

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Trowbridge Area Board**

**23 May 2013**

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#### **Subject: Wiltshire Council Policy for Non-Strategic Areas of Green Space**

#### **Background**

1. At its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Board put forward a motion requesting that a policy be adopted for dealing with non strategic areas of green space. This was as a result of issues arising at an area of landscape buffer owned by Wiltshire Council.
2. The green space which Wiltshire Council owns consists of larger areas, such as country parks, and smaller areas in and around housing estates. The smaller areas are the subject of this motion.
3. Most small areas of green space in and around housing developments were transferred to the council by the developers to comply with planning agreements entered into when they obtained planning permission. They are generally open space/amenity areas or landscape buffers to hide the development from adjoining countryside.
4. Wiltshire Council receives numerous requests to buy land of this type from adjoining householders across the county. It needs to have a consistent county wide policy.

#### **Current Position**

5. Officers from the Property Services, Technical Services and Countryside teams are working to prepare a policy to set out a framework by which decisions on these requests will be made, and to define an approach to addressing areas where adjoining owners have encroached without authority.
6. It is intended that a policy be put in place during the autumn 2013, through agreement by the Cabinet Member for Property Services, and Cabinet (Capital Assets) Committee. Area Boards will be advised as to the content of the policy adopted.
7. It should be noted that even if this policy allows the disposal of individual parcels of land, the sale will be subject to planning permission for change of use from amenity land, which must be sought by the householder in the normal way.

Neil Ward

**Head of Strategic Property Services**

01225 713298

Appendices: None