NOTE

No. 29

Department: Economic Development, Planning and Housing **Further Enquiries to:** Alistair Cunningham

Date Prepared: February 2010

Direct Line: 01225 713203

THREAT TO HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY (HPA) EMPLOYMENT AT PORTON DOWN

Background

Porton Down is currently the site for HPA's Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response at which internationally significant research into new and emerging diseases is undertaken. The total site comprises 27 hectares with employment in the region of 750 scientific, technical and administrative staff. The value to the economy is demonstrated by the fact that the direct impact of the employment of scientific/technical staff is estimated at over £70,000 per head (GWE Business West Ltd.). The indirect impact on the economy is currently being investigated.

Wiltshire Council and partners have been working with HPA who are putting together an outline business case for developing a new Centre of Excellence for research and bio-medical manufacturing known as the Chrysalis Programme. This is a circa £300 million project with a timeline to 2015. Amongst other things, the centre will help to develop the UK's capacity in terms of high containment laboratories as well as replace ageing facilities on the existing site and provide new training facilities.

The first phase of this project (training & skills facility) has a planning application submitted and the total project cost of £5m was to be supported by a £1m grant via the South West Regional Development Agency.

The outline business case (OBC) is due to be submitted to the Department of Health imminently. Linked to this project, Wiltshire Council and partners have been working to bring forward a proposal for a new science park which has already gained outline planning consent.

Threat to employment

In the last 24 hours it has been brought to our attention that HPA is currently considering an alternative option for the Centre of Excellence project i.e. Terlings Park in Harlow, Essex. The minute from the HPA's Finance Committee on 14 January and which was discussed at the HPA Board on 27 January stated:

'The OBC financial model was accepted as a solid basis for the two options presented. The financial model is closely balanced between the Terlings Park and Porton north field options. Further analysis is required on the OBC in areas such as the best strategic fit and the lowest risk set, which will result in a recommendation at the Chrysalis Programme Board and the Board before submission to the Department of Health at the end of January 2010.'

We understand that the site in Harlow is not in HPA's ownership but is currently the site for the National Neuroscience Research Centre operated by Merck Sharp & Dohme, a

subsidiary of Merck & Co. Inc., a major pharmaceutical group. It is apparent that HPA is seriously considering adopting Harlow as its preferred location for the Centre of Excellence given its strategic proximity to other HPA sites within 25 miles of the Harlow site. A formal decision in principle is expected imminently.

It should be noted that the interest in Harlow is not as a consequence of any lack of support from Wiltshire Council and its partners; indeed Michael Harper, Deputy Director at Porton Down indicated today that HPA have been delighted with the support the Council and partners such as the SWRDA have shown for investment locally.

A decision to locate the Centre of Excellence in Harlow would have a serious impact on the South Wiltshire economy, in that it would undermine plans for the development of a bio-medical cluster around Porton Down and would result in the relocation of all HPA posts to the Harlow location by 2015. A detailed assessment of the economic impact of such a move is currently being undertaken so that this can be employed in fighting any move.

Action taken by Wiltshire Council

The following action has already been taken:

- Robert Key MP has been briefed and is seeking answers from the responsible Minister
- Jim Knight MP, Regional Minister has been contacted and briefed on the issue – his support is being sought
- The Office of Government Commerce that has responsibility for overseeing public sector relocations has been contacted – they are looking into the proposal
- We have taken advice from an organisation that the Council retained in relation to the 'Lyons Review' public sector relocation programme, their CEO has indicated that he believes that a move to Harlow would fall foul of the rules surrounding public sector relocations; moves to and within London and the South East have been scrutinised closely by the Treasury in the past owing the costs associated with operating in that region
- GWE Business West Limited has been employed to update the economic impact analysis
- The Leader, Cllr Mrs Jane Scott has written to the Chief Executive of HPA to seek a meeting to discuss the situation.
- HPA at Porton Down have been asked whether they require any further information that would assist them in taking a formal decision – a response is awaited.
- Cllr Mrs Jane Scott and Cllr John Brady are leading the response by the Council, with support provided by Peter Wheelhouse, Head of Economic Development and me.

Further updates will be circulated as and when more information is available and as we pursue other courses of action.

ALISTAIR CUNNINGHAM
SERVICE DIRECTOR – ECONOMY & ENTERPRISE
4th February 2010

Councillors Briefing Note Global Corporate Challenge 2010 No. 30

Department: Public Health & Well-Being

Date Prepared: February 2010

Further Enquiries to: Maggie Rae

Direct Line: (01380) 733738

Global Corporate Challenge 2010

“Observe how many people take an escalator or lift instead of the stairs. At work, in shopping centres, everywhere. No need to do anything, just tune-in and take note.”

The average worker walks around **3,500 steps a day**. Longer work hours, sedentary jobs and modern conveniences all contribute to decreasing levels of physical activity.

Enter the Global Corporate Challenge...

The Global Corporate Challenge® (GCC) is the world's largest corporate health initiative.

- Teams require seven people
- Each participant receives two pedometers.
- For each of the 16 weeks of the GCC they record and enter their daily step count (and bicycle and swimming activity) into the GCC website.
- The site adds each individual's step counts to their team total then converts this to a kilometre/mile distance, and plots the team's progression along a virtual tour of the world. The more active they are, the further they go, the healthier they become, the more productive your organisation becomes.
- During this journey, participants interact 'virtually' with each location and experience its customs, facts, history, foods, politics, and geography.

Last year, 525 people from 16 organisations took part in the challenge across Wiltshire and Swindon reaching an average daily step count was 10,089. Data from Wiltshire shows that during the competition, the number of walking journeys increased by 52% and bicycle journeys increased by 125%.

The quote comes from one of the team leaders who took part in the competition last year:

“Right from the start, it has given our team enormous benefits, we have obviously increased the amount of walking that we have done and this in itself has seen loss of pounds and inches for some of us and a big increase in stamina for all.

On top of that, it gave us an additional dimension of fun at work. It was also an incredible team building event for us, we compared activity, we walked together at weekends and got to know each other and our various dogs better. We are now planning an evening at a health spa to celebrate the end of the challenge.”

For 2010 we are looking to make this event even more successful, we are seeking from you today, your support for this and volunteers and champions to promote this challenge and get Wiltshire moving.

Councillors Briefing Note

Ashton Street day service for people with Learning Disabilities

No. 31

Department: Community Services
Date Prepared: March 2010

Further Enquiries to: Rhonda Ward
Direct Line: 01380 729 002

Briefing on Ashton Street day service for people with learning Disabilities

There has been recent press interest following contact from 2 families about a letter sent to all Parent/ carers of customers who use the service at Ashton Street.

There are 102 customers who use the service at Ashton Street and about 75 people per day use the service where a number of activities are coordinated which range from supporting people to developing independent living skills with domestic as well as social tasks to participation in activities such as drama/Theatre; sports and other leisure activities.

Over the last 15 months (since September 2008) people who use Ashton Street and their families have been involved in Person Centred Day Opportunities Planning. This means that we are moving to providing less of the "one service fits all" to individual activities which enable people to achieve the outcomes which are important to them. Ensuring we listened to and planned for 102 people has taken over a year. We have tried to keep everyone informed over this extended timescale.

We held individual planning sessions with customers and their families and gathered information so that each person who attends now has a list of activities that will support them to maintain or increase their independence as well as having the opportunity to keep in touch and socialise with their friends.

The day services have used the information to design an activity program to meet people's needs and wishes but this requires the service to do things differently and has, as a result, led to the slight changes to the 'core' opening time.

Where changes have already been made the general feedback has been positive, however the services will continue to ask people for comments and use these to develop how they work.

On the 29th Jan 2010, a letter was sent to all families informing them that to enable a change in sessions the service provides, a slight change of 1/2 an hour to the opening time was needed (from April 5th 2010) to be able to offer the range of activities people had requested and needed. The attached letter that was sent to families did offer individuals and their families the opportunity to speak to staff at the Centre if the change was going to cause a problem, this would then be resolved on an individual basis. So far we have received feedback expressing concern from 4 out of the 102 families. We have addressed the concerns of 2 families and the 2 families who went to the Press are having further meetings this week.

Siân Walker & Rhonda Ward 2nd March 2010

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 32

Department: Community Services

Further Enquiries to: Sandie Lewis

Date Prepared: March 2010

Direct Line: 07764 576106

Wessex Community Action and Bridge House Community Trust

Just as efficiency savings are required in the public sector, the same is expected of the voluntary and community sector (VCS). In particular back office efficiencies are sought in order to provide the best possible support to local frontline voluntary and community services. Of the £21 million Wiltshire Council spends with the VCS, £226,226 was ring fenced to provide a countywide support service to those “infrastructure” organisations that in turn support the large and small voluntary sector groups in our communities. Formally provided by four Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) the support service tended by Wiltshire Council was necessary to provide consistent services across the county at a local level. This would ensure that support services are available to all VCS groups wherever they are placed in Wiltshire and whether they need help with training, information and advice, or practical assistance such as photocopying, desk top publishing, payroll assistance etc.

Funding advice and governance assistance is provided through a separate partnership agreement with Wiltshire’s Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who are specialists in this area of work.

Collaborative arrangements between VCS organisations across the whole sector are being encouraged by not only the Council, but by central government which provides financial assistance to VCS organisations preparing to merge. In Wiltshire this has been successfully achieved by four Citizens Advice Bureaux merging into a countywide bureau to provide a cost effective and efficient service offering a wide range of advice and information services to the people of Wiltshire.

Background

Wessex Community Action (WCA) is the Council for Voluntary Service in Salisbury and Bridge House Community Trust covers west Wiltshire. They are two of four in the County, based on the ex-district council boundaries. As part of the review of services following Unitary status, the service to provide support to frontline VCS organisations was put out to tender. That decision was not made only in order to

gain efficiency savings. Although it definitely no longer made sense to fund executive and administration costs for four such organisations it was also clear that each organisation provided different services and different levels of service. Grass roots organisations in one area might have to go to another CVS to get what they needed, which often occurred. The savings made, however, in fact will fund a new countywide volunteering service. Prior to tender two of the CVS's (Wessex Community Action and the north Wilts CVS, Develop) prepared to merge. This was abandoned following a process of due diligence.

In preparing for tender all four CVS's were consulted and all felt the final specification was fair and achievable even though two organisations preferred the status quo. The process was fair, transparent, and subject to procurement regulations throughout. The four CVS's were informed from the outset that if they were not part of the winning bid then they would be offered a meeting with Council staff to discuss any specific implications for them. TUPE applied to the contract and so the CVS's were required to submit details of staff that might need to transfer to the new service provider.

There were two bids. One from a consortium (Wiltshire Infrastructure Consortium) led by Community First and which included Wessex Community Action and Bridge House Community Trust. The second was a partnership bid of the two remaining CVS's (north Wiltshire's 'Develop' and east Wiltshire's 'Voluntary Action Kennet'). The bids were assessed across documented submissions, presentations and interview. At every stage of the process, the panel was unanimous in its decision on the winning bid as Develop/VAK. The panel included key Council and PCT staff and the documentation was also assessed by an independent VCS representative. Score sheets and feedback were shared with all parties.

The two CVS's not part of the winning bid were the ones from south Wiltshire, (Wessex Community Action) and the west Wiltshire CVS, (Bridge House Trust). Each attended a separate follow-up meeting at the invitation of the Council to look at the impact on their futures. Trevor Hazelgrove, chief officer of Wessex Community Action made it clear that the Council's VCS support contract for south Wiltshire (£61k plus) was a very small part of their business and they were working with a number of counties to provide a range of services including men's sexual health services which they hoped to expand. They also have a contract with Wiltshire Council (£158k) to provide transport services which is being reviewed during 2010/11. Their original TUPE submission, under which two staff would have transferred to the new provider, has recently been reversed as they are now retaining the staff.

For Bridge House Community Trust (BHCT), Veronica McAndry and her chair of Trustees also attended a separate meeting. When we asked about the impact of the new tender on their service, (reduction of income of £54k plus) we were initially told that this was none of the Council's business. However, at a later stage of the meeting, we were told that they hoped to develop the Bridge House building in Trowbridge, which they own, into a resource centre for the community for meetings, events, office accommodation etc. We raised the potential for considering a Social Enterprise (social business) as they were keen to open a community café at some stage.

Veronica raised the issue of the existing volunteering scheme being run from BHCT. We suggested this should be discussed with the new providers in due course. Various emails were later exchanged, confirming the Council's commitment to assist

with the retention of existing volunteering capacity in west Wiltshire. With regard to TUPE, BHCT identified three posts which could be affected.

Current Problems

WCA made it clear when they did not win the contract that they would not share any information about the VCS in south Wiltshire either with the Council or the new support providers since they intended to continue to provide the same services with or without Council funding. They have not said how it will be funded but presumably will expect the VCS to pay for services that GROW can provide either free or at Council subsidised rates. If WCA charge for these services, this clearly puts the VCS in south Wiltshire at a disadvantage. Clearly this is not sustainable long-term nor is it in the best interests of the voluntary sector. Indeed competition rather than co-operation was evident when GROW published its first training programme and apparently within days the WCA programme came out showing some same courses to be offered a few days earlier than GROW's!

Whilst we must be sympathetic to both WCA and BHCT at their loss of the VCS support contract, they accepted its content until they were not part of the winning bid. The plan was for the winning bidder to work with the former Council providers (CVS's) to try to ensure the best for the sector, to eliminate gaps and to reduce duplication. Unfortunately this is not proving easy.

The issue of sub-contracting has been raised by both the losing bidders. Clearly this was an issue to be resolved between the providers. However, with regard to volunteering, the aspiration for the Council was for a consistent countywide service, (currently this is partial and includes provision through Swindon Volunteer Centre). Wiltshire does not currently have an accredited volunteer centre although the new provider is preparing to secure this accreditation. There is no merit in sub-contracting to a district model which the tender sought to replace, although BHCT were asked what the Council could do to assist in retaining both their part-time volunteer co-ordinator and the existing volunteer input. The response was that sub-contracting was the only option BHCT would consider.

The Council's Position

Wiltshire Council has awarded a contract which will formally start on 1st April, although the provider is actually assisting us now with a number of pressing issues relating to VCS support.

Since the tender award was made in December, the new service providers have been busy preparing for the start date of 1st April and the new service was unveiled at the recent VCS Assembly branded as GROW (Grass Roots Organisations Wiltshire – www.growwiltshire.org.uk). It is clearly badged as a service to the VCS in partnership with Wiltshire Council. New staff are being appointed, services expanded and arrangements made for shared space in all parts of the county to enable easy access for VCS organisations needing support. Match funding will be sought to expand provision.

With regard to BHCT, the “service delivery data” they refer to, mistakenly focuses on outputs and key performance indicators as the definitive measure of services to be provided. Critically, we are moving to a focus on outcomes therefore the requirements cited in the tender specification are the absolute minimum year one requirement. From discussions we expect the new service to far exceed these and

in addition the specification clearly states that ongoing review is core to the management of this contract and is likely to change to reflect the evolving needs for the VCS in Wiltshire.

With regard to formal challenge to the commissioning process, none was received. Any questions raised during the formal tender period were answered as they arose.

Throughout the process, Council staff have been careful to distinguish between those services funded by the Council which would come to an end on 31st March 2010 and other business undertaken by both Wessex Community Action and Bridge House Community Trust, which have always been expected to continue.

WCA and BHCT are lobbying Councillors to intervene on their behalf. We would ask members to be aware that the majority of the issues raised are matters to be resolved between the VCS organisations themselves. As the organisations concerned have apparently reached stalemate, we have agreed to facilitate a meeting with their key staff, planned for 31st March, to find a sensible way forward to try to address the stalemate.

A brief email update to elected Members will follow that meeting.

Sandie Lewis
Head of Strategy (Voluntary and Community Sector)

COUNCILLORS BRIEFING NOTE

No. 33

Cabinet Member: Mr R Tonge

Department: Neighbourhood and Planning **Further Enquiries to:** Spencer Drinkwater

Date Prepared: April 2010

Direct Line: (01225) 713480

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRAMME FOR 2010-11

Wiltshire's Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the Council's policies and strategies for transport. The Government, through its annual LTP settlement, allocates capital funding for highway maintenance (including bridge strengthening) and integrated transport.

Integrated Transport

The Integrated Transport Block Allocation is the only capital funding available to Wiltshire Council to finance integrated transport measures in the County. This funding is used principally to reduce road accident casualties, increase accessibility and sustainability by promoting walking, cycling and public transport, and improve traffic management. Continued investment in these areas of transport is necessary in order to enable the Council to make progress towards meeting local and national targets in respect of transport, road safety and climate change. The Council's Integrated Transport Block Allocation for 2010-11 is £4.382 million.

The LTP integrated transport programme for 2010-11 has been developed over time in consultation with local Councils, community groups and other stakeholders. The projects were identified as part of the implementation of the area-based and theme-based strategies contained in the Council's LTP, or through the development of community area plans and community area transport plans.

The Integrated Transport Block Allocation of £4.382 million has been divided as outlined below in order to deliver community-based transport schemes that will improve safety, accessibility and sustainable transport in the County.

- Local Safety Schemes and Road Safety - £790,000
- Key Bus Route Enhancements and Public Transport - £131,000
- School Travel Plans - £150,000
- Local Transport Improvements - £2,422,000
- Advance Design Fees - £639,000
- Community Transport Requests - £250,000

The detailed allocations are set out in the Cabinet Member report which can be found on the link below:

[HT-009-10 - Local Transport Plan programme for Integrated Transport Schemes in 2010-11](#)

In respect of community transport requests, an allocation of £250k has been set aside to fund schemes requested by the public and outside bodies.

It is proposed that the Community Area Boards be involved in the assessment and selection of local transport schemes in their areas and this funding will be distributed between the Area Boards in accordance with the agreed Community Area Funding Formula. The Area Boards will be able to choose the scheme(s) to be progressed using their share of this funding and it is anticipated that this issue will be an item on the agenda of the June/July round of Area Board meetings.

In choosing their local transport scheme priorities, Area Boards will need to be mindful of the priorities of Wiltshire's LTP, the complexity, scale and deliverability of any potential scheme, and the likely availability of future funding for scheme implementation.

Highway Maintenance

The LTP has been developed over time in consultation with local Councils, community groups and other stakeholders, and highway maintenance has always been identified as a high priority.

The Council has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highway network, and this is achieved by adopting a programme of planned maintenance based on identified need. Road conditions are also a key aspect of road safety and it is important to develop programmes of highway maintenance that reduce the risks of accidents and claims; this takes precedence over other factors, such as visual appearance of the road surface and ride quality.

To achieve this the Council carries out regular technical surveys to assess road conditions on its classified road network and carries out visual inspections of the unclassified roads. This information, together with accident data and local knowledge, is used to inform the selection of roads to be treated in the annual works programme.

The Council's approved budget for 2010-11 includes increased expenditure on highways maintenance, which is funded primarily through the LTP. However, the recent winter has resulted in significant deterioration of carriageway conditions and additional funding of over £1 million has been made available by the Council. The government has also recently provided a further £1.456 million to address winter damage.

The proposed programme of highway maintenance works for 2010-11 comprises surfacing, surface dressing, bridgeworks, major schemes to reconstruct carriageways, including addressing drainage, road markings and other safety issues.

Even with the additional funding, the backlog of maintenance required on the highway network means that it is not possible to meet all requests for resurfacing and it is still necessary to prioritise work according to greatest need.

The full programme of works is set out in the Cabinet Member report which can be found by accessing the following website link:

[HT-010-10 - Road and Bridge Maintenance 2010-11 and Carriageway Skid Resistance Policy](#)

This programme has been prepared in order to reflect the priorities set out in the LTP, especially with regard to road safety and the Council's duty to maintain the highway network, and taking into account the technical surveys and the local knowledge of the Council's highway staff and contractors.

The highway network will continue to be monitored during the year, and localised repairs and resurfacing will be made as necessary to address serious problems at other locations. This information will also be used to develop proposals for a programme of works for 2011-12 subject to funding.

Area Boards may have concerns about particular sections of road in their area where there are serious safety problems. These sites can be assessed for consideration for next year's programme, or for immediate remedial work where appropriate.

The list of works to be carried out on the highway network in 2010-11 will be included in the Community Area Highway Information, which is available on the Council's website and also includes a list of the schemes carried out in the previous year.

Additional monies for severe weather repairs

The Government has allocated £1.45 million to Wiltshire Council for work on damage to highways caused by the severe winter weather.

Damage is being evaluated and the worst areas costed to be included under this budget. Work will start in May and continue through to September. This is a rolling programme as damage continues to appear through the surface in some areas.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 34

Department: Community Services

Further Enquiries to: Sandie Lewis

Date Prepared: May 2010

Direct Line: 07764 576106

Update on the work of the Wiltshire Council Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Support Unit

Background

Following the set up of the new Council VCS Support Unit in July 2009, a substantial work plan was put in place, much of which has been undertaken and Councillors have received updates along the way.

There was some inevitable change during the transition to a unitary authority, some of which has challenged the voluntary sector. In most cases their contacts changed at the Council, and for some there were contractual and monitoring requirements that had not existed under their previous agreements.

The way that assistance was provided by VCS support agencies to grass roots organisations was changed when that Council contract came up for renewal on 1st April 2010. The previous four contracts (to the VCS) offered widely differing services and levels of service, some free, some chargeable at varying rates. It was felt that more consistency could be achieved through one clear specification and partnership bids were welcomed. In addition, efficiency savings through one contract meant that additional services and levels of service could be provided, including a countywide volunteering service, the first for Wiltshire. This has now begun and the new providers (a partnership of two of the previous four Councils for Voluntary Service) plan to seek national accreditation. The only accredited service for volunteering currently available in Wiltshire is through the Swindon Volunteer Centre.

Some of the early discontent of unsuccessful bidders for the contract has been addressed through facilitation by the Council and partnership working for the future is now a realistic option.

Progress with the Voluntary & Community Sector during 2009/10

- Establishment of Corporate VCS Support Unit - to be the face of the Council for VCS issues and a first point of contact both for the sector itself and for Council and PCT staff and Councillors.
- Establishment of Corporate VCS Working Group (now includes PCT and VCS representation) to ensure that all Council policies and processes relating to the VCS are consistent across our organisations. This includes a new VCS Funding Framework, developed with the sector, which will be put before Cabinet on 24th May 2010.
- Working with the VCS infrastructure (support) organisations to agree an acceptable (proportionate) quality accreditation scheme, suitable for smaller VCS organisations that cannot aspire to the more extensive requirements of some national quality assurance models.

- Successful Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly held in March 2010.
- Roll out of new countywide VCS support services to include advice and information, training and back-office facilities.
- Merger of four Citizens Advice Bureaux into one CAB with a single chief executive and a single countywide contract with the Council to deliver high quality advice and information services for individuals and families in Wiltshire.
- Establishment of a helpline for specific concerns about finances, including debt.
- Establishment of partnership agreement with Wiltshire Charities Information Bureau (CIB) to ensure countywide service available to all VCS groups who need advice about legal structures or funding.
- Planning and development of a Wiltshire Good Neighbour Scheme to be rolled out across the county over 18 months from September 2010, through partnership with the VCS and funded through efficiency savings within existing VCS contracts.
- Establishment of the Advisory Board to the Growth Fund Project which will be delivered in partnership with third sector providers including credit unions, registered social landlords (RSLs) and the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire (Community First). This project will provide a sustainable loan book of affordable credit for individuals based on £260k secured from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).
- Working with the Army and Help For Heroes to plan and develop services and secure external funding for Very Seriously Injured (VSI) forces personnel returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. The **proposed** development will be complementary to the new government funded Personnel Recovery Centre (PRC) and will include a wide range of facilities including training, challenging activity, social enterprise and supported accommodation.
- Supporting the Army's new initiative "Firm Base" to improve integration and access to community resources for forces families.
- Provision of 3 taster sessions for Council staff about volunteering opportunities in the County and compilation of a Council database which registers voluntary activity undertaken by staff in Wiltshire.
- Funding to one of the CVSs to provide a Volunteering Festival open to the public during National Volunteer Week (Civic Hall 10.30 – 2.30, 7th June).
- Establishing an overview of all Council funded VCS activity across the County and working with the sector to map both provision and the impact of voluntary and community activity.
- Reviewing all agreements with the VCS for non-commissioned services, so that both the sector and the Council are clear about what is required, and that the outcome of grant funding improves the quality of life for individuals, groups and communities in Wiltshire.
- Development of processes to support the implementation of the Council's new Community Asset Transfer Policy (CAT).
- Co-ordination of the government funded Partnership Improvement Programme (PIP). This programme of 4 sessions facilitated through the Improvement Development Agency (IDeA) included key people from the public and voluntary sectors in Wiltshire to look at ways of improving and sustaining relationships for the long term good of communities in Wiltshire.
- Support for Social Enterprise in Wiltshire (businesses where any profits are used for social or environmental aims) including a workshop for Social Enterprises (27th May, Devizes) and a planned seminar for Council managers and Councillors provided through the Social

Enterprise regional body, RISE (17th June 12 – 2, Conference and Development Centre County Hall).

- Launch in Wiltshire (27th May) of the new Social Enterprise Mark to give social enterprise a proud and visible identity - backed by a small Council bursary which will provide support in kind and the £99 initial accreditation fee.
- VCS grants across the county totalling around £21m (excluding care home placements) of which Area Boards distributed around £550k to support 253 community projects which in turn generated an additional £3.1m of external funding to the County.
- First Council VCS Awards event planned in order to celebrate the volunteer and community activity from across the County (Corn Exchange, Devizes 19th October 2010 from 6 pm).
- Revised Wiltshire Compact and appointment of new Chair of Compact Board to take forward cross sector relationships and joint. The Compact is the set of principles within which the public and voluntary sectors work together.
- New and revised relevant policies and procedures relating to VCS including commissioning and de-commissioning achieved through membership of Procurement Board and Corporate VCS Working Group.
- Bringing together VCS grants budgets into the VCS Support Unit including Adult Care, DCE and NHS Wiltshire grants budgets.
- Through the Head of VCS Strategy's membership of the Compact Board, Resilient Communities Partnership, Wiltshire Co-ordinating Group and Wiltshire Assembly, the Council ensures consistency of message in relation to VCS business.

Details of all forthcoming events mentioned in this update briefing will follow separately.

**Sandie Lewis
Head of Strategy
(Voluntary & Community Sector)
26th April 2010**

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 35

Department: Resources

Further Enquiries to: Tricia Glover

Date Prepared: May2010

Direct Line; 01225 756550

Update for Councillors on Pay Harmonisation

1. Members will recall that a new set of terms and conditions of employment for staff who were reorganised from the five previous authorities into Wiltshire Council last year is being developed. This is to ensure that work of equal value is being paid equally across the new Council as required by law. The Council intends to achieve Equal Pay through a negotiated collective agreement with the unions (UNISON, GMB and UNITE).

Widened scope

2. A risk identified at the outset of the project has just become a reality. Non teaching school staff were due to transfer to a new national School Support Staff Negotiating Body (SSSNB) this month, and so were not in scope for the local collective agreement on pay harmonisation. However, the timescale for their move to SSSNB pay and conditions has been relaxed to 1 April 2012. It is also judged that there is a heightened risk that the SSSNB will be disbanded by the new Government.
3. For the period until 1 April 2012 (or longer if the SSSNB is further delayed or disbanded), those school support staff who are employed at Community or Controlled schools (where the Council is the employer) will be able to compare their pay with the pay received by staff employed elsewhere across the Council, and vice versa. So jobs of the same value (as determined by the job evaluation score) must be paid equally across Community and Controlled schools and the other parts of the Council.
4. As a result, school support staff must now be included in the pay harmonisation exercise. The headcount of school support staff employed by the council is estimated at around 5,000 (with many of these staff having more than one job). So the inclusion of school staff doubles the number of staff in scope.
5. Steps are being taken urgently to inform schools of the implications for them and to involve them in the project governance.

Research, modelling and analysis

6. A very large amount of work is going on behind the scenes in order to identify options for the harmonisation of the different terms of employment, and the costs and impact upon staff of these. For example, consideration is being given to how many pay grades there should be and the advantages and disadvantages of different grading structures. Now that it is known that school support staff must be included, they are being included in the latest modelling. There is a very large amount of data to be processed and this often needs to be refreshed and updated due to the number of restructurings happening across the Council.

Determination of the Council's negotiating stance

7. The Council's key proposals to the unions by the negotiating team will be authorised by the Corporate Leadership Team, who are informed by the modelling and analysis undertaken by the pay harmonisation project team and also the views from the project Executive and Steering Boards. The Corporate Leadership Team is regularly devoting time to considering what the Council's position should be on a number of key terms of employment.

Negotiations

8. Preliminary negotiations, which began in February, continue productively with UNISON, GMB and UNITE. They are currently contained to information sharing and discussions of principle, pending direction from the Corporate Leadership Team, which is anticipated for June. Negotiation discussions are necessarily confidential.

Next steps

9. The assessment of the impact upon the pay harmonisation project plan of including the school support staff needs to be completed.
10. When local negotiations have achieved a provisional agreement between the Council and the Unions on a proposed new package of pay and other terms and conditions of employment, the Unions will each need to seek their Head Office approval for local ballots of their members.
11. When approval from their Head Offices has been received, the unions will proceed to ballot their members on the proposals. At the same time the Council will make information on the proposals available to all staff, including non union members.
12. When a yes vote has been achieved in a ballot of union members, the unions and the Council will be in a position to sign a Collective Agreement which will change the contracts of employment of all staff in scope. Thereafter the Council will proceed to notify individual staff of what it means for them, and to implement the changes.
13. The earliest possible date a Collective Agreement could be achieved is believed to be September 2010. Should it become clear that the earliest date will be later than this, then this will be communicated to all parties.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 36

Department: Economy and Enterprise

Further Enquiries to: Alistair Cunningham

Date Prepared: 10 June 2010

Direct Line: 01225 713203

IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN SYSTEM

Introduction

1. The Local Development Framework (LDF) Board of 28 May 2010 considered the implications of the new Government's proposals for the current planning system (comprising of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents). Although there is currently no detail available about the proposals there are some key messages that the Board felt Members would like to be aware of.
2. The key areas of change proposed by the coalition Government in 'Our Programme for Government' with implications for the development plan system are:
 - Rapid abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies, returning decision on housing and planning to local councils.
 - Publish and present to parliament a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities.
 - Deliver incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development including new homes and business.
 - In the longer term, radical reform of the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative Party publication 'Open Source Planning'.
 - Level playing field between small and large retailers, enabling councils to take into account competition issues when drawing up local plans to shape the direction and type of retail development.
 - Presumption in favour of sustainable development in the planning system
3. The proposed 'Decentralisation and Localism Bill' will give councils more power over planning and housing. It is unclear at this stage what the details of this are.

Abolition of the draft South West Spatial Strategy

4. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles has issued the following letter, dated 27 May 2010, to all Council Leaders, reaffirming the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS):

"I am writing to you today to highlight our commitment in the coalition agreements where we very clearly set out our intention to rapidly abolish Regional Strategies and return decision making powers on housing and planning to local councils. Consequently decisions on housing supply (including the provision of travellers sites) will rest with Local Planning Authorities without the framework of regional numbers and plans.

I will make a formal announcement on this matter soon. However, I expect Local Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate to have regard to this letter as a material planning consideration in any decisions they are currently taking."

5. The abolition of RSS will require changes to primary legislation. However, the Government could simply address the status of the draft RSS within the South West by withdrawing it in whole or in part so that it no longer exists (using the executive powers available to the Secretary of State). In light of the fact that recent appeal decisions have afforded significant weight to the housing numbers set out within the former Government's proposed changes to the draft RSS for the South West, it is reasonable to conclude that until primary legislation is passed or the draft RSS is revoked there will still be a limited timeframe within which decisions could be made in accordance with the draft RSS.
6. While the housing numbers have been highlighted in the Secretary of State's letter this is not the only purpose of the RSS, the Government will need to consider how the other policy objectives of the Strategy, many of which have been supported by local authorities, will be carried forward.
7. The formal abolition of RSS would mean a limited policy context until replacement plans are prepared. Within Wiltshire, policies within the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 have been saved and still form part of the adopted development plan for the area. Although it is relatively out of date, particularly in terms of responding to the latest published household projections, it nevertheless helps fill a policy vacuum in producing a strategic policy context for Wiltshire until a new development plan is prepared.
8. The Conservative Green Paper 'Open Source Planning' indicates that transitional arrangements could be put in place whereby the original housing numbers put forward by the local planning authorities as part of the draft RSS preparation process are used. For Wiltshire these are as follows:

	Net additional dwellings
East Wiltshire	5,000
North Wiltshire	
Chippenham urban area	4,500
(West of Swindon	Up to 2,000)*
North Wiltshire Remainder	4,500
South Wiltshire	
Salisbury urban area	5,000
South Wiltshire Remainder	4,000
West Wiltshire	
Trowbridge urban area	5,000
West Wiltshire remainder	5,500
Total	33,500 (to 35,500)

**the advice from the former Wiltshire County Council and Swindon Borough Council as joint strategic planning authorities for Swindon was that provision should be made*

on the western side of Swindon in Swindon Borough and/or North Wiltshire for around 2,000 houses, the location for this to be determined through a joint study.

9. The total of 33,500 dwellings (of which around 19,000 have been completed or committed for development in the Council's advice compares to the 44,400 net additional dwellings within the former Government's Proposed Changes to the draft RSS. However, the lower figure was based on 2003 based national demographic projections. Since this time new projections have been published and if the Council wants to plan responsibly for the housing needs and economic prosperity of its communities more recent projections will need to be taken into consideration. However, it is possible in the interim period that the lower figures of 33,500 dwellings could be used.
10. Withdrawing the draft RSS could also call into question the Gypsy and Traveller pitch requirements.

Progress on Development Plan Documents

11. When changes were previously made to the development plan system, the Government put in transitional arrangements to 'save' adopted policies and allow local planning authorities to complete development plans in process, to avoid a policy vacuum, where new plan were at an advanced stage of preparation. Other than the 'rapid' abolition of RSS, the Government has not indicated when the proposed new system of 'local plans' might be implemented, the document 'The Coalition: our programme for Government' indicates that any further reform will be 'longer term'. In the interim period therefore it is possible that the Local Development Framework system will remain in place.
12. It is unclear at this stage whether any transitional provision might be made to address the abolition of RSSs. However, the general public are starting to question whether the Council should be continuing with the preparation of Development Plan Documents (DPD) in light of the proposed abolition of the draft RSS. In this context, the need to continue to progress each DPD is discussed below:

Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD (Adoption programmed for November 2011)

13. Consultation is currently being undertaken to discuss the issues around providing new sites for the gypsy and traveller community and develop the methodology for assessing new sites. The Council is committed to a contract with independent planning consultants to undertake work leading to the preparation of the draft DPD, which will identify new sites for Gypsy and Travellers and a policy framework against which to assess planning applications that may come forward.
14. In light of the current issues in Wiltshire surrounding unauthorised encampments and the lack of alternative sites it is proposed that this work should continue in order to meet an existing need for this sector of the community. Open Source Planning places the onus on councils having "made appropriate provision for authorised sites in their area, which reflect local need and historic demand".
15. It was intended that this DPD would be prepared ahead of the Wiltshire Core Strategy in accordance with the draft RSS rather than following the normal route of having the Core Strategy in place first. The implications of the removal of this tier of the development plan will therefore need to be considered.
16. The key issue is whether the Council continues to plan for the higher level of provision, as set out in the draft RSS or whether it should revert to the figures identified within the assessment that the Councils commissioned in 2006 (Gypsy and

Traveller Accommodation Assessment - GTAA). In light of the fact that the GTAA only made provision to 2011, there is good reason to continue to work towards the higher numbers as this will ensure that a supply of sites will be available in the period beyond 2011. The consultation does ask a specific question to determine whether the accommodation needs of the community have been appropriately identified and this will provide an indication as to whether the figures used are reasonable.

Waste Site Allocations DPD (Adoption programmed for July 2011)

17. Considerable investment and progress has been made in updating the policy framework for waste planning. Wiltshire Council is one of the few waste planning authorities to have a Core Strategy in place and is considered an exemplar authority. The Waste Site Allocations is the final key step in having an up to date framework in place for waste matters. The need to manage all forms of waste will remain a key issue for the new Government, including the need to meet EU Landfill Directive targets. As such, it is important that work continues in order to ensure that a flexible and appropriate range of facilities are identified in order to manage waste.

Mineral Site Allocations DPD (Adoption programmed for July 2012)

15. Like Waste, considerable investment and progress has been made in updating the policy framework for minerals. Open Source Planning indicates that with the abolition of RSS the amount of minerals required will be determined locally.
16. Wiltshire Council is represented on the working group considering regional apportionment and Officers have a clear view, based on local circumstances, of the level of provision that Wiltshire should provide. This work will continue to be relevant whether it is done at the regional or local authority level.

Wiltshire Core Strategy (Adoption programmed for December 2011)

17. Recent appeal decisions have shown that Wiltshire is vulnerable to speculative housing development. The LDF Board is considering ways to reduce our vulnerability at appeal and further information on the approach will be provided in a subsequent briefing.
18. Even with the abolition of the RSS, it will be important that Wiltshire continues to plan for future growth in order to meet the needs of local communities. Wiltshire has a diminishing supply of housing land, growing need for affordable housing and is constrained by a lack of deliverable employment land. It is therefore important that work continues on the creation of the Core Strategy in order to prepare the evidence to underpin policy preparation to tackle these and other issues.
19. The 'Wiltshire 2026' core strategy consultation was 'future proofed' and undertaken with the knowledge that the draft RSS could be abolished by a new Government. It asked specific questions to allow local communities to challenge the overall level of growth proposed for individual settlements.
20. However, the draft South Wiltshire Core Strategy (which effectively forms the first part of preparing a new Core Strategy for Wiltshire) was prepared in advance of knowing that the RSS would be abolished. This document has been subject to an Examination in Public (EIP) and the Inspector is currently writing his report which was due in early August this year. The Inspector has now written to all those who have commented on the draft document and is seeking comments on the effect that the intention to abolish the emerging RSS has on the soundness of the Core Strategy. Comments have been requested by 21 June 2010.

21. In addition, as part of the examination process, the inspector has requested that proposed changes to the draft South Wiltshire Core Strategy that were discussed during the formal hearing sessions are advertised for comment. These include new text that would save existing village boundaries as identified within the existing Local Plan until such time that they can be reviewed as part of the Wiltshire-wide Core Strategy. We are planning (subject to emerging Government policy) to undertake consultation with the parish and town councils to inform this review early autumn and to take the opportunity to consult more widely on rural issues.
22. The work that is being undertaken to inform the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy forms a sound evidence base on which to develop planning policy for Wiltshire, whatever form it takes. Also Infrastructure Planning, a key part of the Core Strategy's development, still forms a central part of responsible plan making and should continue. The key issue is the timing for any changes to the planning system and what transitional arrangements will be made should these be brought in prior to the Core Strategy being adopted. One specific issue might be the need to 'retrofit' the new focus on 'localism' into the process. Wiltshire is already thinking about this, in terms of using the Town Planning process to help develop planning policy for Community Areas, so is well placed to embrace the new agenda - although any change of this nature that need to be embedded into the local development plan could prolong the process.
23. Notwithstanding the above, we will be reviewing the timing of further public consultation pending further information from the Government regarding the abolition of the RSS. The implications of removing this layer of the development plan and associated national policy are potentially considerable. It is anticipated that publication of the proposed 'Decentralisation and Localism Bill' will help determine how we move forward.

Conclusion

21. At this stage, until the changes outlined above start to be introduced through legislation and the detail is known, we should not speculate on what the full implications of this are. It is proposed that progress continues to be made on all aspects of the LDF that are currently in preparation and that the position is reviewed at subsequent LDF Board Meetings, with appropriate reports to Cabinet. We intend to issue further briefings as and when further information is available.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 37

Department: Neighbourhood and Planning

Further Enquiries to: Martin Litherland

Date Prepared: June 2010

Direct Line: 01225 718524

1 Update for Councillors on Waste Collection and Recycling Proposal

The waste collection and recycling arrangements across the previous Wiltshire districts are all different. As a unitary authority it is important that we harmonise these services to provide an efficient, high quality service for everyone no matter where they live in Wiltshire.

It was decided to delay the harmonisation of services and consequent consultation with residents until after the general election as it was possible that national waste policy could change, which in turn might have influenced the viability of the options we were investigating.

A single proposal for a new waste collection and recycling service has been agreed. We are now in a position to give the residents of Wiltshire the opportunity to have their say.

This briefing note has been compiled to give you an overview of what has been happening behind the scenes and bring you up to date, so that you are in a position to respond to any enquiries regarding the proposal.

2 The proposal

The existing fortnightly black box recycling collection for glass, papers, cans and textiles will be complemented by:

A kerbside collection of plastic bottles and cardboard every 2 weeks.	A non chargeable optional kerbside collection of garden waste every 2 weeks.
This service is currently provided to residents in south Wiltshire, but would be a new service to residents in the north, east and west.	This service is currently provided to residents in west Wiltshire, but would replace existing chargeable optional collections in the north, east and south of the county.

However, these additional recycling services can only be offered if the waste that is left over is also collected every 2 weeks, to enable us to re-use existing resources and vehicles. This service is currently provided in east and west Wiltshire, but would be a change in the north and south of the county.

Note: The kerbside collection of food waste or tetra packaging is not included, due to a mix of technology and capacity issues. However this will be kept under review and may be considered in the future.

This proposal recognises that residents want a wider range of materials to be collected for recycling, to help them manage their waste when it is collected every 2 weeks.

The existing fortnightly kerbside black box collection for glass bottles and jars, newspapers and magazines, food and drinks cans, aerosols, foil and textiles will continue.

As well as reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill, the proposal is forecast to increase household recycling rates from the current average of 40.5% to over 50%. This will allow us to meet tough targets, reduce our landfill costs and avoid Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) penalties and unknown, but potentially huge EU fines.

The council can fund this package of services by using efficiency savings we have made from the move to one council, together with future savings in waste disposal costs.

3 Communication Methods

These are some of the methods we will use to seek comments.

Proposal leaflet – this will be distributed to various venues for residents to pick up and fill in and return using a FREEPOST address. The closing date for comment is Friday 20 August 2010. Venues will include libraries, leisure centres and town council offices (leaflet attached).

Press- There will be press releases issued w/c 14 June for publication in this week's press, which will also include an online poll in the Gazette & Herald and Wiltshire Times. These newspapers cover the north, east and parts of west Wiltshire. Other newspapers are expected to cover the consultation next week.

Roadshows – 29 June (Salisbury Market Place), 30 June (Trowbridge Town Centre), 1 July (Devizes Market Place) and 2 July (Chippenham Town Centre). All running from 10am – 2pm.

Area Boards – The Service Director and the Heads of Service for waste will between them attend area boards throughout June, July and August. Please find attached an area board schedule.

Council Website – Residents will have an opportunity to find out more about the proposal including an extensive range of FAQ's. Residents will also be able to download a copy of the proposal form or respond online.

Customer Care Staff are also being briefed on the proposal and methods that residents can use to respond.

Displays – There will be static displays in some main libraries and leisure centres throughout the proposal period.

4 Keeping Members Informed

We will keep you informed of progress and milestones throughout this project, so that you are aware of what is happening for your own information and should you be asked questions by residents.

5 Role of Council Waste Staff

We expect that the great majority of "traffic" will be via electronic channels and phone calls to Customer Care staff. However, we do expect a great deal of public interest, so we are asking waste collection and management staff to ensure that they are well informed to deal with more technical enquiries as and when they arise. We will also be asking some staff to attend the proposed road shows and also help attend the stands at Area Boards throughout June, July and August.

Collection crews will be given copies of the leaflets to carry on their vehicles, so that if residents raise any queries with staff they can be given a leaflet.

If you have any queries please contact either the Head of Waste Collection, Martin Litherland on 01225 718524 or email martin.litherland@wiltshire.gov.uk or the Head of Waste Management, Andy Conn on 01225 713422 or email andy.conn@wiltshire.gov.uk

6 Next Steps

We will be seeking resident's comments until 20 August. These comments will then be collated and a report on the outcomes will be presented to cabinet in October 2010.

Waste Harmonisation – Area Board Schedule

Date	Area Board	Venue	Waste officer attending
17 th June 2010	Westbury	Paragon Hall	Martin Litherland (HoS)
22 nd June 2010	Marlborough	Ramsbury Primary School	Andy Conn (HoS)
23 rd June 2010	South west Wiltshire	South Newton Village Hall	Tracy Carter (Sv Director)
24 th June 2010	Warminster	Codford Village Hall	Andy Conn (HoS)
29 th June 2010	Calne	Calne Town Hall Note: this is also the date of the Salisbury waste roadshow.	Tracy Carter (Sv Director)
1 st July 2010	Trowbridge	The Atrium, Wiltshire Council, Bradley Road, Trowbridge Note: this is also the date of the Devizes waste roadshow.	Martin Litherland (HoS)
1 st July 2010	Amesbury	Figheldean Village Hall Note: this is also the date of the Devizes waste roadshow.	Tracy Carter (Sv Director)
5 th July 2010	Pewsey	Grafton Coronation Hall	Andy Conn (HoS)
5 th July 2010	Chippenham	Yatton Keynell Village Hall	Tracy Carter (Sv Director)
7 th July 2010	Malmesbury	Malmesbury C of E Primary School	Martin Litherland (HoS)
14 th July 2010	Wootton Bassett & Cricklade	Lyneham (venue TBC)	Martin Litherland (HoS)
19 th July 2010	Tidworth	Collingbourne Kingston Village Hall, Collingbourne Ducis	Andy Conn (HoS)
19 th July 2010	Devizes	Devizes School	Martin Litherland (HoS)
21 st July 2010	B-O-A	Westwood Social Club	Martin Litherland (HoS)
22 nd July 2010	Salisbury	Salisbury Methodist Church, St Edmund's Church Street, Salisbury,	Tracy Carter (Sv Director)
28 th July 2010	Melksham	Shaw School	Andy Conn (HoS)
17 th August 2010	Corsham	Corsham town Hall	Martin Litherland (HoS)
19 th August 2010	Southern Wiltshire	Alderbury Village Hall	Tracy Carter (Sv Director)

New Waste & Recycling Service FAQ's

Waste and Recycling Service proposal

Why is the council changing its service?

Currently householders across the county have different waste and recycling collections. This is unfair and residents have already indicated to us that they think the service should be harmonised. Bringing all the different collection arrangements into one will be allow us to reduce disposal costs by cutting the amount we send to landfill and saving on landfill taxes (these stand at £48 per tonne and will increase each year to reach £80 per tonne by 2014). These savings will enable us to offer kerbside recycling for more materials and ensure that all residents receive a consistent and improved waste and recycling collection service across Wiltshire.

As well as cost savings, there should be environmental benefits in Wiltshire as the need for landfill sites is reduced. Also landfill gas is a powerful contributor to global warming and many countries are seeking to reduce their use of landfill sites.

How will the new service affect me?

If you are already a recycler you will just have a few adjustments to make. You should find recycling easier, as more materials will be collected from the kerb outside your house. You will have to make space for a plastic and card bin and a garden waste bin if you opt into that service.

If you live in north or south Wiltshire, your non-recycled waste will be collected every two weeks, instead of every week as now. However, wherever you live you will benefit from increased opportunities to recycle at home.

If you don't like recycling, but don't produce much waste, you won't be affected. But the Council and many neighbours would like you to make best use of the service, to help the environment and keep costs down.

If you have assisted collections now, see the separate reply on this.

The new service sounds great, where's the catch?

If you live in north or south Wiltshire you may regard the move from a weekly to a two-weekly waste collection as a "catch". But householders in east and west Wiltshire have shown that this can be managed by nearly every family, if they make good use of the recycling services. Everyone, wherever they live will get an improved recycling service at kerbside.

This new service is expensive I thought the council was supposed to be saving money?

The new service will cost more than the current services in the short term. However the Council is making savings from the recent local government re-organisation and has promised to use these to avoid increasing council tax for waste services.

In the longer term, the Council will save more and more each year as higher recycling and other council projects greatly reduce waste sent to landfill, avoiding the increasing burden of landfill tax and other penalties.

Do I have to use the new service, can I opt-out?

It will be your choice as to how much use you make of the services. The garden waste service will be an optional service, so you can choose not to use it if you don't have a garden or you are keen to compost all your garden waste.

If you don't like recycling, but don't produce much waste, you won't be affected. But the Council and many neighbours would like you to make best use of the service, to help the environment and keep costs down. If you can recycle even your newspapers then you will be doing something to help.

If you are concerned about using the bins and boxes, you will still be able to apply for assisted collections. If you find the black recycling box too heavy, then we can supply smaller baskets.

What are the timescales for implementing the new service?

A cabinet decision is planned for October 2010. If the proposal is approved we will implement these changes as soon as is practicable, bearing in mind the lead-in times for procuring new equipment and material handling facilities.

How will I know when the new service starts?

There will be a comprehensive information campaign well before any new services start, to ensure that residents are aware of the changes and when they may be implemented. This will involve as many information channels as possible including schools, community groups, parish councils and, of course, householders. Leaflets, newspaper articles, road shows, our own "Your Wiltshire" magazine and much more will be used to get the message to you.

When the new service starts help will be provided via an expanding list of Frequently Asked Questions on this website and other sources, as well as over the telephone by trained Wiltshire Council staff. There will also be opportunities to talk to staff face to face if residents need more advice.

How will the new service be delivered? I need to know this information before commenting on the consultation.

Collection services will be carried out by the Council's current in-house staff and contractors. Contractors may change as their contract periods come to an end,

depending on council decision about what services should be offered for tender and which contractor makes the best bid.

Why is food waste collection not an option?

The separate collection of food waste is not currently being considered due to a number of reasons relating to the mix of technologies required and capacity issues.

Currently, there are no local anaerobic digestion plants (this is the technology that is generally favoured for dealing with food waste). Also, this process produces a large tonnage of “digestate”, which then has to be turned into a marketable product.

Also, food waste has to be collected separately, to ensure that it is uncontaminated and suitable for processing. This is easy if the waste comes from a food factory, but much less so if it has to be collected from almost 200,000 households. A weekly collection of food waste would be very expensive.

The council's contract to send some non-recycled waste to the Lakeside incinerator and another project to build a waste to fuel plant at Westbury mean that much of our food waste will be diverted from landfill anyway, as part of non recycled waste sent to these schemes.

However this will be kept under review and may be considered in the future.

Finally, many residents can deal with food waste at home if they wish to. Food waste digesters will continue to be made available at subsidised rates giving residents with gardens the opportunity to deal with their food waste at home if they choose to. Certain types of digester can also produce good quality compost thereby creating a valuable resource for keen gardeners.

For more information on the subsidised food waste digesters, [click here](#).

What happens if residents say no to the proposal?

The council believes that the increased services that the proposal offers will be well received by many residents. The proposed service offers the best elements of the various services currently operating in Wiltshire. We receive regular requests from residents for a kerbside collection of plastic bottles and cardboard in particular. We also feel that residents will recognise the significant cost implications to them as council tax payers if we fail to reduce the cost of waste disposal by allowing them to recycle more.

However, if residents do not agree with the proposal, the council will consider the responses and carry out more research on opinions and preferences.

If I take part in the consultation, will my opinion really count?

All comments and contributions to the waste and recycling consultation that are received before 20 August 2010 will be included in the Council's analysis of the consultation.

In the autumn the Council will consider a report on the consultation and decide what service changes to make.

I have heard some council's are rewarding residents for their recycling, will this happen in Wiltshire?

A reward scheme is being tested in a fairly small part of the Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The Council will consider the results of this and any government advice. Up to now, the Council has taken the view that it should keep services as simple as possible, to minimise administrative costs. Any reward or penalty scheme tends to require everyone's waste or recycling to be weighed, which is costly and can lead to disputes. The Council's approach is to offer incentives in ways which also keep down the costs of services and council tax, for example the proposed no extra charge garden waste collection and the subsidised opportunity to use garden food waste digesters and composters.

For information on home composting and food waste digesters, including an offer to Wiltshire residents, visit www.recycleforwiltshire.com or telephone the Council helpline 0300 456 0102.

I have heard that we might be charged for the refuse we throw away, will this happen in Wiltshire?

The previous government was interested in penalty schemes and some trials were carried out by councils elsewhere. The current government appears to be much more interested in encouraging people to recycle, rather than penalty systems.

What about the Council's carbon footprint, won't the new collections mean extra vehicles?

This proposal will mean additional vehicles will be needed in order to deliver the service; therefore this will have an impact on the council's carbon footprint. However the proposal will mean that we recycle more and landfill less waste, allowing us to reduce our environmental impact on the county. Landfill gas (methane) is a very powerful contributor to global warming. Scientists calculate that its effect is more than 20 times as great as the carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by road traffic. Government guidance indicates that recycling is normally a better solution than sending material to landfill.

How much will the new waste collection and recycling service cost? Will it mean a rise in council tax?

We calculate that the new service will cost about £27 million per year by 2014/15. The forecast cost for the current services in that year is almost the same (£26.9 million).

The new service will cost more than the current services during the start up period. However the Council is making savings from the recent local government re-organisation and will use these to avoid increasing council tax for waste services.

In the longer term, the Council will save more and more each year as higher recycling and other council projects greatly reduce waste sent to landfill, avoiding the increasing burden of landfill tax and other penalties.

How much of our council tax is currently spent on waste services, will this rise because of the new service?

During 2009/10 the cost of waste collections per household was as follows:-

East Wiltshire	£31
North Wiltshire	£50
South Wiltshire	£69
West Wiltshire	£48.50

The cost of waste disposal (sending waste to be recycled, composted, for energy from waste production or to landfill) was an additional £64 per household.

In total the Council spent about £25 million on waste services during 2009/10.

The new service will cost more than the current services during the start up period. However the Council is making savings from the recent local government re-organisation and will use these to avoid increasing council tax for waste services.

In the longer term, the Council will save more and more each year as higher recycling and other council projects greatly reduce waste sent to landfill, avoiding the increasing burden of landfill tax and other penalties.

Last year we sent about 115,000 tonnes of waste to landfill, just under half the total collected (47%). Our recycling and diversion projects have enabled us to achieve major reductions already (we landfilled 66% in 2005/06). This new proposal and other projects should enable us to landfill less than 25% by 2014.

If we don't meet the targets for recycling and waste, who will pay the fines?

Everyone. The Council already pays landfill tax at £48 for every tonne sent to landfill. This adds to Council Tax which is paid by householders. Last year, when Landfill Tax was £40 per tonne, we spent over £4 million on this tax. Under another government policy, if the Council exceeds its allowance for landfilling "biodegradable" wastes (that is, wastes which rot down quickly, such as garden waste, food, paper and card) it has to buy extra allowances or pay a fine of £150 per tonne. We exceeded our allowance yet, but higher recycling would help us to meet tougher targets set for the future. This is well worth doing, because penalties for landfill will increase. For example, Landfill Tax is set to rise from £48 in 2010/11 to £80 in 2014/15.

Why do all local authorities have different waste and recycling services?

Each waste collection authority (district or unitary council) can choose its services. Whilst all authorities have been strongly encouraged to recycle more, some are more ambitious than others. Also some authorities in remote locations face particular problems.

There are so many factors to be taken into account that it is not possible to identify a single, perfect waste collection service. However, many of the areas with high recycling rates have an alternating weekly collection, as used in the parts of Wiltshire where recycling rates are highest. Also many have a fortnightly kerbside collection of recyclates and garden waste.

How will I know when my bins will be collected? Will I get a collection calendar delivered with the new bins?

Yes. As the start date for a new service approaches, the council will consult with residents about the details of the service. Then the council will use many different methods of sending out information about the timetable for new services.

Will my existing collection days change?

They may need to. One of the consequences of the new services will be that the number of properties that can normally be served in a day may change.

As the start date for a new service approaches, the council will consult with residents about the details of the service. Then the council will use many different methods of sending out information about the timetable for new services.

Will my collection day change due to bank holidays and Christmas?

This level of detail has yet to be finalised. The outcome of the consultation will help to inform council members in making these decisions.

Residents will be kept informed of decisions made through these web pages, local press, leaflets and community area boards.

Will all the rules about refuse and recycling collections be the same across the county?

Currently householders across the county have different waste and recycling collections and policies. This is unfair and residents have already indicated to us that they think the service should be harmonised. Therefore the rules about the services will be harmonised across the county. Residents will be kept updated on any changes to policies when they have been approved by council members.

I currently receive an assisted collection, how will the new arrangements affect me?

The council operates an assisted collection service for residents who have difficulty moving their waste. Residents who are registered for this service will continue to receive it if they still require it. Any residents who are having difficulties moving the new bins should contact us and we will send an officer to visit and establish whether an assisted collection is appropriate.

The Council's contractor, Hills Waste, also offers assisted collections for the kerbside black box recycling collections in north, south and west Wiltshire. An alternative to the box – a smaller basket – is also offered to make it easier to get waste to the kerbside.

Will the changes mean there will be more jobs available in the waste service?

Probably for some types of job, because there will be more collections. However, the details have yet to be finalised.

Refuse Collections

Why will I be getting a fortnightly collection of refuse?

The council is changing to a fortnightly refuse collection scheme to increase the amount of recycling and composting and to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Fortnightly refuse collections are currently operated in east and west Wiltshire. In these areas we have seen a rise in the amount of waste residents recycle and a reduction in waste collected for landfill.

Recycling rates in 2009/10

	East	West	North	South
Alternate weekly collection	yes	yes	no	no
Local recycling rate	44%	42.9%	27.7%	35.3%
Kerbside recycling	Black box	Black box	Black box	Black box plus plastic bottles and card

Doesn't the council have to pick up my waste every week?

Many local authorities in the UK already collect household residual waste (i.e. what is left after recycling) every other week, and two areas of Wiltshire (east and west) also have fortnightly waste collections. The new service continues to provide a weekly collection, but different types of waste will be collected each week.

Do I get a rebate in my council tax as the council is only collecting my refuse once every two weeks?

The council will not be issuing any rebates in council tax due to the changes in waste and recycling services.

The council currently collects refuse on a fortnightly basis from residents in east and west Wiltshire. The cost savings achieved through collecting refuse on a fortnightly basis will be used to provide additional kerbside recycling collections.

However, in the longer term, every resident of Wiltshire will benefit from the cost savings that will be achieved by increased recycling and less landfilling.

Will the refuse wheeled bin smell if it is emptied fortnightly? Is it a health hazard to leave rubbish for so long?

The wheeled bins provide a much more hygienic way of containing waste than loose plastic sacks. As long as waste is bagged and securely tied, and the lid closed on the bin, there should be no problems. We advise that food waste and pet waste should be double bagged before putting it into the bin.

Won't my bin smell and attract rats and other vermin after two weeks?

As long as waste is bagged and securely tied, and the lid closed on the bin, there should be no problems.

We advise that food waste and pet waste should be double bagged before putting it into the bin, and the lid is firmly shut.

Studies have found that vermin rarely get into bins that are kept closed.

Maggots can only develop on food waste, if flies have been able to lay their eggs on the food. This can happen in the kitchen if food is not covered or kept in the fridge. If flies lay eggs, these can hatch within a few days. So, even a weekly collection may be infested if precautions are not taken.

Food waste digesters will continue to be made available at subsidised rates giving residents with gardens the opportunity to deal with their food waste at home if they choose to. Certain types of digester can also produce a good quality compost thereby creating a valuable resource for keen gardeners.

I don't think I will be able to cope with a fortnightly collection of refuse, what can I do?

We will only collect waste contained in the bin. Over half of household waste can be recycled or composted. The kerbside recycling collections for the two bulkiest and common items in household waste will allow residents to manage their waste, as will garden waste collections. All other easily separated items e.g. glass, paper, cans can be recycled either in the black box or at the nearest Household Recycling Centre. Therefore, there should be sufficient space in waste bins for two weeks worth of non-recyclable material. In addition, every household can have up to 2 black boxes.

I have a large family; can I have larger/ additional bins so I can cope with a fortnightly refuse collection?

This is one of a number of similar important details of the proposed service for which information is still being compiled. Once the Council has decided the services to be offered, following this consultation, Members will be asked to take decisions on a large number of "service standards and policies", which will then be made known to residents. This will happen in plenty of time for eligible people to apply for special services.

What happens if I put excess waste in sacks next to the bin?

All areas in Wiltshire already use wheeled bins to collect waste, and in most of these areas neither 'side waste' nor wheeled bins with their lids not fully closed will be collected. This policy encourages people to increase the amount of waste recycled and to minimise the amount of waste produced in the first place. If all recyclable items are removed from the waste, the bin should be big enough to contain all the non-recyclable waste produced by the average household over 14 days.

Households that continue to have difficulty getting all of their non-recyclable waste into their bin will be offered further advice by officers to help them deal with the issue. In certain circumstances, larger bins may be made available.

However, experience indicates that most households that report difficulties are not recycling a lot of their recyclable waste.

What happens if someone else puts refuse in my bin?

Provided that the bin lid is closed and waste is not left beside the bin, collection will take place as normal.

In many cases residents can avoid this by keeping their bin on their property and not putting it at the kerbside too early.

What happens if my waste bin gets full before collection day?

We will only collect waste contained in the bin. Over half of household waste can be recycled or composted. The kerbside recycling collections for the two bulkiest and common items in household waste will allow residents to manage their waste, as will garden waste collections. All other easily separated items e.g. glass, paper, cans can be recycled either in the black box or at the nearest Household Recycling Centre. Therefore, there should be sufficient space in waste bins for two weeks worth of non-recyclable material. In addition, every household can have up to 2 black boxes.

What happens if my refuse bin is missed, I forget to put it out or am on holiday? That will mean I won't have a collection for a month.

The Council will only be able to return if a bin has been genuinely missed. Some refuse lorries now carry cameras which record whether bins were out at collection time.

If you know that you will be away on collection day, perhaps you could ask a neighbour to put out your bin and take it in after collection. You may be able to return the favour later.

If the council is only going to be collecting refuse on a fortnightly basis, won't that encourage flytipping?

There is no evidence of there being more flytipping in east and west Wiltshire since the service was introduced there. Unfortunately some people do fly tip whatever services are offered.

If someone really has a “one off” problem (for example after a house move, a holiday or a party) they are entitled to take excess waste to a household recycling centre.

Fly-tipping is illegal. If you see an incident and want to report it, you can ring the fly tipping hotline (Environment Agency) 0800 80 70 60.

Garden Waste Collections

Why will the garden waste collection be an “optional” service? Why will I have to apply?

Whilst almost everyone has some non-recycled waste and some recyclates such as plastic bottles, cardboard, paper, tins and glass, many residents may not need a garden waste collection.

For them it would be unnecessary to have a garden waste bin. For the Council, it would be an unnecessary expense to provide a bin.

Some residents do not have gardens.

Others may have a small garden and may prefer to use the space available for other bins and recycling.

If residents who do not apply for the service have a surplus of garden waste from time to time, they will still be able to take this to any of Wiltshire’s 10 household recycling centres *.

Many residents are keen gardeners and produce lots of lawn clippings and plant material, but are also keen to compost this in their garden. Home composting is very popular in Wiltshire and has a number of advantages. For residents, the compost is very useful as a soil improver or a “mulch” to retain moisture and keep weeds under control.

For both the residents and the Council, home composting is a great way to reduce waste and its impact on the environment. Home composting also helps keep costs down **.

Some residents have combined home composting with food waste treatment, using a food waste digester **.

For these reasons, the Council is proposing that the garden waste collection will be provided to all residents on application. Those residents of west Wiltshire who already receive a no extra charge garden waste collection do not have to apply. Residents in other areas, including those who currently receive a charged collection, will need to apply for the new service.

When the start date for the new service is fixed, there will be lots of advance notice to residents in all areas. Residents who do not apply when the service starts will be able to apply at a later date, should they wish to. This will apply to people who move house.

* For information on our household recycling centres, visit www.recycleforwiltshire.com or telephone the Council helpline 0300 456 0102.

** For more information on home composting and food waste digesters, including an offer to Wiltshire residents, visit www.recycleforwiltshire.com or telephone the Council helpline 0300 456 0102. The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust provides information and support to residents who want to start home composting or food waste digestion, or have hit a problem.

Why are you collecting green waste when people can compost at home?

The garden waste service is optional, so many residents with gardens may not take part, if they are keen to home compost their garden waste.

The no charge service is also likely to be limited to one bin per household.

These measures are proposed to encourage the strong local tradition of home composting.

In west Wiltshire, residents have received a collection of garden waste at no extra charge for many years. This contributes almost 60% of the recycling rate achieved in that area. Residents will be able to continue to compost their green waste at home if they choose to do so, and the Household Recycling Centres will also continue to accept it. However, a countywide collection of garden waste is estimated to divert a further 12,000 tonnes of bio-degradable waste out of landfill. This is exactly the type of waste that, when landfilled, produces methane when it decomposes. Methane is at least 20 times more polluting than CO₂.

What happens to the garden waste when it is collected?

The garden waste collected in Wiltshire is taken to a specialised composting facility in Calne, where the garden waste is composted in wind – rows.

The compost created is produced to the national standard of PAS100, and therefore can be sold at Wiltshire's Household Recycling Centres.

The council has produced numerous videos on what happens to the waste and recycling collected in Wiltshire. One of the videos focuses on garden waste and the composting process. [Click here to view the video.](#)

How many garden waste bins will we be entitled to? Can I buy a second bin?

This is one of a number of similar important details of the proposed service for which information is still being compiled. However, in this case the Council is likely to limit the

no charge service to one bin per household. Residents who want more than one bin would therefore be charged for the additional bins.

The reason for this is that many residents have space in their gardens for home composting. Home composting is very popular in Wiltshire and has a number of advantages. For residents, the compost is very useful as a soil improver or a “mulch” to retain moisture and keep weeds under control.

For both the residents and the Council, home composting is a great way to reduce waste and its impact on the environment. Home composting also helps keep costs down. Therefore the Council does not want to discourage home composting by offering unlimited collection of garden waste.

Once the Council has decided the services to be offered, following this consultation, Members will be asked to take decisions on a large number of “service standards and policies”, which will then be made known to residents. This will happen in plenty of time for eligible people to apply for special services.

I live in a flat and don't have a garden, why should I pay for a garden waste collection?

One way in which the Council is keeping down costs of waste collection is by offering simple, uniform services with a low administration need. Everyone, including flat dwellers, will benefit from the low overall cost of the service and the reduced tonnage of waste sent to landfill.

The garden waste service is opt-in, so many residents with gardens may also not take part, if they are keen to home compost their garden waste.

The position is similar for other council services. For example, all residents pay council tax to support schools, including those without children of school age or who choose to send their children to private schools. Some council tax payments are made to support the common good.

Will I get a rebate if I have already paid for my garden waste collection in the east, north or south when the new service is implemented?

We will do our best to roll out the non-charged service at a time which will minimise the need to issue rebates. However, we'd work to issue rebates when required.

Does the council still provide subsidised compost bins?

Unfortunately, the council does not currently subsidise compost bins.

However food waste digesters will continue to be made available at subsidised rates giving residents with gardens the opportunity to deal with their food waste and garden waste at home if they choose to. Certain types of digester can also produce a good quality compost thereby creating a valuable resource for keen gardeners.

For more information on the subsidised food waste digesters, [click here](#).

Recycling Collections

Why are you only going to collect plastic bottles?

There are about 7 main different types of plastic. Plastic bottles are normally made of types 1 (PET), 2 (HDPE) or 3 (PVC). At the moment, there is a stable market for these plastic types. However, other plastic types cause problems for many reproprocessors. Many councils therefore restrict their collections to “plastic bottles only” as this ensures the highest quality of material is collected - if there are too many “contaminants” entire loads can be rejected by re-processors and sent to landfill.

However, as more UK recycling infrastructure comes online in the future it may be possible for us to collect a wider range of plastics for recycling. With a countywide plastic bottle-only collection already in place, it would be relatively simple for us to increase the range of plastics if the opportunity arises.

How do I know what plastics can be recycled at the kerbside?

By just including plastic bottles you will ensure that little or no contamination of the collection takes place.

How can I recycle other types of plastics?

The council is not currently able to offer facilities for recycling other types of plastic. However we are aware of strong interest from residents. Recently the contractors trialled a collection of “dense plastics” (mainly type 5 polypropylene) at our household recycling centre's. This had to be discontinued, after the re-processor ceased to trade. Other trading partners are being sought.

Can I recycle tetrapaks or waxed cartons in with the cardboard collections?

No, because these containers contain other material such as plastic and aluminium. However, you can recycle tetrapaks when you visit our household recycling centres, where there are collection points. Tetrapaks are collected by producers as part of a national service and are sent to Europe for processing.

Will the existing bring sites be removed?

Wiltshire has about 340 “bring sites” or “mini recycling sites”. About 140 are at schools, mostly collecting paper, and about 200 are public sites. There is one site for every 550 households.

Bring sites are being used less and less by residents and their collection tonnages are falling. If more recyclates are collected at kerbside, it is likely that use of bring sites will fall further.

A separate factor is that many bring sites are on private land and, from time to time, landowners ask for them to be removed. It is not always possible for the Council to find a suitable alternative site in the area.

The Council's current view is that the bring sites network and performance should be reviewed following decisions on collection service options and arrangements to meet the requirements of the Waste and Recycling Act 2003 for kerbside collection. The review should aim to maintain a local service backing up kerbside collections. Disparities in coverage should be reduced, where sites are most and least frequent, to achieve a more evenly spread, but smaller network.

Are you going to provide 2 black boxes to every property?

Any household that has one black box and needs another to cope with their glass, paper, tins, foil and textiles can ask for another. This can be done now by calling 0845 6032085.

The Council will make extra supplies available as the new services are started. However, many households don't need a second box, so these will not be distributed automatically.

Do I have to recycle?

Councils can use legal powers to require residents to use separate waste collections properly, which effectively means that they can require householders to recycle. However, Councils are normally reluctant to use these powers. This is the case in Wiltshire.

The Council believes that the great majority of residents will achieve good recycling rates if they are given services that encourage and help them to do so. The proposal means that much more of the available council resources would be used to collect recyclates. People who do not recycle anything and produce quite a lot of waste may find it difficult to cram everything into their waste bin.

Nowadays, most householders want to recycle. People from all walks of life are keen to reduce landfill as much as they can.

What happens to the recycling once it has been collected?

All the materials collected are taken to a materials recycling facility in the county where they are baled or 'bulked-up' and transported to reprocessing sites. The materials are then transformed into new products and go into the cycle once again, reducing the need for raw material use.

All re-processors have to be licensed by the Environment Agency and any transfer of recyclates abroad has to be approved, to avoid dumping. The Council's contractor, Hills Waste Solutions, regularly updates the list of re-processors that it is using, and supplies this information to the Council.

Why can't all my recycling be collected in one wheeled bin?

Some authorities collect all recyclates in one bin. This is very convenient to the householder, but there are 3 main drawbacks:-

First, a service with many recyclates in one bin tends to lead to less careful sorting by some householders, so there is more contamination of the recyclates

Second, any food waste left in jars and tins can contaminate paper and card

Third, much more expensive equipment is needed to sort the recyclates, so that they can be baled separately for transport to different specialist re-processors.

The Wiltshire recycling system relies on support from householders, the great majority of who are very good at sorting their recyclables. The system has a very low recycling rate – typically 1 or 2 per cent. So very little has to be rejected and landfilled.

Recycling services will be kept under review. If sorting equipment becomes more effective and less expensive, and if sorting by residents continues to lead to very low contamination, it may be realistic to switch to a simpler collection system.

If I can't fit all my recycling in the bins, can I put out additional bags?

Yes. Also if you have only one black box for paper, tins, glass etc, you are entitled to a second one if that would help.

Additional bins for garden waste can be supplied, but there will be a charge for these. The reason for this is that many residents with gardens are able to home compost much of their garden waste, with benefits both to the residents (a free supply of soil improver) and to the Council (less waste tonnage to transport).

If you have an occasional surplus of recyclates or garden waste and you are travelling near one of our 10 household recycling centres, you may find it convenient to use the recycling bins there.

What if I put the wrong materials in one of my bins?

This may lead to a bin not being collected if the wrong material is spotted. Any wrong materials in a black box will be left behind.

The risk of collecting is that loads may be too contaminated to recycle and have to be sent to landfill.

I live in a flat; can I still fully participate in the extra recycling services?

Not all flats are served in the same way as other households. However the Council is working to extend recycling services to residents in flats. Many now have the fortnightly collection of recyclables. Some are using communal recycling bins instead of black boxes.

The proposed plastic bottles and cardboard service will be delivered to all properties. Inevitably the service to some properties will take a little longer to organise. This often happens with flats, because a communal arrangement has to be made.

Will the extra collections mean more traffic on the road causing congestion?

In north and south Wiltshire residents receive 3 or 4 collections every 2 weeks depending on whether they have a garden waste collection. The number of collections under the proposed service would be 4.

In east and west Wiltshire residents receive 2 or 3 collections every 2 weeks, depending on whether they have a garden waste collection. The number of collections under the proposed service would be 4.

Collection at kerbside is likely to reduce the number of trips made by residents to local “bring sites” or one of our ten household recycling centres. So there may be an overall net reduction in trips, waste miles, carbon footprint and congestion as a result of the collections.

Will the council be offering any recycling services for businesses in Wiltshire?

Not at this stage. However, the provision of recycling as part of charged “trade waste” collections by the council is under review.

Will the new service be provided at the council’s residential gypsy and travelers sites?

Yes. There may be some adaptation of the service to suit each site e.g. use of different containers.

Bins

Where do I put these extra bins? I don’t have enough space in my house.

I have already got too many bins, what if I don’t want anymore?

Will I have to have extra bins, bags or boxes as part of the service?

Extra wheeled bins will be provided to households for the extra materials collected as part of these new services. For example, households in the east, south and west will receive an extra bin for the storage and collection of plastic bottles and cardboard. Current bins will be used where possible.

As the start date for a new service requiring bins approaches, the council will consult with residents about the details of the service. Properties will be surveyed to check suitability to accommodate bins. Where bins cannot be accommodated, the council will propose alternative arrangements to residents.

However, for health and safety reasons, the great majority of residents will be asked to accommodate bins. Waste collection has to be carried out very carefully, because there are many potential risks of injury or health problems to the crews in particular, and sometimes to the public, if safe collections are not carried out.

The council will continue to look at alternatives to wheeled bins for households where bins are deemed inappropriate. This approach is already taken in all areas of the county so is no change.

Do I have to use the bins provided?

If you wish to use the service, you will have to use the bin provided, or an alternative agreed with the council where bins cannot be accommodated.

However, for health and safety reasons, the great majority of residents will be asked to accommodate bins. Waste collection has to be carried out very carefully, because there are many potential risks of injury or health problems to the crews in particular, and sometimes to the public, if safe collections are not carried out.

How will I know where to put my bins for collection?

Unless there are any local problems with current arrangements, these will continue.

When will we receive our new bins and when will we know they are coming?

As the start date for a new service requiring bins approaches, the council will consult with residents about the details of the service. Then the council will use many different methods of sending out information about the timetable for new services.

The council will not expect everyone to “get it right first time”. Sometimes there may also be start up hitches for the council, although we will do our best to avoid this. We will ask residents to do the best that they can, to contact the council if there is a problem, and not to worry. Changes soon settle down.

Will we be given a choice of containers for each collection?

In most cases, there will not be a choice.

For health and safety reasons, the great majority of residents will be asked to accommodate bins. Waste collection has to be carried out very carefully, because there are many potential risks of injury or health problems to the crews in particular, and sometimes to the public, if safe collections are not carried out.

However the council will do the following:-

For wheeled bin collections, as the start date for a new service approaches, the council will consult with residents about the details of the service. Properties will be surveyed to check suitability to accommodate bins. Where bins cannot be accommodated, the council will propose alternative arrangements to residents.

For the black box recycling service, the council offers smaller baskets to those who find the boxes difficult to store or move. This will continue.

Will we have to buy the new bins?

Where bins are needed for a new service these will be provided by the council.

In the case of garden waste collections, the Council is likely to limit the no charge service to one bin per household. Residents who want more than one bin would therefore be charged for the additional bins.

The reason for this is that many residents have space in their gardens for home composting. Home composting is very popular in Wiltshire and has a number of advantages. For residents, the compost is very useful as a soil improver or a “mulch” to retain moisture and keep weeds under control.

(For more information – see “garden waste collections”)

Will the council own the container or will residents?

This level of detail has yet to be finalised. The outcome of the consultation will help to inform council members in making these decisions.

Residents will be kept informed of decisions made through these web pages, local press, leaflets and community area boards.

What do I do with our existing wheeled bins? Will they be replaced?

Wherever possible the council will use existing wheeled for new services. Residents will receive lots of guidance about how this will work.

Will the council have ‘bin police’?

The council believes that residents are generally very keen to support recycling and will therefore use each bin or box for the intended purpose.

The council would therefore only consider taking action against a resident in an extreme case of misuse. The council’s approach so far has been to try to negotiate with residents who have a problem with using collection services. This approach, plus as much information as possible about the benefits of recycling, has persuaded many residents to support the current services.

Will my bins be fitted with micro chips (chipped)?

This level of detail has yet to be finalised. The outcome of the consultation will help to inform council members in making these decisions.

Residents will be kept informed of decisions made through these web pages, local press, leaflets and community area boards.

Micro chips are used to identify which bin belongs to which property.

If my bin is stolen or broken, will I have to pay for a replacement?

This level of detail has yet to be finalised. The outcome of the consultation will help to inform council members in making these decisions.

Residents will be kept informed of decisions made through these web pages, local press, leaflets and community area boards.

Will the colour and size of bins be the same across the county?
What happens to the bins if they are replaced?

Wherever possible the council will use existing wheeled for new services. For this reason, local differences will continue for some time. However, as bins are replaced due to loss or wear and tear, a standard bin will be supplied.

Where new bins are required they will be standardised.

How do I know what goes in each bin?

As the start date for a new service requiring bins approaches, the council will consult with residents about the details of the service. Then the council will use many different methods of sending out information about the use of each bin.

I currently receive a bagged collection as I don't have space for a wheeled bin, how will the new arrangements affect me?

I currently receive a bagged collection; will the bags be free in the future?

If you currently use bags for your waste, this will be taken into account when the Council assesses your property as part of its survey before the new service commences.

The council has not yet taken a decision about whether bags will be provided free of charge.

Freepost Plus RSBA-HGRT-ZERT
Wiltshire Waste Survey
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
TROWBRIDGE
BA14 8JN

To find out more about this project

Please complete the attached reply paid card to let us know if you support the proposal or not. You can simply pop it into the post to the Freepost address, to reach us by Friday 20 August 2010.

If you would like to make specific comments, you can do so by writing to:

The Director, Department of
Neighbourhood and Planning
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Trowbridge
Wiltshire BA14 8JN

- Mark your letter 'Waste consultation'

You can reply and provide your feedback online if that is more convenient:

Do so by completing the survey at:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/waste

and by emailing:
wasteconsultation@wiltshire.gov.uk

Please return all comments
by Friday 20 August.

Information about Wiltshire Council's services can be made available on request in other languages and formats such as large print and audio. Please contact the council on 0300 456 0102, by textphone on 01225 712500 or by email on customerservices@wiltshire.gov.uk

For more details:

Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Come along to one of our road shows where we will aim to answer any questions you may have:

Salisbury Market Place
(Market Day)
Tuesday 29 June
10am – 2pm

Trowbridge Town Centre
Wednesday 30 June
10am – 2pm

Devizes Town Centre
(Market Day)
Thursday 1 July
10am – 2pm

Chippenham Town Centre
(Market Day)
Friday 2 July
10am – 2pm

Go along to your local Area Board meeting at which there will be opportunities to hear more during the summer.
(Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards for dates, venues and agendas).

Waste collection and recycling

Proposing a first class service for all households in Wiltshire

Have your say



Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

We want to talk to you about how we manage waste in Wiltshire... and we're keen to hear your views.

Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

The proposal

A first class waste service for Wiltshire residents

The existing black box recycling collection will be complemented by:


A kerbside collection of plastic bottles and cardboard every 2 weeks.

This service is currently provided to residents in south Wiltshire, but would be a new service to residents in the north, east and west.


A non chargeable optional kerbside collection of garden waste every 2 weeks.

This service is currently provided to residents in west Wiltshire. All residents in north, south and east Wiltshire, including those who currently have a charged collection, will be able to apply.


However, these additional recycling services can only be offered if the waste that is left over is also collected every 2 weeks, to enable us to re-use existing resources and vehicles (this service is currently provided in east and west Wiltshire, but would be a change in the north and south of the county).




Household rubbish
one week rubbish, next week recycling



Recycling - black box



Plastic bottles and cardboard
Fortnightly



Garden waste non chargeable, optional
Fortnightly

Note: The kerbside collection of food waste or tetra packaging is not included, due to a mix of technology and capacity issues. However this will be kept under review and may be considered in the future. Residents can recycle their Tetrapaks at our Household Recycling Centres, and the council continues to subsidise the cost of food waste digesters allowing residents to treat their food waste at home (see www.recycleforwiltshire.com).

This proposal recognises that residents want a wider range of materials to be collected for recycling, to help them manage their waste when it is collected every 2 weeks.

The existing fortnightly **kerbside black box collection** for glass bottles and jars, newspapers and magazines, food and drinks cans, aerosols, foil and textiles will continue.

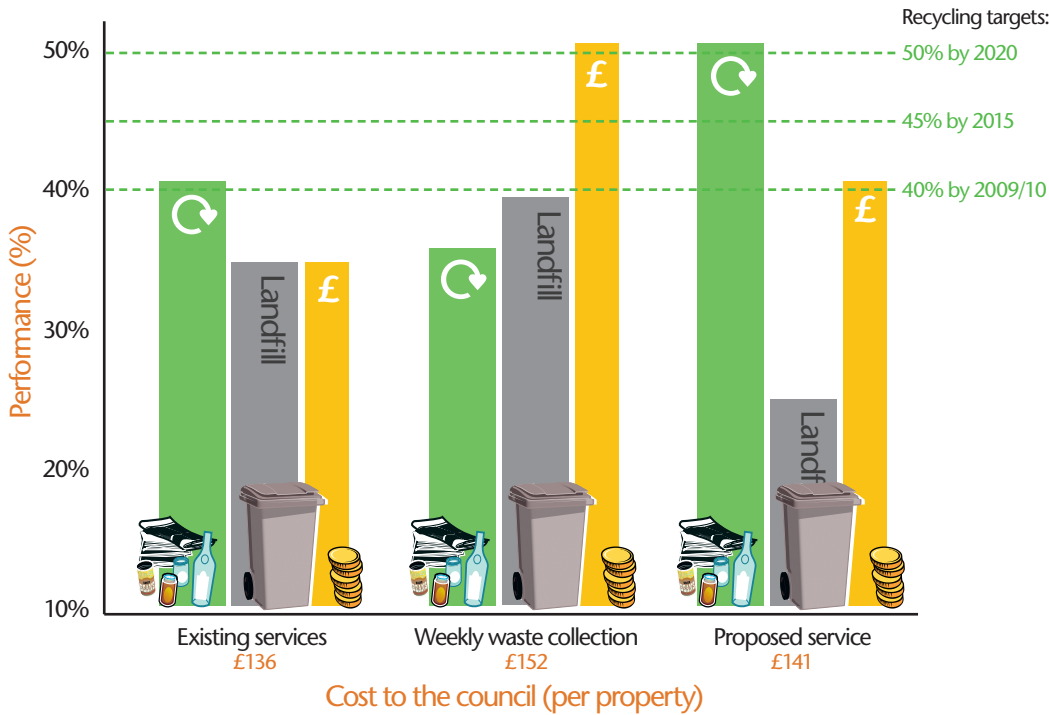
As well as reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill evidence shows that the proposal for a first class waste service will increase household recycling rates from the current average of 40.5% to over 50%. This will allow us to meet tough targets, reduce our landfill costs and avoid potentially huge EU fines. This service will be funded by using efficiency savings we have made from the move to one council, together with future savings in disposal costs.

The challenges we face

Residents of Wiltshire deserve the same first class recycling service no matter where they live in the county. Currently there are different waste collection and recycling arrangements across the county. We face many challenges:

- Landfill sites are filling up fast and we must reduce the gas emissions they produce. The proposal will mean we recycle more and landfill less waste, reducing the environmental impact on our county.
- We want to hit future recycling targets (see graphic below).
- If we don't do this we know the yearly cost of sending waste to landfill will increase from about £12.5million to almost £17million by 2015 as landfill tax continues to rise.
- We also risk incurring heavy fines (possibly in excess of £150 per tonne) if we do not reduce our landfilling of waste that decomposes.
- Using treatment technologies could divert more waste from landfill - 50,000 tonnes a year of Wiltshire's waste already goes to an Energy from Waste facility - but we also remain committed to recycling more.

The graphic below shows the difference in recycling performance, landfill reduction and cost for 3 scenarios:



Questionnaire

Please make sure that you have read the information in the leaflet carefully before completing this survey. These important details will help you decide whether or not you support the proposed waste and recycling service for Wiltshire residents.

The proposal

A first class waste and recycling service

Wiltshire residents will receive:

- A kerbside collection of plastic bottles and cardboard every 2 weeks.
- A kerbside black box collection for glass, papers, cans, foil and textiles every 2 weeks.
- A non chargeable optional kerbside collection of garden waste every 2 weeks.
- A collection of left over waste every 2 weeks.

I have read the information attached and I support the council's proposal:

☐ Yes ☐ No

About you

This section is purely optional, but it will help us plan your services. This information cannot be used to identify you.

Could you also give us just a little information about you?

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age: ☐ 18-24 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 75+
☐ 25-34 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 65-74

Where do you live? Please enter your postcode:

When finished please cut out this questionnaire and post it back to us, free of charge, to the Freepost address overleaf. You don't need to use a stamp! Please return by Friday 20 August 2010.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 38

Department: Neighbourhood and Planning **Further Enquiries to:** Geoff Winslow

Date Prepared: 22nd June 2010

Direct Line: 01225 713213

Update on the future of the Lafarge site, Westbury

On Thursday, June 18, Lafarge announced plans to cease the extraction of raw materials from the chalk and clay quarries and decommission elements of their Cement works at Westbury in Wiltshire.

John Hernon, national planning manager of Lafarge Cement UK made the announcement at the Westbury Area Board meeting where he answered questions from local councillors and members of the public.

He addressed a number of issues including:

- Lafarge is working with the council to reopen the footpaths affected by closure orders in the vicinity of the chalk quarry.
- The underground pipes leading from the chalk quarry to the site will remain in place as more damage would be caused to the local area if they were removed.
- There is no clear timescale as to when the two kilns and the chimney, which are surplus to requirements, will be demolished but this will be the subject of a lengthy and tightly regulated planning process in due course.
- Lafarge have experience of managing the complex issues involved in decommissioning and demolishing sites like this one. The site will be the subject of detailed geo-technical investigations to establish and address contamination issues. In addition, the company are fully committed to working with all regulators (the council, the Environment Agency and the Health & Safety Executive) to address all elements of the decommissioning programme. +

Possible future use of the site

Lafarge have confirmed that the redundant kilns are only suitable for cement manufacturing and therefore could not be used for incineration of waste. Technically the chimney could be used for waste purposes, although at the meeting Cllr Toby Sturgis gave an assurance that no discussions had taken place with Lafarge for handling the residual fuel that will be produced as a by-product of the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility at Northacre Business Park.

Lafarge are keen work with the council to explore a wide portfolio of potential employment uses on the site, although there are no specific proposals to consider at the moment. Lafarge are in discussion with the council on these matters. If Lafarge put the site forward for commercial opportunities, likely uses could include waste management, industrial-uses or small-scale business storage and distribution units.

The company acknowledge that the site is currently being considered by the council for accommodating a potential waste use. The initial draft of the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations plan identifies the site for further consideration and Lafarge are willing to discuss this in more detail as the councils' plan is developed through due process and consultation with local communities.

Background

Cement manufacturing at the site was mothballed in February last year. The company is now working with Wiltshire Council to fully address all outstanding planning obligations relating to the site including the need for detailed proposals for the restoration of the chalk and clay quarries which previously supplied the bulk of the raw materials used for the primary manufacturing of cement.

The existing distribution depot will remain at the site, and the jobs there and in logistics will not be affected.

Statement from Lafarge

LAFARGE ANNOUNCES FUTURE INTENTIONS FOR WESTBURY WORKS

With much regret, Lafarge Cement UK today announced that it will end its 'clinker'* manufacturing capability at its Westbury Works in Wiltshire. The company will continue to operate its bulk and bagged cement distribution depot from the site.

Today's announcement follows the decision in February 2009 to fully mothball the site's cement manufacturing operations in response to the deterioration in the market and the continuing tough cost conditions faced by the company.

In consultation with Wiltshire Council and other stakeholders, the company will now make detailed plans to decommission the site's two kilns. The company is also working with the Council to consider future opportunities for site, including decommissioning and demolition plans. Whilst these discussions are ongoing there will be no immediate demolition activity on site.

The future of the chalk and clay quarries, which previously supplied raw materials to the plant, will also be included in the plans being prepared. The land upon which the chalk quarry is located is owned by the Ministry of Defence, with whom the company will consult.

Lafarge Cement UK's managing director Erdogan Pekenc says: "We are aware that there has been some speculation about the Works, so we are making an early announcement of our intentions. At this stage, we will be consulting with key stakeholders, such as Wiltshire Council and Environment Agency, as the future programme for the site is developed.

“Throughout this detailed process, we will be drawing on our experience and successful track record in completing decommissioning and restoration projects.”

As part of these proposals, Lafarge plans to maintain the site’s cement mills for grinding and blending cement products using clinker transported from the company’s other UK cement works.

Since the ‘mothballing’ of the site was announced, neither of the Works’ kilns has been used. Similarly, all quarry operations have been suspended.

Throughout this time, the company has ensured that the site and quarry areas have remained secure.

In addition to the full-time wardens and security contractors that continue to maintain a high level of vigilance across the site, over £100,000 has been invested in fencing to secure the site/quarry areas and to safeguard members of the public using adjoining public rights of way.

Demonstrating the company’s commitment to safety of employees, contractors and neighbours, the site had passed over one-year injury-free. This commitment to safety will be maintained in all future onsite activity, including future decommissioning and demolition activity.

Erdogan Pekenc adds: “It is clearly with much regret that clinker manufacturing at the site is drawn to a close. However, as a year has now passed in the site’s new role as a depot, it is continuing to play an important role in our national supply network. We remain committed to supplying our customers with high quality products from the site.

“The team running the depot is to be commended on its hard work which enabled the site to evolve from a Works into a packing and distribution centre, against a backdrop of challenging times.”

The existing depot and logistics positions will be unaffected by this announcement.

* ‘clinker’ is the hard nodules of cement which are formed in the kiln before being ground into the more familiar cement powder.

Lafarge questions and answers

What are Lafarge’s plans for the Westbury works?

Lafarge will now end its clinker* manufacturing capability at its Westbury works. They will continue to operate bulk and bagged cement distribution depot from the site. In consultation with Wiltshire Council and other stakeholders, Lafarge will now make detailed plans to decommission the sites two kilns. They are also working with Wiltshire Council to consider future options for the site, including decommissioning and demolition plans.

*Clinker is the hard nodules of cement which are formed in the kiln before being ground into the more familiar cement powder.

What is happening with the chalk and clay quarries?

The future of the chalk and clay quarries, which previously supplied raw materials to the plant, will also be included in the plans being prepared. The chalk quarry land is owned by the Ministry of Defence and Lafarge will be consulting with them.

Is it likely that a waste treatment facility will be built there?

The whole Westbury Cement Works site has been identified by Wiltshire Council as a potential strategic waste management site in the current proposed Waste Development Framework. If this is progressed then it is possible that some form of waste treatment facility could be introduced subject to compatibility with continued cement operations.

How will the public be kept informed of future decisions?

Lafarge are committed to open communications and will ensure that all local stakeholders are informed of future plans for the site once they have been finalised.

Will the community be consulted on future development at the site?

Lafarge are currently in discussion with Wiltshire Council and other stakeholders regarding the future opportunities for this site. Should the future plans require a planning consent, the public and all stakeholders would have the opportunity to make comment through the normal planning process.

What is the timescale of these changes?

Lafarge recognise that in the light of this decision, there will be a lot of interest in the plans for decommissioning and demolition of the plant. However, this is an extremely complicated process and they will now begin to formally liaise with Wiltshire Council and other stakeholders on this process. A timescale on any decision/changes cannot be confirmed at this stage. Whilst these discussions are ongoing there will be no immediate demolition activity on site and at this stage Lafarge cannot confirm a start date or duration.

When did the cement works first start on this site?

Westbury Works opened in 1962

Why can't the site be restored to green fields?

The site has been used as a cement works since the early 1960's and following this announcement Lafarge intend to continue to operate a cement distribution depot on the site.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 39

Department: Resources

Further Enquiries to: Karen Spence

Date Prepared: 23rd June 2010

Direct Line: 01225 713094

Performance Reward Grant Scheme

This document summarises the main features of the Performance Reward Grant Scheme for Area Boards. Full guidance has been produced to help Area Boards in developing and submitting bids and this can be found on the website.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/performance-reward-grant-scheme-bid-pack.pdf>

Background

Wiltshire earned one-off Performance Reward Grant (PRG) from government which presented a unique opportunity to join up strategic priorities with those of local communities. This PRG scheme makes available £2.8m over two to three years for bids from Area Boards for initiatives that take forward those things in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire and Action for Wiltshire that are important to local people. The ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire are:

- Building resilient communities;
- Improving affordable housing;
- Lives not Services;
- Supporting economic growth (also covered by Action for Wiltshire);
- Safer communities; and
- Protecting the Environment.

A summary of the priorities under each of these ambitions is provided in the guidance pack on page 4 : <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/performance-reward-grant-scheme-bid-pack.pdf>

The PRG Scheme

The Scheme began in October 2009 and has been divided into 3 month tranches of £250,000 to help to ensure that all Area Boards have the opportunity to bid. Key dates for the remainder of 2010 are shown below (a more detailed timetable can be found on the website).

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/wiltshirefamilyofpartnershipsworkingtogether/wiltshirepublicserviceboard/performancerewardgrantkeydatesforbids.htm>

** Area Boards are responsible for the proper use of public money awarded under this scheme so only those bids approved by area boards for submission to the PRG Panel will be considered for approval*

*

3rd Tranche April-June 2010	
Closing date for bids from Area Boards to wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk	21 st May 2010
Panel Date	22 nd July 2010
4th Tranche July-September 2010	
Closing date for bids from Area Boards to wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk	20 th August 2010
Panel Date	4 th October 2010
5th Tranche October-December 2010	
Closing date for bids from Area Boards to wiltshirelaa@wiltshire.gov.uk	12 th November 2010
Panel Date	6 th January 2011

The bidding process

Bids are made by Area Boards, and the PRG Panel decides whether to approve the bids, on behalf of the Wiltshire Public Service Board.

Area Boards to bid for funding for initiatives on behalf of their local communities. It is the responsibility of the Area Board to ensure that bids are robust and well-founded and that public money is spent appropriately and in accordance with the details of the bid and with any conditions placed on approval by the PRG Panel – and of course that the benefits have a good chance of being achieved and that the initiative is well managed to ensure that performance improves for the community.

Area Boards will want the bids they consider to be robust and good enough for them to fulfil their obligations. They will also want to ensure that the bids put forward to the PRG panel for approval are of good quality and have sufficient information for the Panel to make its decision. The panel will need to be able to understand why this is a priority for the area and what the impact will be, both locally and on our ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire.

The role of Area Board Managers is crucial in working with the community to develop and refine bids for this scheme and in checking the bids before they are considered by the Area Board. Some bids that have been put forward are not suitable for the PRG Scheme and the community (and Area Board) has then wasted time and resources in making the bid, so involvement by the Area Board Manager at an early stage is helpful.

How to apply

Guidance about how to apply is given in the guidance pack, and the application form guides you through the questions. Both these may be found on the Website.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/performance-reward-grant-scheme-bid-pack.pdf>

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/performance-reward-grant-scheme-application-form.rtf>

Most of the questions on the application form are to help the Area Board and then the PRG Panel to make a decision. However, the questions relating to whether the funding is for revenue or capital purposes are to make sure that we can meet government's grant conditions - we have to report on this and meet the limitations placed by government on the use of the grant.

Following the first 2 tranches we have put together some questions to help people think about what makes a successful bid under the PRG Scheme. These are attached.

All bids for the first two tranches can be found on the website together with the panel minutes detailing the decisions made. It may be helpful to look at some of the successful bids as examples.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/wiltshirefamilyofpartnershipsworkingtogether/wiltshirepublicserviceboard/psbperformancerewardgrantpanel.htm>

For further information on the PRG scheme please consult the full guidance pack or contact the performance team:

Karen Spence 01225 713094 karen.spence@wiltshire.gov.uk

Claire Small as above Claire.small@wiltshire.gov.uk

Learning from the first 2 tranches - What makes a successful bid?

(10 questions to ask yourself when considering a bid to the PRG Scheme):

1. Is the PRG Scheme the right scheme/fund for this particular project?

- ♦ See the guidance pack (page 3) to help you decide
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/performance-reward-grant-scheme-bid-pack.pdf>
- ♦ If not then please don't make a bid to this scheme.

2. Is the timing right to submit this bid?

- ♦ If the bid requires planning permission which hasn't yet been granted, or a site which hasn't yet been found, or other sources of funding which haven't yet been explored ...it may be too early to submit the bid.

Does the bid:

3. Show evidence of local need?

- ♦ Does the project address a recognised and important local issue and is this clear from the information included?

4. Show evidence of local support for and involvement in the action proposed?

- ♦ For large projects evidence of recent public consultation will be expected

5. Have realistic improvement targets (including current baselines)?

6. Clearly show how it contributes to one or more of the ambitions in the Local Agreement for Wiltshire?

- ♦ See the guidance pack to help you decide

7. Show a significant enough level of improvement (targets) to justify the level of funding requested?

- ♦ The level of improvement we expect to see will be proportional to the level of the bid: i.e. the more funding required, the greater the level of impact and improvement that will be necessary. (See guidance page 3 – 4th bullet point)

8. Show information about how the improvements generated by the scheme will be maintained beyond the end of this funding?

- ♦ Is it sustainable?
- ♦ How will the improvement continue?
- ♦ Does it involve capacity building and involving local volunteers to help make it the initiative sustainable?

9. Clearly show what difference this project would make to the community?

10. Demonstrate to the reader (you!) why it should be considered a higher priority than other (potentially competing) bids?

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 40

Department: Neighbourhood and Planning

Further Enquiries to: Robert Murphy

Date Prepared: July 2010

Direct Line: 01225 713458

Review of Local Transport Plan Car Parking Strategy

The council's current car parking strategy dates back to 2000 and now needs to be reviewed to reflect the move to Wiltshire Council and to ensure that parking charges and standards are broadly consistent across the whole of the county.

A strategy that deals with the supply and management of car parking can be one of the most useful tools available to local authorities in helping them achieve their economic, social and environmental objectives. In particular, a car parking strategy can:

- support the local economy and the vitality of town centres;
- encourage sustainable travel modes and help reduce reliance on the private car;
- enhance the look of streetscenes and the built environment;
- meet residents' needs for car parking near their homes;
- improve journey time reliability for road users by reducing on-street parking contraventions;
- reduce wasteful competition between towns based on parking charges;
- raise revenue for the council to reinvest in transport services and measures;
- make Wiltshire a safer place through well designed and managed car parks;
- provide essential access for special needs groups and the mobility impaired;
- and
- improve the efficiency of the council's parking service.

The council commissioned its consultants Mouchel to undertake the review and their main report includes chapters on parking policies, parking charges, residents' parking zones and parking standards.

If you are interested in this review, our preferred method of communication is for comments to be submitted on-line at <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>.

Alternatively, comments can be emailed to transportplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk or in writing to: Sustainable Transport Group, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JD.

Paper copies of the questionnaire and a reference copy of Mouchel's main and technical report are also available from all libraries.

The consultation is open from **12 July to 3 September 2010**.

The council will feedback to Area Boards between late September and mid November 2010 prior to a formal decision being made by the council's Cabinet in December 2010. Any changes to parking charges and standards will be implemented from the beginning of April 2011.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 41

Department: Neighbourhood and Planning

Further Enquiries to: Spencer Drinkwater

Date Prepared: July 2010

Direct Line: 01225 713480

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP) SCHEME SELECTION PROCESS

1. Background

- 1.1. During the course of each year Wiltshire Council receives numerous petitions and requests for small-scale transport and highway improvement schemes.
- 1.2. In previous years an allocation has been made in the budget to fund a small number of the schemes requested by Town/Parish Councils. To identify those that would receive funding, all requests were assessed and prioritised using the Council's Scheme Assessment Framework, which provides an objective, quantitative and rapid method for evaluating and ranking schemes. However, following the establishment of Area Boards, this area of funding presents an opportunity for decisions on investment in highway improvements to be taken locally.
- 1.3. In 2010/11 the Area Boards will be allocated a discretionary budget of £250,000 and will be involved in the assessment and selection of small-scale transport schemes to be progressed in their community areas. This funding will be distributed between the Area Boards in accordance with the formula shown at Appendix A which takes into account population and the area covered.
- 1.4. In choosing their local transport scheme(s), Area Boards will need to be mindful of the priorities of the LTP and the likely availability of future funding for implementation.
- 1.5. It should be noted that this allocation is for capital funding and can only be used to provide new and improved infrastructure. It is to be used for schemes that improve safety, increase accessibility and sustainability by promoting walking, cycling and public transport, and improve traffic management. It cannot be used to fund maintenance schemes, these are selected using technical surveys and inspections. In addition, it cannot be used to pay for revenue functions such as passenger transport.

2. Allocation of the £250,000

- 2.1. Due to the complexity of assessing and selecting a scheme from the many requests, and the potential time that such an agenda item would take, it is proposed that recommendations are made to the Area Board by a Community Area Transport Group (CATG).
- 2.2. This initiative will be presented at the June/July round of Area Board's with a recommendation that each Area Board set up a CATG which would be charged with identifying the scheme(s) to be progressed with this funding.
- 2.3. Members will be identified by the Area Board Manager in conjunction with the Area Board Chair, and agreed at the Area Board. It is requested that the number on each Group should not exceed ten and that the meetings take place during the day. Meetings will be attended by relevant officers from Wiltshire Council including a senior transport planner, a senior traffic engineer and the relevant Head of Service for Local Highways and Streetscene. The meeting will be chaired by the Area Board Chair.

3. Other Highways projects

- 3.1. Whilst the CATG's would initially meet to discuss the allocation of the discretionary highway budget, it is envisaged that they would continue to meet on a six monthly basis to consider requests in order to determine those that are feasible and that might be eligible for funding in future years.

4. Community Transport Workshops 2010/11

- 4.1. It is envisaged that the first meeting would include a half day workshop covering the following matters:-
 - Background to the LTP, transport policies, and breakdown of total Council funding.
 - Use of the Assessment Framework to prioritise requests.
 - Review of requests received in the community area.
 - Undertake scheme assessment– taking into account typical costs, LTP criteria, constraints on implementation etc.
 - Discussion on the need to fund a scoping/feasibility study
 - If any scheme cannot be accommodated in the Area Board budget consider funding options for the implementation phase – i.e. LTP, match funding, section 106 etc.
 - Selection of scheme(s)
 - Recommendation to Area Board

Area Board - Local Transport Plan Scheme Selection Process

Appendix A

Area Boards Discretionary Highways Budget - Funding Formula

vi+A1

£250,000 distributed:		Fixed £90,000	Population £110,000	Area £50,000		Allocation 2010/11
Area Board	Amount	Population	Amount	Area	Amount	Total
AMESBURY	£5,000	7.2%	£ 7,870	9.72%	£ 4,862	£ 17,731
BRADFORD ON AVON	£5,000	3.8%	£ 4,146	1.83%	£ 916	£ 10,062
CALNE	£5,000	4.9%	£ 5,404	4.12%	£ 2,062	£ 12,465
CHIPPENHAM	£5,000	9.7%	£ 10,630	4.91%	£ 2,457	£ 18,087
CORSHAM	£5,000	4.3%	£ 4,767	2.37%	£ 1,184	£ 10,951
DEVIZES	£5,000	6.7%	£ 7,404	6.70%	£ 3,348	£ 15,751
SOUTHERN WILTSHIRE	£5,000	4.8%	£ 5,278	6.79%	£ 3,397	£ 13,676
MALMESBURY	£5,000	4.2%	£ 4,566	7.59%	£ 3,794	£ 13,360
MARLBOROUGH	£5,000	3.9%	£ 4,267	8.70%	£ 4,348	£ 13,615
MELKSHAM	£5,000	6.1%	£ 6,698	3.05%	£ 1,526	£ 13,225
SW WILTS	£5,000	4.9%	£ 5,389	13.38%	£ 6,690	£ 17,079
PEWSEY	£5,000	2.9%	£ 3,226	8.30%	£ 4,151	£ 12,377
SALISBURY	£5,000	8.6%	£ 9,460	0.60%	£ 298	£ 14,758
TIDWORTH	£5,000	3.6%	£ 3,924	5.67%	£ 2,833	£ 11,757
TROWBRIDGE	£5,000	8.8%	£ 9,710	1.29%	£ 644	£ 15,354
WARMINSTER	£5,000	5.4%	£ 5,887	8.68%	£ 4,339	£ 15,226
WESTBURY	£5,000	4.1%	£ 4,546	1.55%	£ 774	£ 10,320
CRICKLADE	£5,000	6.2%	£ 6,827	4.76%	£ 2,378	£ 14,205

90,000	100.0%	£ 110,000	100.0%	£ 50,000	Total	£250,000
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Dataset: WCC Mid Year Estimates

Title: Small Area Estimates for Mid year 2006

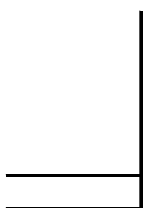
Type: Community Area

Geography Dwellings Household Total Popu % population

Amesbury	12060	11454	33005	7.154%
Bradford on Avon	7116	6911	17390	3.770%
Calne	9258	8864	22662	4.912%
Chippenham	17469	16981	44581	9.664%
Corsham	8322	8038	19994	4.334%
Devizes	13421	12795	31050	6.731%
Downton	7165	6955	22137	4.799%
Malmesbury	7525	7193	19149	4.151%
Marlborough	9517	9031	17897	3.879%
Melksham	10020	9831	28092	6.089%
SW Wilts	2732	2603		4.899%
Pewsey	4859	4576	13531	2.933%
Salisbury	20428	19911	39674	8.600%
Tidworth	4793	4473	16458	3.568%
Tisbury	3422	3235		0.000%
Trowbridge	18955	18334	40723	8.827%
Warminster	10713	10219	24689	5.352%
Westbury	7945	7686	19066	4.133%
Wilton	4931	4747		0.000%
Wootton Bassett	12498	12103	28632	6.206%

22599

Total 193149 185940 461329



Community Area	Number of SOAs	Number in x% most deprived nationally					
		20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%
AMESBURY	20	0	0	0	1	1	1
BRADFORD	11	0	0	0	0	1	1
CALNE	13	0	0	1	1	1	1
CHIPPENHAM	27	0	0	1	1	3	5
CORSHAM	12	0	0	0	0	0	1
DEVIZES	16	0	0	0	0	2	3
DOWNTON	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
MALMESBURY	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
MARLBOROUGH	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
MELKSHAM	18	0	0	0	2	2	2
MERE	13	0	0	0	0	0	1
PEWSEY	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALISBURY	27	1	3	3	3	4	6
TIDWORTH	8	0	0	0	0	0	1
TISBURY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TROWBRIDGE	23	2	2	3	4	4	4
WARMINSTER	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
WESTBURY	10	0	0	1	1	1	1
WILTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
WOOTTON BASSETT &	19	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	280	3	5	9	13	20	30

Wiltshire with SOA name with SOA with SC with SO with SO/re with SOA with SO

60385	175000	£2.90		
AMESBURY	1,274	£3,692.14	2.11%	£3,692.14
BRADFORD	3887	£11,264.80	6.44%	£11,264.80
CALNE	1,096	£3,176.29	1.82%	£3,176.29
CHIPPENHAM	6317	£18,307.11	10.46%	£18,307.11
CORSHAM	2,201	£6,378.65	3.64%	£6,378.65
DEVIZES	4668	£13,528.19	7.73%	£13,528.19
DOWNTON	0	£0.00	0.00%	£0.00
MALMESBURY	0	£0.00	0.00%	£0.00
MARLBOROUGH	1,511	£4,378.98	2.50%	£4,378.98
MELKSHAM	2787	£8,076.92	4.62%	£8,076.92
MERE	1464	£4,274.65	2.42%	£4,242.78
PEWSEY	1,565	£4,535.48	2.59%	£4,535.48
SALISBURY	10827	£31,377.41	17.93%	£31,377.41
TIDWORTH	4067	£11,786.45	6.74%	£11,786.45
TISBURY	697	£1,988.08	1.15%	£2,019.96
TROWBRIDGE	10454	£30,296.43	17.31%	£30,296.43
WARMINSTER	1,625	£4,709.36	2.69%	£4,709.36
WESTBURY	1,390	£4,028.32	2.30%	£4,028.32
WILTON	1,457	£4,222.49	2.41%	£4,222.49
WOOTTON BASSETT &	3098	£8,978.22	5.13%	£8,978.22

				% in x% most deprived nationally							
50%	60%	70%	75%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	60%
1	3	7	7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	15.0%
2	1	1	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	9.1%	18.2%	9.1%
1	3	6	7	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	23.1%
5	7	10	12	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	3.7%	11.1%	18.5%	18.5%	25.9%
1	2	3	5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	8.3%	16.7%
3	4	8	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	18.8%	18.8%	25.0%
0	0	2	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
0	1	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%
1	1	3	5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%
2	4	7	7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%	22.2%
2	3	3	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	23.1%
1	2	5	5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	22.2%
7	13	15	17	3.7%	11.1%	11.1%	11.1%	14.8%	22.2%	25.9%	48.1%
2	3	4	4	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	25.0%	37.5%
0	1	1	2								
6	9	10	13	8.7%	8.7%	13.0%	17.4%	17.4%	17.4%	26.1%	39.1%
1	4	9	10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	22.2%
1	4	5	6	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	40.0%
0	2	4	4								
2	2	5	6	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.3%	10.5%	10.5%	10.5%
38	69	110	130	12.4%	19.8%	45.6%	66.0%	104.0%	158.8%	227.2%	397.5%

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Community Area	Area (hectares=10,000m2)	Area (m2)	Area (km2)	%
AMESBURY	243,101,890	24,310	313.40	9.72%
BRADFORD ON AVON	49,234,884	4,923	59.04	1.83%
CALNE	133,240,900	13,324	132.90	4.12%
CHIPPENHAM	136,560,530	13,656	158.40	4.91%
CORSHAM	86,332,944	8,633	76.30	2.37%
DEVIZES	234,099,280	23,410	215.80	6.70%
DOWNTON	206,105,760	20,611	219.00	6.79%
MALMESBURY	237,314,030	23,731	244.60	7.59%
MARLBOROUGH	388,407,870	38,841	280.30	8.70%
MELKSHAM	51,315,120	5,132	98.40	3.05%
MERE	119,902,970	11,990	431.30	13.38%
PEWSEY	221,447,090	22,145	267.60	8.30%
SALISBURY	27,443,476	2,744	19.20	0.60%
TIDWORTH	122,722,480	12,272	182.60	5.67%
TISBURY	156,280,880	15,628		0.00%
TROWBRIDGE	81,234,464	8,123	41.50	1.29%
WARMINSTER	261,857,150	26,186	279.70	8.68%
WESTBURY	73,275,944	7,328	49.90	1.55%
WILTON	251,302,880	25,130		0.00%
WOOTTON BASSETT	174,222,340	17,422	153.30	4.76%
1 km2 = 100 hectares			3223.24	1.00

Total Population	Density	Sparsity	Sparsity/Totalx100
33005	105.31	0.95	#DIV/0!
17390	294.55	0.34	#DIV/0!
22662	170.52	0.59	#DIV/0!
44581	281.45	0.36	#DIV/0!
19994	262.04	0.38	#DIV/0!
31050	143.88	0.70	#DIV/0!
22137	101.08	0.99	#DIV/0!
19149	78.29	1.28	#DIV/0!
17897	63.85	1.57	#DIV/0!
28092	285.49	0.35	#DIV/0!
22599	52.40	1.91	#DIV/0!
13531	50.56	1.98	#DIV/0!
39674	2066.35	0.05	#DIV/0!
16458	90.13	1.11	#DIV/0!
7533	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
40723	981.28	0.10	#DIV/0!
24689	88.27	1.13	#DIV/0!
19066	382.08	0.26	#DIV/0!
9424	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
28632	186.77	0.54	#DIV/0!
		#DIV/0!	
461329	143.12586		

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 42

Department: Neighbourhood and Planning

Further Enquiries to: Sophie Davies

Date Prepared: August 2010

Direct Line; 01225 713429

Consultation on Initial Site Options for the Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations DPD

A consultation on potential sites for sand and gravel extraction is due to commence on 5th August 2010. Because the consultation is starting in August it will run for a period of eight weeks.

It is important to stress that the plan is at a very early stage of production and only proposes potential site options for minerals extraction. At this stage none of the sites listed in this document have any firm planning status - i.e. they are not the councils' preferred sites, but areas of land that have been promoted for consideration by landowners and the minerals industry.

The potential sites fall within the Electoral Divisions of:

- Alderbury and Whiteparish;
- Winterslow;
- Minety;
- Cricklade and Latton;
- Bromham, Rowde and Potterne;
- Melksham Without North;
- Calne Rural;
- Calne South and Cherhill;
- Melksham Without South;
- Corsham Without and Box Hill;
- Chippenham, Lowden and Rowden;
- Kington.

The consultation report identifies key issues and constraints for development of each of the proposed sites and represents the first opportunity for communities and stakeholders to share their views on the suitability of the sites included in this plan.

We would encourage anyone wishing to view and comment on the report to use the online portal <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>

Alternatively, the report will be available for viewing at Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council main offices and libraries throughout the county and borough.

The Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council main offices are located at:

- County Hall – Trowbridge;
- Bradley Road – Trowbridge;
- Monkton Park – Chippenham;
- Browfort – Devizes;
- Wyndham Road – Salisbury;
- Watt Tyler House – Swindon.

The comments received through this consultation will be used to help inform the scope of further detailed assessments on the potential sites. This in turn will inform which sites should be carried forward into the formal plan and which should be dropped from further consideration. A formal draft of the Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations DPD, presenting the sites selected to be carried forward, is timetabled for publication and consultation in spring 2011.

Further information is available by contacting the Minerals and Waste Policy team on 01225 713429, or e-mail mineralsandwastepolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 43

Department: Spatial Planning

Further Enquiries to: Mark Boden

Date Prepared: July 2010

Direct Line: 01225 718434

PROPOSED APPROACH TO DEVELOPING HOUSING REQUIREMENTS FOR WILTSHIRE

Introduction

1. On 6 July 2010 the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Secretary revoked Regional Strategies (RSS) by way of an Order laid before Parliament. In a letter from the DCLG containing guidance to all Local Planning Authorities (6 July 2010) it was confirmed that *“Local planning authorities will be responsible for establishing the right level of housing provision in their area, and identifying long-term supply of housing land without the burden of regional housing targets.”*
2. The latest DCLG guidance re-emphasises the need for Councils to ensure there is a five year supply of deliverable housing land within their areas. Under the previous RSS figures this has not been the case and has led to some disappointing appeal decisions where housing development has been allowed against the wishes of the Council. This is because the Inspectorate has indicated that lack of housing delivery is an overriding issue. Even with the abolition of the RSS, the Council is still vulnerable to planning by appeal, especially in the north and south of Wiltshire, if steps are not taken as a matter of urgency to address this issue.

Options open to the Council

3. The Coalition Government has issued guidance which allows for local authorities to consider a number of options for assessing housing numbers required. They may retain their existing targets as set out in the revoked Regional Strategies or review them. It also specifically refers to “Option 1” figures (i.e. those that were submitted by strategic planning authorities - the Section 4(4) advice - to inform the figures within the original draft RSS) suggesting that it may be appropriate to base revised targets on these, supplemented by more recent information. However, it advises that any decision on future housing requirements must be based on robust and

transparent evidence which will be able to withstand scrutiny through the LDF examination process. This is a key issue.

4. On Friday 23rd July 2010 at the Local Development Framework Management Board, a group that consists of Councillors and Senior Officers, Chaired by Cllr Brady, the relevant Cabinet Member, were presented with a report that set out the options available to the council's for approaching the housing requirement for Wiltshire. The Options put forward were:
 - Option A: Revert back to the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016
 - Option B: 'Option 1' Draft Regional Spatial Strategy
 - Option C: Update the projections used during the 4 (4) advice to generate up-to-date requirements
 - Option D: Comprehensive Review
5. The Management Board having looked at the options available felt the most advantageous option for Wiltshire would be to revert to the housing figures as detailed within the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016 (Option A), as an interim measure and to immediately commence a comprehensive review of housing figures based on the most up to date evidence (Option D).
6. Options B was considered to not be effective by the Board as it would not address the issue of the lack of a 5 year supply, or the 'planning by appeal' which the Council has experienced. Also given the advance state of the South Wiltshire Core Strategy it would carry unique risks including the high probability of legal challenges from developers, particularly if it leads to a reduction of Strategic Sites which may also cause difficulty delivering the Churchfield's element of the Salisbury Vision due to limited decant sites. Furthermore the method used to generate these figures has been previously criticised by Wiltshire (and GOSW) as it does not align household projections with economic prospects for the area. Therefore the scale of growth proposed may not necessarily be appropriate for the economic needs of Wiltshire.
7. While Option C could present a sound way of calculating long term housing need, the methodology involved means that it could not be in place until the end of the year, leaving the Council vulnerable to speculative applications, and also does not adequately take account of the economic growth needs of Wiltshire.

Interim measures: Revert back to the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016

8. The Structure Plan is still the extant development plan for Wiltshire and provides an interim position in the absence of any superseding regional policy and finalised locally derived housing targets.
9. Reverting to the Structure Plan would deliver a 5 year housing supply for the former district areas of North Wiltshire, West Wiltshire and Kennet, but not for south Wiltshire and the West of Swindon area. This will enable the council to more robustly defend planning appeals, especially around Chippenham. If the

Council relied upon draft RSS figures (Section 4(4)) this would mean that large parts of Wiltshire would not have a five year supply of housing and remain vulnerable to speculative planning applications. .

10. For Salisbury and south Wiltshire, in the absence of a five year land supply national guidance states that applications should be considered “favourably”. This could undermine the plan-led approach. However, this position could be rectified by the Inspector’s report being issued on the draft South Wiltshire Core Strategy declaring it sound.
11. Councillors should note that the reverting back to the Structure Plan does not alter land allocations at the more local level. These are undertaken through the former district local plans and the Local Development Framework. In addition, the limited life that many of the district Local Plans have in them will require the council to make further allocations of land within the near future, through the vehicle of the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

Risks to the Council

12. While adopting Option A as an interim measure does mitigate risk more than Options B and C, councillors should be aware of that by reverting to the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan will raise the following issues:
 - While the Structure Plan, as the current development plan for Wiltshire, could easily be used as an interim solution, the direction of the Secretary of State requires that a long-term housing ambition is identified, i.e. beyond 2016, which would not be fulfilled by this approach. Therefore it is a short term solution only.
 - The housing requirements identified in the Structure Plan were generated in October 2003 and so do not take account of the more recent 2003, 2004 and 2008 based population projections (ONS) or the 2003, 2004 and 2006 based household projections (CLG). As such, it could leave the Council open to criticism for not recognising (or even considering) the needs of the area.
 - The figures do not take account of the current economic situation, the economic growth prospects of Wiltshire, changes in household formation and size or the current population growth levels. As such, they would not address need within Wiltshire. Furthermore, more recent projections identified in the evidence used to inform the RSS could form the basis for any challenge.
 - This Option would see a reduction in the scale of development from that proposed through the Draft RSS Proposed Changes. This reduction would be in line with some of the consultation responses (especially at the West of Swindon, Chippenham, Calne and south Wiltshire). However, it would go against those responses in some of the towns in west Wiltshire.

Long term solution: Comprehensive review of housing numbers to maintain 5 year housing supply

13. Although the Structure Plan represents a sensible short term position, in order to mitigate the risks it raises, an expedient comprehensive review into housing figures is needed. This review will generate fresh housing requirements considering population and household growth, economic requirements, deliverability, affordability and sustainability. A number of projections (population, household and labour force) have been recently commissioned to inform this review. This is important work to identify housing past 2016 in line with the Secretary of State's direction and will comprise the following key milestones:
 - The informative projections should be available by late summer.
 - The work that progresses these into strategic requirements should be available by autumn.
 - The more detailed requirements by community area should be available by the end of the year for full council sign off.
14. Councillors should be aware that 2008 based population projections (ONS) and 2006 based household projections (CLG) have already been made available. Although this information indicates that the population growth within the modelling undertaken for the draft RSS is still reasonable, the number of households generated by this population increase has grown significantly, from that in draft RSS (Section 4 (4)) model. As such, using the most recent data, there is a need to provide more homes for the same future population. That is, we are living longer and together in smaller households numbers.

Conclusion

15. The LDF Board resolved to revert to the Structure Plan as an interim measure to treat the risk of not having a 5 year housing supply, while ordering an immediate comprehensive review to commence, as this represented the most effective way of addressing the vacuum left by the abolition of the RSS. The Board would welcome Councillor views on this matter and would ask that any comments be fed back, preferably in email to:

Spatial Planning Team

Economy & Enterprise

Tel: 01722 434390

Email: spatialplanningpolicy@wiltshire.gov.uk

16. The Cabinet Member would welcome your comments by the 13th August, prior to making a delegated decision.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 44

Department: Spatial Planning

Further Enquiries to: Mark Boden

Date Prepared: August 2010

Direct Line: 01225 718434

SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY - SUSPENSION OF EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC TO ALLOW FOR A REVIEW

Introduction

1. On 10 November 2009 Full Council resolved to submit the South Wiltshire Core Strategy (SWCS) to the Secretary of State. The Core Strategy was subject to a formal Examination in Public (EIP) for six weeks in March and April 2010.
2. However, before the Inspector (Mr. Bob Yuille) was able to report his findings the Communities and Local Government Secretary revoked the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West (RSS) by way of an Order laid before Parliament. The Inspector then requested a further period of consultation to gather views on the implications of this on the SWCS.
3. The situation surrounding the SWCS is very unusual in that very few Core Strategies were at this stage in the process at the time of abolition of the RSS. In the circumstances, the Inspector has acknowledged the Council needs time to consider its position and is willing to allow that time.
4. Having considered, in conjunction with the Inspector, all the options open to the Council and the risks arising from each, the relevant Cabinet Member, Cllr John Brady has decided to accept the Inspector's offer to suspend his report.
5. This will allow us time to re-assess our situation in the knowledge that there has been much disquiet over the housing numbers in South Wiltshire (some 11,000 representations to the process attest to the controversial nature of the process). Given this and the opportunity that the Government have given us, it is the only sensible course of action to look again at these figures. It is proposed to commence the review of housing numbers immediately and to take the conclusions to the full Council meeting in November.
6. Should the Council decide to produce revisions to the SWCS the Inspector will determine how much additional time should be allowed to formulate these revisions, justifying them through a firm evidence base and carrying out the necessary consultations and Sustainability Appraisal.
7. Once Full Council has made its decision, the Inspector will determine whether or not it is necessary to hold a Procedural Meeting to discuss the above matters in public or whether they can be dealt with through correspondence.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 45

Department: Community Services

Further Enquiries to: Nicola Gregson

Date Prepared: September 2010

Direct Line: 01225 771673

Care & Support Tender Consultation with Tenants of Sheltered Housing Schemes

Background – Care and Support Services:

On June 22nd, Cabinet approved the procurement of Care and Support services to people in receipt of support from the Council.

Included within the scope of these contracts, Cabinet agreed:

- Domiciliary care
- Housing support
- Supporting People funded services
- Telecare
- Reablement
- Live in Care

Views of Customers:

Consultation with customers highlighted the importance of being able to access the right service at the right time and the importance of ensuring greater accessibility to services.

Consultation with others, including operational staff and providers, highlighted the issues of duplication in service provision and burdensome processes.

Some customers who receive both housing support and domiciliary care have two visits from two organisations, two invoices and a potential for neither provider to meet all the customer outcomes.

Current Services:

In the region of 3000 tenants of sheltered housing schemes are supported with funding from the Supporting People grant that totals £2.1m. In addition to the Council, which is landlord to 600 tenants, the 3 main providers are

- Westlea,
- Sarsen
- Selwood.

Other providers include: Salisbury City Almshouses, Guinness, Raglan, Anchor and Jephson.

Selwood and some of the smaller providers that only have one scheme, provide this service through the use of wardens. This is particularly the case in West Wiltshire. The remaining providers, including Wiltshire Council, deliver the service through “floating” support i.e. staff who visit sheltered housing schemes on a regular basis. This service is not currently available to people who live in the wider community.

Housing Support – Consultation with Tenants:

There is the potential to include within the scope of the care and support contracts these support services. However, prior to any change in support arrangements housing legislation requires tenants to be consulted by their landlords.

Moving this support into the Care and Support contract we would expect to have a number of benefits:

1. Customers receive support from a single provider
2. Providers can combine staff delivering care with support staff. This will help deliver economies of scale and lower unit costs
3. Customer will have a single service that will cover all their requirements, with no customers falling through gaps in service provision

It is proposed to ask the housing providers to consult their tenants on 5 options:

1. Provide no service.
2. Continue to provide service with no support from the Council.
3. Replace existing service with telecare for all tenants.
4. Replace existing service with telecare for tenants and other older people in the community.
5. Replace existing service with telecare and integrated care and support services for people who are eligible for support from the Council. In addition, a low level preventive service would be provided to vulnerable older people living in their own homes in the wider community.

This consultation process will start on the 18th October and finish on the 18th November. This meets the necessary legal requirements for consultation. In view of the timescales providers have been offered assistance in this work. This consultation will include those tenants of the Council in South Wiltshire.

Summary

The commissioning of integrated care and support services will proceed with contracts due to be let in April 2011. Depending upon the outcome of this consultation, these contracts could include the provision of housing related support services. These services would have the potential to meet the needs of tenants in sheltered housing schemes and those who meet the Council's eligibility criteria for domiciliary care, but also to provide a service to individuals living in the wider community.

NICOLA GREGSON
Head of Commissioning OPPI
September 23rd 2010

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 46

Department: Neighbourhood and Planning

Further Enquiries to: Brad Fleet

Date Prepared: October 2010

Direct Line: 01225 713169

Review of the Development Control Service.

Members will recall that they were asked for their thoughts on the operation of the Development Control Service some time ago. The comments and observations received, along with those from the County's Parish, Town and City Councils were then carefully analysed and a report containing a number of recommendations for improvement was drafted earlier this year. The draft report was then considered by the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Area and Strategic Planning Committees and by the Focus Group on the Review of the Constitution. A number of amendments were then made to the draft.

This amended report was scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on the 19th October but a decision was made at that meeting to defer consideration in view of the imminent publication of the Government's 'Decentralisation and Localism Bill' (due on the 18th November 2010). The Government has stated that this Bill will contain proposals for "a more efficient and more local planning system" and its content will almost certainly have implications for the way the Council operates its planning service in coming months/years.

The decision on the 19th was that the most sensible approach was to defer consideration of the report for a number of months to give officers adequate time to assess the implications of the Bill and to make appropriate changes to the report. This will ensure that the report's recommendations not only address the improvements suggested by Members, but also take full account of any proposed changes to the planning system in England.

Cllr Brady, the Cabinet member for Planning expressed disappointment at a further delay in bringing the changes into effect, but with the impending reform of the Planning System due later this year, acknowledged that there was no urgency to introduce changes which might be obsolete within a short space of time.

At the time of writing it is anticipated that the report will be brought back to Cabinet in the New Year.

Brad Fleet

Director of the Development Service

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 47

Department: Children and Education

Further Enquiries to: Simon Burke

Date Prepared: October 2010

Direct Line: 01225 713840

Free Entitlement

Free early learning for three and four year olds

Free early learning gives children the best start in life. Through learning and playing with other children in a safe and structured environment, they will have a head start when they begin school.

What are parents entitled to?

All three and four year olds are now entitled to 15 hours of free nursery education for 38 weeks of the year (an increase from 12.5 hours). This applies until they reach compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday). Free nursery education can take place in nurseries, playgroups, preschools or childminders.

Parents can obtain information about free nursery education in Wiltshire by contacting our Family Information Service (FIS). The FIS provides information, advice and assistance to parents, carers and professionals on the range of children, family and young people's services available within Wiltshire.

Code of Practice

From September 2010, Wiltshire along with all local authorities (LAs) will be offering an extended free entitlement of 15 hours per week, which offers greater flexibility to better meet parents' needs. The Government has publishing a revised Code of Practice, statutory guidance for LAs, which came into force in September. This supports LAs to deliver the flexible extension, with a particular emphasis on flexibility, driving quality improvement and working in partnership with a range of providers. The new "[*Code of practice for local authorities on delivery of free Early Years provision for 3 and 4-year-olds*](#)" states that these 15 hours of early learning must be free to parents at the point of delivery. The Early Years Reference Group, made up of officers and members representing the early years sector has developed a local Code of Practice based on the requirements of the national code. Providers are required to sign an annual declaration indicating that they will comply with the terms of both the national and local codes of practice in order to receive Free Entitlement funding.

Free Entitlement Funding

Wiltshire Council receives a grant from central government to fund this free entitlement the majority of which is allocated by Schools Forum to the Early Years & Childcare Service via the Dedicated Schools Grant. An additional sum to pay for the recent extension of 2.5 hours is paid through Standards Fund. Together, in 2010/11, the total budget available to fund free entitlement to early education is £14.32 million.

Early Years Single Funding Formula

The Local Authority is responsible for administering these funds across all the providers who have signed the local code of practice. The Government considers that for too long, early years funding has been inconsistent and patchy across the country with too many children, particularly from disadvantaged families not accessing any, or all of their free nursery education hours. The Government has taken the decision to introduce Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) reforms in every local authority from April 2011, following successful implementation in more than 70 pathfinder areas this year, of which Wiltshire has been one. The EYSFF will require all local authorities to be transparent about the funding that they are providing for free nursery education for 3 and 4 year olds.

The Single Funding Formula has been developed to pay all providers on an equitable basis and, in Wiltshire, came into effect from April 2010. The Early Years Reference Group developed Wiltshire's formula which was approved by Schools Forum in January 2010. The formula enables the council to pay all Wiltshire providers, including the 10 maintained nurseries, on the number of hours actually provided to eligible children. In developing a formula, the Early Years Reference Group looked at introducing a basic hourly rate for each type and size of provider with the option of adding supplements for factors such as deprivation, quality, rurality, and Special Educational Needs. Feedback from all providers is being gathered to inform a review of the current arrangements in light of the first year's experience.

Further information is available by contacting the Early Years Free Entitlement Team on earlyyears@wiltshire.gov.uk or telephone 01225 785661.

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 48

Department: Resources

Further Enquiries to:

Michael Hudson

Date Prepared: October 2010

Direct Line:

01225 713600

Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2010 - *Additional Information 21* *October 2010*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chancellor of the Exchequer, delivered the report of the [2010 Spending Review](#) to Parliament on 20 October 2010. This report sets out some of the key issues arising from the announcement and following documents published by the various Government Departments.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The overall picture as to how this will directly impact on Wiltshire Council, as for all other local authorities, remains unclear. The precise detail of the Government Grant to the Council will not be known until December 2010 or even January 2011.
- 2.2 The headline reduction for the Department for Communities & Local Government's (DCLG) spending limit (known as its Departmental Expenditure Limit [DEL]) is 27% in real terms, or 19.6% in cash terms (i.e. the money we get will go down by 19.6% but costs are expected to rise by 7.4% over the 4 years and this will not be funded). Clarification on how this will be spread across the four years is still to be announced, but the reduction in 2011/12 is expected to be greater than first forecast and be greater than the 10.7% formula grant after accounting for the expected loss of certain specific grants.
- 2.3 Clarification is still required on how this DEL will be divided between authorities in terms of the amount of 'unringfenced' formula grant and specific/ring fenced grant. Wiltshire last year received £102.4m formula grant (including NNDR) and £183.6m specific and ring fenced grants. The Chancellor's announcement that £4bn of previously ring fenced grant will be moved into the formula is to be welcomed in terms of local freedoms over how to spend that money, but still leaves c.£30bn nationally of other grants for which the impact of the reduction is to be revealed. So for example the Local Transport Planning (LTP) grant is expected to remain specific and is estimated to fall by c.28%, with details announced before the end of October, for other grants it is likely we will not hear until the end of November.
- 2.4 There have been new funding streams announced, although detail on these continues to come out regarding what they are for, and how they will be allocated. The key new funds are:

- £1bn for Personal Social Services for Local Authorities (+ £1bn for NHS) – this is likely to focus on helping vulnerable adults, but this has not been ring fenced.
- £2.5bn for a Pupil Premium Grant to assist deprived children's education.
- A Council Tax Freeze Grant for those authorities that chose to freeze Council Tax in 2011/12. This grant will last for 4 years and will fund up to 2.5% of the resultant loss to authorities tax base as a result of a decision to freeze in 2011/12. Although it is unclear what the impact of any increase in precepts from Police, Fire or parishes will have on this grant entitlement.

2.5 To date the Council is forecasting reductions in 2011/12 of around 9% in total and across the four years 25%. As more detail is announced these forecasts and the consequences will need to be reflected in the budget set by Council next February 2011.

3. Detail

3.1 The CSR published Departmental Expenditure Limits (DELs) for the four-year Spending Review (SR) period; 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15. How individual local authority allocations are to then be made will be announced as part of the 2011/12 Local Government Finance Settlement which is expected to be published in December. It is not yet clear whether this announcement will cover years beyond in 2011/12, as a review of the formula to allocate money to local government is due in 2011.

3.2 DCLG Local Government Resource DEL

The DCLG Local Government Resource DEL is largely made up of Formula Grant (RSG + NNDR), it will also include the new Council Tax Freeze Grant and a small number of other unidentified grants (previously this included LABGI and LAA Reward Grant).

3.3 HM Treasury and the DCLG have quoted various figures relating to the DCLG Resource DEL. These figures were given in cash and real terms and cover schools, fire, police and local government funding to various degrees. The following table aims to pull together all the figures the Finance Team have seen in relation to this DEL and detail what they include.

DCLG LG Resource DEL		Terms	10/11 Baseline	11/12	Annual Change	12/13	Annual Change	13/14	Annual Change	14/15	Annual Change	SR10 Change	SR10 Average
			£bn	£bn	%	£bn	%	£bn	%	£bn	%	%	%
Including Fire & Police	Cash		28.5	26.1	-8.4%	24.4	-6.5%	24.2	-0.8%	22.9	-5.4%	-19.6%	
	Real											-27.0%	

3.4 In his letter to Local Authorities, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles said overall revenue funding to local authorities from all Government departments will reduce by 26% in real terms. He added *"local authorities will have greater control over more than £7bn of funding from 2011/12 which is moving into Formula Grant, being unringfenced or is new funding for the SR10 period."*

3.5 Grants Rolling into Formula Grant

Around £4bn of funds (a breakdown is provided in Annex A) will be moved into Formula Grant and is included in the DCLG Local Government Resource DEL (i.e.

those in the table above). The 10/11 figure in the table above has been adjusted for these grants to provide a like-for-like comparator.

- 3.6 The following table is taken from the Spending Review and shows figures for the LG Resource DEL in cash terms.

DCLG LG Resource DEL	10/11 Baseline	11/12	Annual Change	12/13	Annual Change	13/14	Annual Change	14/15	Annual Change	SR2010 Change
	£bn	£bn	%	£bn	%	£bn	%	£bn	%	%
Resource DEL	28.5	26.1	-8.4%	24.4	-6.5%	24.2	-0.8%	22.9	-5.4%	-19.6%
of which Funding for Formula Grant	28	25	-10.7%	23.4	-6.4%	23.2	-0.9%	21.9	-5.6%	-21.8%
of which Council Tax Freeze	0	0.7	n/a	0.7	0.0%	0.7	0.0%	0.7	0.0%	n/a
of which Other	0.5	0.5	0.0%	0.4	-20.0%	0.4	0.0%	0.4	0.0%	-20.0%

NB Local Government DEL includes funding for police and fire authorities. Excluding these contributions LG DEL for councils will fall by 28%

- 3.7 Grants will be rolled into Formula Grant at various points over the Spending Review period. Consequently some grants remain separate amounts for the earlier years. According to a DCLG press release, *'the Government's general intention is that grants rolled into Formula Grant will initially do so in a way which broadly reflects the existing distribution of the grant'*.
- 3.8 Grants that are being rolled into Formula Grant are listed by Department below. However, those grants that will be included part way through the Spending Review period are highlighted in **Bold**.

DCLG: Supporting People, Housing Strategy for Older People, Race Equality, Economic Assessment Duty, **Open Source Planning Fire**
 Department for Transport (DfT), Concessionary Fares, Other Transport Revenue
 Defra: Animal Health Enforcement
 Department for Education (DfE): Total (*includes LSC Staff Transfer, Service for Children in Care and Child Death Review Processes*)
 Department of Health (DH): AIDS Support, Preserved Rights

On-Going Personal Social Services grants (PSS) (*previously formed from Mental Health, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Learning Disability Development Fund, Mental Capacity Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate Service, Carers, Adult Social Care Workforce, LINKs*)

Recycled PSS including Safeguarding and Autism
(previously formed from Social Care Reform, Learning Disability Campus Closure Programme and Stroke Strategy)

New PSS Funding

- 3.9 The Fire Funding Grant will replace four previous fire grants from 2011/12. It will then be rolled into Formula Grant from 2013/14. The Open Source Planning Grant will also be rolled into Formula Grant from 2013/14.

2011/12 and 2012/13 totals for both grants can be found in the table below.

DCLG Revenue Grants to LG	Baseline	2011/12	Annual Change	2012/13	Annual Change
	£m	£m	%	£m	%
Open Source Planning	4.35	5.00	14.9%	10.00	100.0%
Fire	36.00	71.58	98.8%	59.57	-16.8%

3.10 Other Core DCLG Revenue Grants

Mr Pickles announced local authorities would have greater control over more funding and also a reduction in core revenue grants from 90 to less than 10. The 9 core grants will be:

- Early Intervention Grant – worth £2bn
- Public Health Grant - from 2013/14 (ringfenced)
- Learning Disabilities
- New Homes Bonus – worth £196m in 11/12 and £250m annually in 12/13-14/15
- Council Tax Freeze Grant – worth £700m each year in 11/12-14/15
- Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Administration Grant
- PFI Grant
- Dedicated Schools Grant (ringfenced)
- Preventing Homelessness - Baseline £70.97m, £90m in 11/12 and 12/13, £89.3m in 13/14 and £88m in 14/15. This includes funding for Housing Management

- 3.11 There are a number of small revenue grants paid to a single authority or not very many authorities, for a specific purpose (e.g. Isle of Scilly Waste Grant from Defra, or a grant from DfT to the Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Executive), which have not been captured here, as none are thought to affect Wiltshire Council.

Grants like Dedicated Schools Grant and the new Early Intervention Grant will absorb some previous specific grants and/or ABG. All other ABG grants will no longer be paid.

4. **Other Headlines Announcements and their Detail**

Formula Grant

- 4.1 An additional £1bn for Personal Social Services (PSS) will be included in Formula Grant by 2014/15, starting in 2011/12 with £0.5bn.

Council Tax Freeze Grant

- 4.2 Authorities, which choose to freeze Council Tax in 2011/12, will 'have the resultant loss to their taxbase funded at a rate of 2.5% in each year of the Spending Review period.' 'The new grant scheme will be open to all billing and major precepting authorities, including police and fire authorities, which decide to freeze or reduce their council tax in 2011/12. If authorities do, they will receive additional funding in 2011/12, equivalent to raising their 2010/11 council tax by 2.5%.' The SR report tables show this will cost DCLG £700m in each of the four years. Given Wiltshire's expression to freeze Council Tax at 2010/11 levels for 2011/12 the Council will apply for this grant. This is estimated to be worth £5.4m to Wiltshire. There is some confusion over what impact an increase in Council Tax bills due to precept rises from Police, Fire or Parishes and whether this would reduce the Council Tax freeze grant entitlement.

Education

- 4.3 The schools budget for 5 to 16 year olds will increase by 0.1% in real terms each year of the Spending Review period. This includes £2.5bn of funding for the new pupil premium. Arrangements for Pupil Premium Grant are to be determined.
- 4.4 £15.8bn of capital funding will be made available for schools over the Spending Review period. The Government will rebuild or refurbish over 600 schools from the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and Academies programme. No details of where or how this money will be allocated have been released.

Social Care

- 4.5 As mentioned above, £1bn will be put into Formula Grant for Personal Social Services, meaning total funding for social care, including rolled-in grants, will be £2.4bn a year by 2014/15.
- 4.6 In addition, £1bn of funding will be provided through the NHS budget to support joint working between the NHS and councils in the provision of social care.

Transport

- 4.7 Bus Operators' Subsidy will be reduced by 20%, saving over £300m by 2014/15. Although statutory concessionary travel entitlements will remain.
- 4.8 Revenue grants to local authorities from DfT will be reduced by 28%. Moving from 26 grant streams to the following 4 from 2011/12:
 - 1. major schemes (capital)
 - 2. block funding for highways maintenance (capital); and
 - 3. block funding for small transport improvement schemes (capital).
 - 4. Local Sustainable Transport Fund (capital and revenue) - £560m bid-based fund to support packages of transport interventions that support economic growth and reduce carbon emissions.

Fire and Rescue Services

- 4.9 Formula Grant funding for fire and rescue services will decrease by 25% over the period, weighted to the third and fourth year of the period.

Housing

- 4.10 The 'New Homes Bonus' will be introduced to incentivise councils to grant planning permission for the construction of new homes, by matching Council Tax receipts for each new home built for a number of years. It is envisaged this will fund c.150,000 new homes but it is unclear if this will affect Wiltshire.
- 4.11 The council housing finance system will be reformed to give councils more freedom. This is not likely to be in place until 2012/13 at the earliest.

Economic Growth

- 4.12 The Regional Growth Fund is a £1.4bn bid-based revenue and capital fund over 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14. A panel will assess funding bids from Local Enterprise Partnerships as well as the private sector.
- 4.13 A White Paper will be published later in the year with more details on incentives for encouraging growth in local areas. This will also contain more details about the introduction of Tax Increment Financing announced last month, whereby authorities can borrow against NNDR collected from new business areas.

Council Tax Benefit

- 4.14 From 2013/14 Council Tax Benefit (CTB) will be localised and the Government also plans to reduce spending on CTB by 10%.
- 4.15 Government will consider measures to give authorities more flexibility 'to manage pressures on council tax', to be implemented from the same date but no further details are known.

Local Authority Borrowing

- 4.16 Interest rates on loans from the PWLB have been increased to 1% above the rate for British Government gilts, previously the rate tracked gilts. The Treasury estimate this increased cost will lead to a reduction of 17% in self-financed expenditure by councils over the Spending Review period.

Internal Restructuring

- 4.17 In 2011/12 a £200m capitalisation fund will be available for capitalisation to support authorities wishing to deliver savings through internal restructuring. Wiltshire has put a bid into this fund (25/10/10).

Public Sector Pensions

- 4.18 The state retirement age for both men and women will reach 66 in 2020, four years earlier than planned.
- 4.19 Employee contributions to public sector-pensions scheme will be increased although details of by how much will not be known until April 2011. However, they will remain as 'defined-benefit' schemes. A consultation will be launched on a 'Fair Deal' system, recommended by Lord Hutton.

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

- 4.20 The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme, formerly the Carbon Reduction Commitment, started in April 2010 and is a mandatory climate change and energy efficiency scheme whereby organisations purchase allowances equal to their annual carbon emissions. The money raised through these allowances is then recycled back into the system in the form of rewards to organisations who reduce their emissions, thereby providing a self-financing financial incentive to reduce energy use.
- 4.21 However, the Spending Review states that: "*Revenues from allowance sales totalling £1bn a year by 2014/15 will be used to support the public finances, including spending on the environment, rather than recycled to participants*". The scheme was due to begin taking the first allowance payments in April 2011, with the pay-back scheme due to start in October 2011. As announced in the Spending Review, the first allowance sales for 2011/12 are now due to start in 2012, instead of 2011, in order to reduce the burden on organisations.

Annex A

Grants Going into Formula Grant	Baseline	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Supporting People	1,636.00	1,625.00	1,620.00	1,620.00	1,590.21
Housing Strategy for Older People	20.00	15.50	13.50	11.50	10.50
Race Equality	0.17	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Economic Assessment Duty	11.03	1.50	1.50	3.00	3.00
Open Source Planning				15.00	20.00
Fire				49.82	50.28
Concessionary Travel	223.00	224.00	204.00	208.00	212.00
Other Transport Revenue	112.00	79.00	72.00	80.00	83.00
Animal Health Enforcement	8.50	4.80	4.00	3.20	2.40
LSC Staff transfer, Services for Children in Care & Child Death Review Processes	114.05	109.34	83.17	70.51	66.34
AIDS Support	25.50	27.70	30.30	33.10	36.20
Preserved Rights	235.40	228.84	221.68	215.11	209.80
On-Going PSS	752.34	767.02	784.43	804.98	826.31
Recycled PSS inc. safeguarding & autism	303.00	318.15	335.75	354.91	373.11
New PSS Funding		530.00	930.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL	3,440.99	3,930.88	4,300.36	4,469.16	4,483.18

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 49

Department: Community Services

Further Enquiries to: Nicola Gregson

Date Prepared: November 2010

Direct Line: 01225 771673

Background – Care and Support Services:

On June 22nd, Cabinet approved the procurement of Care and Support services to people in receipt of support from the Council.

Included within the scope of these contracts, Cabinet agreed:

- Domiciliary care
- Housing support
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- Westlea,
- Sarsen
- Selwood.

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Selwood and some of the smaller providers that only have one scheme, provide this service through the use of wardens. This is particularly the case in West Wiltshire. The remaining

providers, including Wiltshire Council, deliver the service through “floating” support i.e. staff who visit sheltered housing schemes on a regular basis. This service is not currently available to people who live in the wider community.

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Moving this support into the Care and Support contract we would expect to have a number of benefits:

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It is proposed to ask the housing providers to consult their tenants on 5 options:

1. Provide no service.
2. Continue to provide service with no support from the Council.
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Summary

The commissioning of integrated care and support services will proceed with contracts due to be let in April 2011. Depending upon the outcome of this consultation, these contracts could include the provision of housing related support services. These services would have the potential to meet the needs of tenants in sheltered housing schemes and those who meet the Council's eligibility criteria for domiciliary care, but also to provide a service to individuals living in the wider community.

NICOLA GREGSON
Head of Commissioning OPPI
September 23rd 2010

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 50

Department: Resources

Further Enquiries to:

Michael Hudson

Date Prepared: December 2010

Direct Line:

01225 713600

Provisional 2011/12 and 2012/13 **Local Government Finance Settlement**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 13 December 2010 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, made a statement to the House of Commons outlining the provisional Local Government Finance **Settlements for 2011/12 and 2012/13**.
- 1.2 This marks the beginning of the **5-week consultation** over the Christmas period. The deadline for submissions to the consultation is therefore **5pm on Monday 17 January**.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 **In cash terms Wiltshire Council's funding** (Council Tax and Government monies) **has been reduced by £6.893m in 2011/12 and £12.593m in 2012/13 (£19.486m across the two years). This does not allow for the cost of inflation** (e.g. pay and contract inflation) **and local demand pressures disproportionately funded by the formula grant** (e.g. Wiltshire has one of the highest 85+ populations yet the formula allocating monies to councils take little account of the complex needs and costs associated with such care, also economic funding is geared towards areas of deprivation even though hardship can equally arise, albeit often for shorter periods such as the current climate, in rural areas). **That inflation and demand pressure for 2011/12 is in the region of £10m.**
- 2.2 **In addition, in previous years shortfalls** in budget and income arising from the current economic climate, such as development control **have been funded from one off use of reserves** (£4.9m in total). As reserves are

reduced this becomes an unfunded pressure that the Council must address. **As such the real reduction in the Councils funds is £21.793m (£6.893m reduction in funds + £14.9m inflation) in 2011/12 and £27.793m (£12.593m reduction in funds + £15.2m in inflation) in 2012/13. That is £49.586m over the two years. In addition Cabinet have already approved £4.3m of new investment each of the two years for transforming Waste.**

- 2.3 So in total, **that leaves the need to find £58.186m of savings to deliver a balanced budget over the next two years.**
- 2.4 This projection sets out the latest financial projections following the settlement announcement. A number of grants have still to be announced and officers have lodged a number of questions with the DCLG regarding anomalies in Wiltshire's allocation. Members will be kept informed of changes.

3 Funding Headlines

- *Formula grant*

- 3.1 **Wiltshire's formula grant has been reduced from a 2010/11 baseline of £121.62 million to £101.91 million, a fall of 16.2%. This has been adjusted upwards for one year due to damping (the minimum level of funding the Government allows) to £104.22 million, meaning a reduction of 14.3%.** Note the 2010/11 baseline is the adjusted figure as calculated by the Government, that takes our formula grant last year (£102.4 million) plus various factors including the specific grants (£21.5 million) previously shown separately that were, as announced in the CSR, been rolled into the formula grant. However, in total last year Wiltshire received £26.966 million of Area Based Grant plus £21.5 million of other specific grants, some of which have been removed and some that do not appear to have been rolled into the formula.
- 3.2 **In 2012/13 the Council's formula grant is further reduced to £92.763 million. A significant reduction on the 2011/12 adjusted settlement (i.e. £104.22m).**
- 3.3 There has been some confusion arising from statements coming from the Minister that Wiltshire received one of the best settlements in the Country with only a 2.19% reduction in its 'Total Spending Power'; and the settlement data that shows the Government formula has fallen by 14.3% one of the worst in the Country – see Appendix 1. This is a question of comparing apples and oranges. The Minister has introduced a new term 'Total Spending Power', whereby the DCLG have included Council Tax in the calculation of the overall funds. As about two thirds of Wiltshire's funding comes from Council Tax this reduces the overall fall. However, it is noted the DCLG have included monies raised by Parish and Town Councils but not accounted for the spend in our figures, thus boosting our income. This is an incorrect representation. The actual cash reduction is shown in the table below and it is perhaps more

appropriate to focus on that than the percentage reductions as these can be shown many different ways.

- **Grants**

- 3.4 The Government announced as part of the CSR in October 2010 that it intended to simplify the allocation process and allow more local freedom through the removal of large numbers of previously ring fenced or specific grants. It has kept to this promise and whilst a small number of grants have been rolled into the formula, see Appendix 1, the other grants have gone.
- 3.5 Of the grants that remain the announcements so far show that there are 6 that apply to Wiltshire. We still await an announcement on the potential for New Homes Grant funding. The funding over the next 2 years for the 6 grants is as follows:

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Total	36.288	34.336

- 3.6 Note at this moment the Housing & Council Tax Benefit Subsidy Administration grant appears to have been removed in 2012/13, which would bring in an additional pressure. Even if this has been rolled into the formula grant, as noted above we will see an 11% reduction in our formula grant in 2012/13 before this effect is accounted for.
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3.8 The affect in cash terms when you include Council Tax is as follows therefore:

	Council Tax	Formula	Grant	Total Government Funding	Total Spending Power	Reduction in cash year on year £
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ABG			26.966			
LABGI			0.574			
Specific grants			21.140			
Total		102.442	48.680	151.122		
less ABG reduction announced June 2010			2.300	2.300		
2010/11	217.763	102.442	46.380	148.822	366.585	
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- **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)**

3.9 In addition, the Department for Education was expected to announce, alongside the settlement announcement, local authority allocations for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and capital for 2011/12 and 2012/13, as well as total funding for the pupil premium. However, details have only just been published. As such officers are still working through these numbers and the impact. As such this is a risk to us in terms of potential shortfalls or need to ring fence.

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Wiltshire will no longer need to fund its spending from supported borrowing which should release revenue funding. These implications are still being assessed.

4 Impact on Wiltshire

- 4.1 The following table identifies the high level position following the Settlement announcement, subject to the caveats noted at paragraph 4.2.

	2011/12 £ millions	2012/13 £ millions	2 years £ millions
Base 'Total Spending Power' (a)	366.585	359.692	
Plus inflation and demand pressures – see section 5 below	19.200	19.500	38.700
Revised base requirement (b)	385.785	379.192	
Funding:			
- Formula Grant	104.225	92.763	
- Grants	36.288	34.336	
- Council Tax	219.179	220.000	
Total Funding (c)	359.692	347.099	
Reduction in Cash (a – c)	6.893	12.593	19.486
Total reduction in real terms (b – c)	26.093	32.093	58.186

- 4.2 The following caveats need to be borne in mind in considering the Council's financial position:

- The base 'total spending power' for both years assumes savings are made in the year so the 2010/11 budget is made and the 2011/12 savings are all delivered. Thus the savings for 2012/13 are 'new saving' requirements.
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- 5.2 In addition, as has been reflected in recent budget monitoring reports the Council faces a number of pressures due to the funding of previous year budget shortfalls from one off use of reserves. This is particularly evident in Elderly Social Care and a shortfall in Development Control income in the current economic climate. If this is not addressed the shortfall will continue. In total this pressures amounts to £4.9m in 2011/12 and £5m in 2012/13.

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- 5.4 In summary the real cost that is unfunded in the settlement and through no increase in Council Tax is as follows:

Real Unfunded Cost (excluding cash reduction)	2011/12 £m	2012/13 £m
Inflation / demand	10.0	10.2
Base budget corrections	4.9	5.0
Sub total before Cabinet decisions	14.9	15.2
Cabinet 2010/11 decision on Waste	4.3	4.3
Total	19.2	19.5

6 Miscellaneous

- ***Capping***

- 6.1 Mr Pickles said in his statement that details of capping principles for 2011/12 will be announced at the time the local government finance settlement is debated in Parliament, expected to be early February 2011. He also announced that the Government will take action to cap both Nottinghamshire and Greater Manchester police authorities if they propose Council Tax increases in 2011/12 above 2.5%. This follows the decision by the last Government to designate both authorities after Council Tax rises in 2010/11.

- ***Written Ministerial Statements***

- 6.2 The following Written Ministerial Statements were made on 13 December 2010:

1. Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills: [Local enterprise partnerships](#)
2. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government: [Business rates](#)
3. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government: [Localism Bill](#)
4. Secretary of State for the Home Department: [Allocations of grant to police authorities in England and Wales](#)
5. Secretary of State for Transport: [Local transport capital blocks settlement](#)
6. Secretary of State for Transport: [Local Sustainable Transport Fund](#)

Comparison to other Counties and Former Counties of reduction in Formula grant

Local Authorities	2010/11 Baseline	BEFORE DAMPING			AFTER DAMPING			Damping Band
		2011/12 Provisional Formula Grant	Formula Grant Change		2011/12 Provisional Formula Grant	Formula Grant Change		
		£m	£m	%	£m	£m	%	
ENGLAND	£32,653.05	£29,409.63	-£3,243.43	-9.9%	£29,409.63	-£3,243.43	-9.9%	
SCT Members	£6,664.62	£5,875.04	-£789.58	-11.8%	£5,825.96	-£838.66	-12.6%	
Shire Counties	£5,204.45	£4,572.13	-£632.32	-12.1%	£4,546.79	-£657.66	-12.6%	
Shire Districts	£1,471.00	£1,249.69	-£221.31	-15.0%	£1,249.69	-£221.31	-15.0%	
Shire Unitaries	£5,186.99	£4,704.42	-£482.57	-9.3%	£4,596.20	-£590.79	-11.4%	
Inner London (inc City)	£2,502.18	£2,018.09	-£484.09	-19.3%	£2,221.13	-£281.05	-11.2%	
Outer London	£2,254.38	£2,021.87	-£232.51	-10.3%	£2,000.29	-£254.09	-11.3%	
Metropolitan Districts	£6,655.27	£5,953.89	-£701.39	-10.5%	£5,905.99	-£749.28	-11.3%	
Police Authorities	£8,319.06	£7,891.39	-£427.67	-5.1%	£7,891.39	-£427.67	-5.1%	
Fire Authorities	£1,057.13	£995.55	-£61.58	-5.8%	£995.55	-£61.58	-5.8%	
Durham	£263.16	£246.82	-£16.34	-6.2%	£235.37	-£27.79	-10.6%	2
Norfolk	£286.35	£278.50	-£7.85	-2.7%	£256.91	-£29.45	-10.3%	3
Cumbria	£176.65	£171.61	-£5.04	-2.9%	£158.43	-£18.22	-10.3%	3
Lincolnshire	£237.88	£223.46	-£14.42	-6.1%	£211.16	-£26.72	-11.2%	3
Cornwall	£245.25	£227.55	-£17.71	-7.2%	£216.89	-£28.36	-11.6%	3
Derbyshire	£233.19	£214.37	-£18.81	-8.1%	£205.66	-£27.53	-11.8%	3
Northamptonshire	£191.30	£175.52	-£15.78	-8.2%	£168.62	-£22.68	-11.9%	3
Northumberland	£146.73	£133.43	-£13.30	-9.1%	£128.99	-£17.74	-12.1%	3
Lancashire	£380.15	£344.39	-£35.76	-9.4%	£333.82	-£46.33	-12.2%	3
Shropshire	£108.45	£98.07	-£10.38	-9.6%	£95.18	-£13.27	-12.2%	3

Local Authorities	2010/11 Baseline	BEFORE DAMPING				AFTER DAMPING			Damping Band
		2011/12 Provisional Formula Grant	Formula Grant Change			2011/12 Provisional Formula Grant	Formula Grant Change		
		£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	%	
Isle of Wight	£72.55	£65.31	-£7.24	-10.0%	£63.59	-£8.96	-12.4%	3	
East Riding of Yorkshire	£117.33	£104.32	-£13.00	-11.1%	£102.47	-£14.86	-12.7%	3	
Bedford	£63.30	£51.77	-£11.53	-18.2%	£54.88	-£8.42	-13.3%	3	
Herefordshire	£69.35	£60.08	-£9.27	-13.4%	£60.13	-£9.22	-13.3%	3	
Cheshire West & Chester	£111.39	£95.74	-£15.65	-14.0%	£96.58	-£14.81	-13.3%	3	
Somerset	£146.88	£140.95	-£5.93	-4.0%	£130.18	-£16.70	-11.4%	4	
Dorset	£73.99	£70.88	-£3.10	-4.2%	£65.54	-£8.44	-11.4%	4	
Devon	£211.43	£197.33	-£14.10	-6.7%	£185.80	-£25.63	-12.1%	4	
Essex	£324.01	£299.71	-£24.30	-7.5%	£283.97	-£40.04	-12.4%	4	
Kent	£361.13	£332.77	-£28.36	-7.9%	£316.14	-£44.99	-12.5%	4	
East Sussex	£134.76	£123.73	-£11.03	-8.2%	£117.84	-£16.92	-12.6%	4	
Warwickshire	£122.80	£112.71	-£10.09	-8.2%	£107.37	-£15.43	-12.6%	4	
Staffordshire	£200.06	£183.32	-£16.74	-8.4%	£174.84	-£25.22	-12.6%	4	
Nottinghamshire	£227.59	£208.12	-£19.47	-8.6%	£198.78	-£28.81	-12.7%	4	
Suffolk	£212.22	£193.44	-£18.78	-8.9%	£185.18	-£27.04	-12.7%	4	
Worcestershire	£126.95	£112.30	-£14.65	-11.5%	£109.80	-£17.15	-13.5%	4	
North Yorkshire	£141.53	£124.34	-£17.20	-12.2%	£122.16	-£19.37	-13.7%	4	
Gloucestershire	£159.81	£139.89	-£19.92	-12.5%	£137.79	-£22.01	-13.8%	4	
Leicestershire	£126.33	£110.36	-£15.97	-12.6%	£108.87	-£17.47	-13.8%	4	
Central Bedfordshire	£59.02	£48.75	-£10.26	-17.4%	£50.58	-£8.44	-14.3%	4	
Wiltshire	£121.62	£101.91	-£19.71	-16.2%	£104.22	-£17.39	-14.3%	4	
Cheshire East	£82.02	£69.15	-£12.87	-15.7%	£70.29	-£11.73	-14.3%	4	
Surrey	£178.22	£90.67	-£87.55	-49.1%	£152.73	-£25.48	-14.3%	4	
Hertfordshire	£234.12	£172.01	-£62.11	-26.5%	£200.64	-£33.48	-14.3%	4	
Oxfordshire	£142.15	£103.86	-£38.29	-26.9%	£121.82	-£20.33	-14.3%	4	
Hampshire	£216.11	£166.98	-£49.13	-22.7%	£185.21	-£30.90	-14.3%	4	

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West Sussex	£141.19	£115.45	-£25.74	-18.2%	£121.00	-£20.19	-14.3%	4
Buckinghamshire	£77.52	£47.94	-£29.58	-38.2%	£66.43	-£11.09	-14.3%	4

1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 13 December 2010 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, made a statement to the House of Commons outlining the provisional Local Government Finance **Settlements for 2011/12 and 2012/13**.
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6 Miscellaneous

- ***Capping***

- 6.1 Mr Pickles said in his statement that details of capping principles for 2011/12 will be announced at the time the local government finance settlement is debated in Parliament, expected to be early February 2011. He also announced that the Government will take action to cap both Nottinghamshire and Greater Manchester police authorities if they propose Council Tax increases in 2011/12 above 2.5%. This follows the decision by the last Government to designate both authorities after Council Tax rises in 2010/11.

- ***Written Ministerial Statements***

- 6.2 The following Written Ministerial Statements were made on 13 December 2010:

1. Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills: [Local enterprise partnerships](#)
2. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government: [Business rates](#)
3. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government: [Localism Bill](#)
4. Secretary of State for the Home Department: [Allocations of grant to police authorities in England and Wales](#)
5. Secretary of State for Transport: [Local transport capital blocks settlement](#)
6. Secretary of State for Transport: [Local Sustainable Transport Fund](#)

Comparison to other Counties and Former Counties of reduction in Formula grant

Local Authorities	2010/11 Baseline	BEFORE DAMPING			AFTER DAMPING			Damping Band
		2011/12 Provisional Formula Grant	Formula Grant Change		2011/12 Provisional Formula Grant	Formula Grant Change		
		£m	£m	%	£m	£m	%	
ENGLAND	£32,653.05	£29,409.63	-£3,243.43	-9.9%	£29,409.63	-£3,243.43	-9.9%	
SCT Members	£6,664.62	£5,875.04	-£789.58	-11.8%	£5,825.96	-£838.66	-12.6%	
Shire Counties	£5,204.45	£4,572.13	-£632.32	-12.1%	£4,546.79	-£657.66	-12.6%	
Shire Districts	£1,471.00	£1,249.69	-£221.31	-15.0%	£1,249.69	-£221.31	-15.0%	
Shire Unitaries	£5,186.99	£4,704.42	-£482.57	-9.3%	£4,596.20	-£590.79	-11.4%	
Inner London (inc City)	£2,502.18	£2,018.09	-£484.09	-19.3%	£2,221.13	-£281.05	-11.2%	
Outer London	£2,254.38	£2,021.87	-£232.51	-10.3%	£2,000.29	-£254.09	-11.3%	
Metropolitan Districts	£6,655.27	£5,953.89	-£701.39	-10.5%	£5,905.99	-£749.28	-11.3%	
Police Authorities	£8,319.06	£7,891.39	-£427.67	-5.1%	£7,891.39	-£427.67	-5.1%	
Fire Authorities	£1,057.13	£995.55	-£61.58	-5.8%	£995.55	-£61.58	-5.8%	
Durham	£263.16	£246.82	-£16.34	-6.2%	£235.37	-£27.79	-10.6%	2
Norfolk	£286.35	£278.50	-£7.85	-2.7%	£256.91	-£29.45	-10.3%	3
Cumbria	£176.65	£171.61	-£5.04	-2.9%	£158.43	-£18.22	-10.3%	3
Lincolnshire	£237.88	£223.46	-£14.42	-6.1%	£211.16	-£26.72	-11.2%	3
Cornwall	£245.25	£227.55	-£17.71	-7.2%	£216.89	-£28.36	-11.6%	3
Derbyshire	£233.19	£214.37	-£18.81	-8.1%	£205.66	-£27.53	-11.8%	3
Northamptonshire	£191.30	£175.52	-£15.78	-8.2%	£168.62	-£22.68	-11.9%	3
Northumberland	£146.73	£133.43	-£13.30	-9.1%	£128.99	-£17.74	-12.1%	3
Lancashire	£380.15	£344.39	-£35.76	-9.4%	£333.82	-£46.33	-12.2%	3
Shropshire	£108.45	£98.07	-£10.38	-9.6%	£95.18	-£13.27	-12.2%	3
Isle of Wight	£72.55	£65.31	-£7.24	-10.0%	£63.59	-£8.96	-12.4%	3
East Riding of Yorkshire	£117.33	£104.32	-£13.00	-11.1%	£102.47	-£14.86	-12.7%	3
Bedford	£63.30	£51.77	-£11.53	-18.2%	£54.88	-£8.42	-13.3%	3

Local Authorities	2010/11 Baseline	BEFORE DAMPING				AFTER DAMPING			Damping Band
		2011/12 Provisional Formula Grant	Formula Grant Change			2011/12 Provisional Formula Grant	Formula Grant Change		
		£m	£m	£m	%	£m	£m	%	
Herefordshire	£69.35	£60.08	-£9.27	-13.4%	£60.13	-£9.22	-13.3%	3	
Cheshire West & Chester	£111.39	£95.74	-£15.65	-14.0%	£96.58	-£14.81	-13.3%	3	
Somerset	£146.88	£140.95	-£5.93	-4.0%	£130.18	-£16.70	-11.4%	4	
Dorset	£73.99	£70.88	-£3.10	-4.2%	£65.54	-£8.44	-11.4%	4	
Devon	£211.43	£197.33	-£14.10	-6.7%	£185.80	-£25.63	-12.1%	4	
Essex	£324.01	£299.71	-£24.30	-7.5%	£283.97	-£40.04	-12.4%	4	
Kent	£361.13	£332.77	-£28.36	-7.9%	£316.14	-£44.99	-12.5%	4	
East Sussex	£134.76	£123.73	-£11.03	-8.2%	£117.84	-£16.92	-12.6%	4	
Warwickshire	£122.80	£112.71	-£10.09	-8.2%	£107.37	-£15.43	-12.6%	4	
Staffordshire	£200.06	£183.32	-£16.74	-8.4%	£174.84	-£25.22	-12.6%	4	
Nottinghamshire	£227.59	£208.12	-£19.47	-8.6%	£198.78	-£28.81	-12.7%	4	
Suffolk	£212.22	£193.44	-£18.78	-8.9%	£185.18	-£27.04	-12.7%	4	
Worcestershire	£126.95	£112.30	-£14.65	-11.5%	£109.80	-£17.15	-13.5%	4	
North Yorkshire	£141.53	£124.34	-£17.20	-12.2%	£122.16	-£19.37	-13.7%	4	
Gloucestershire	£159.81	£139.89	-£19.92	-12.5%	£137.79	-£22.01	-13.8%	4	
Leicestershire	£126.33	£110.36	-£15.97	-12.6%	£108.87	-£17.47	-13.8%	4	
Central Bedfordshire	£59.02	£48.75	-£10.26	-17.4%	£50.58	-£8.44	-14.3%	4	
Wiltshire	£121.62	£101.91	-£19.71	-16.2%	£104.22	-£17.39	-14.3%	4	
Cheshire East	£82.02	£69.15	-£12.87	-15.7%	£70.29	-£11.73	-14.3%	4	
Surrey	£178.22	£90.67	-£87.55	-49.1%	£152.73	-£25.48	-14.3%	4	
Hertfordshire	£234.12	£172.01	-£62.11	-26.5%	£200.64	-£33.48	-14.3%	4	
Oxfordshire	£142.15	£103.86	-£38.29	-26.9%	£121.82	-£20.33	-14.3%	4	
Hampshire	£216.11	£166.98	-£49.13	-22.7%	£185.21	-£30.90	-14.3%	4	
Cambridgeshire	£140.14	£117.54	-£22.60	-16.1%	£120.10	-£20.04	-14.3%	4	
West Sussex	£141.19	£115.45	-£25.74	-18.2%	£121.00	-£20.19	-14.3%	4	
Buckinghamshire	£77.52	£47.94	-£29.58	-38.2%	£66.43	-£11.09	-14.3%	4	

Councillors Briefing Note

No. 51

Department: Neighbourhood & Planning

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Wiltshire's Highway Inspection Regime Given a Clean Bill of Health

Following a Coroner's hearing into a fatal road accident on the A338 near Tidworth on 24th March 2010, when a verdict of accidental death was recorded, the Leader of the Council, Jane Scott gave a clear assurance that the Council's system of road inspection and repairs would be examined to determine if the Council was complying with the Code of Practice for Highway maintenance.

Mark Smith, Service Director – Neighbourhood Services commissioned an independent external expert to undertake the review of highway routine inspections within Wiltshire.

The review considered the following areas;

- i. Identification of best practice and relevant codes of practice in relation to Highway Maintenance;
- ii. Identification of Wiltshire's current policies and systems;
- iii. Comparison of Wiltshire's policies with those of other relevant local authorities;
- iv. To draw conclusions and make recommendations.

The report has now been completed and Wiltshire has been given a clean bill of health, the report includes the following reassuring comments;

- Wiltshire Council is undertaking its duties and obligation for highway maintenance in a responsible manner that accords with the general recommendations and guidance of the current UK Code of Practice adapted to local circumstances.
- Wiltshire's policies and procedures compare favourably with those of other local authorities in the CIPFA family group.

- Wiltshire Council's current policy continues to be followed, subject to agreed required national and local updates.
- The highway authority (Wiltshire Council) is able to produce relevant robust evidence in defence of legal claims.

The report makes three minor procedure recommendations;

- Wiltshire's Network management Plan 2000-2005 and Highway Inspection Manual 2005 should be reviewed and updated as necessary as part of the Transport Asset Management Plan.
- The terminology used for prioritising highway work and that used for categorising defects should be reviewed.
- Those selected to represent Wiltshire Council at court hearings should be collectively briefed in all related issues.

In the case of the first recommendations this work is underway and the revision of the manual will be concluded by autumn 2011. The second item has already been addressed. The last item is being met through our Insurance section, which is arranging court training for Highway Inspectors and Senior Engineers next year.

Further information is available by contacting Mark Smith, Director of Neighbourhood Services on telephone 01380 734789.