


CABINET

MINUTES of a MEETING held in COMMITTEE ROOM C - COUNCIL OFFICES, MONKTON PARK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 1ER on Tuesday, 22 January 2013.

Cllr John Brady	Cabinet Member for Finance Performance and Risk
Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE	Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Cllr Keith Humphries	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection Services
Cllr John Noeken	Cabinet Member for Resources
Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philipe	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning
Cllr Jane Scott OBE	Leader of the Council
Cllr Toby Sturgis	Cabinet Member for Waste, Property, Environment and Development Control Services
Cllr Dick Tonge	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Cllr Stuart Wheeler	Cabinet Member for Transformation, Culture, Leisure and Libraries

Also in Attendance:	Cllr Peter Colmer
	Cllr Christine Crisp
	Cllr Richard Gamble
	Cllr Jerry Kunkler
	Cllr Alan MacRae
	Cllr Laura Mayes
	Cllr Jemima Milton
	Cllr Jonathon Seed
	Cllr Christopher Williams

Key Decisions Matters defined as 'Key' Decisions and included in the Council's Forward Work Plan are shown as 

150 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor John Thomson.

151 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2012 were presented.

Resolved:

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2012.

152 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

153 Leader's announcements

There were none.

154 Public participation

The Chairman noted the receipt of three questions and invited responses to be given. The text of the questions and responses is set out at appendix 1.

Councillor Dick Tonge responded to a question from Patrick Kinnersly on Major Transport Schemes.

Maggie Rae, Corporate Director for Public Health and Public Protection, responded to a question from Margaret Wilmot relating to item 7 (Joint Strategic Assessment for Health and Wellbeing).

It was noted that another question had been received from Brian Warwick, relating to item 9 (Council Housing Governance), which would be addressed under that item.

155  Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Local Plan - Adoption

Councillor Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cabinet member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning, introduced the report which invited Cabinet to note the content of the Inspector's Report on the examination of the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Local Plan, and to approve the Plan (incorporating the Inspector's modifications) and recommend to Full Council that the Plan be adopted.

Councillor de Rhé-Philipe noted that the wording on the front of the document (page 15 of the agenda pack) should say Adoption Draft 2013, not Adopted February 2013.

Resolved

That the Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Local Plan, incorporating the Inspector's main modifications, is adopted.

Reasons for Decision

The Waste Site Allocations Local Plan is the final element of the current waste planning policy framework for Wiltshire and Swindon. The Plan takes its lead from national policy; and the policy framework set out in the adopted Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy (July 2009) and Waste Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (September 2009).

In line with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended), the Plan must first be approved by Cabinet before it is agreed for adoption by Full Council.

156 Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) for Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, introduced the report which updated the committee on the production of Wiltshire's Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) for Health and Wellbeing 2012/13. This report formed part of the wider JSA programme which is the mechanism of understanding Wiltshire's local population through the assessment of intelligence and information. Councillor Humphries noted that the JSA document had been circulated with the agenda, and that further detailed information was available on the www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk website.

In relation to life expectancy, it was noted that the gap between men and women in Wiltshire was one of the lowest in the country, and this had remained low, even with population growth.

The Corporate Director for Public Health and Public Protection also confirmed that it was planned to produce JSAs for individual community areas, and that the Area Board Chairs would be consulted on the timescales for this.

Resolved:

That Cabinet notes the production of the 2012/13 JSA report and supporting documents and endorses its use in commissioning and strategy preparation, including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Reasons for Decision

The JSA programme is the mechanism of understanding our local population through the assessment of intelligence and information.

Our strategies and plans need to be evidenced based, our evidence base is the JSA programme. This JSA provides the evidence base for all health and wellbeing related strategies and plans.

157 **Adoption Agency Report**

Councillor Jane Scott, Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Children's Services, introduced the report which sought to ensure that the Executive of the Council was satisfied that the Adoption Agency was effective and achieving good outcomes for children, young people and service users, as required by the 2011 Statutory Adoption Guidance and the 2011 Adoption National Minimum Standards.

Cabinet noted that a number of new measures had been introduced in the past three years, resulting in significant improvements to the adoption service, and to the speed of the adoption process. However, it was also noted that the importance of the Council's duty of care to children in the adoption system meant that the right decision was a higher priority than a fast decision.

Resolved:

That Cabinet notes and accepts the contents of the report

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that the Executive of the Council is satisfied that the Adoption Agency is effective and achieving good outcomes for children, young people and service users, as required by the 2011 Statutory Adoption Guidance and the 2011 Adoption National Minimum Standards.

158 **🔑 Council Housing Governance**

Councillor Jemima Milton, Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Housing, presented the report on behalf of the Cabinet Member. The report invited Cabinet to consider a proposal for developing a new model of governance for the Housing Landlord Service. In moving the recommendations in the report, Councillors Milton asked that the proposed deadline for the setting up of the Management Board (recommendation 1 refers) be amended from April 2013 to May 2013 in view of the elections in May.

Public participation

At the Chairman's invitation Mr Brian Warwick commented on the report, commenting that he supported the proposed approach, and seeking confirmation that the Council would encourage Housing Associations to take the same approach. Councillor Milton confirmed that this was the case, and it was agreed that officers and Councillors would put this message to Housing Associations.

It was noted that recommendation 1 referred to "equal numbers of Councillors, tenants and independents", whereas this was at odds with paragraph 3.2. Officers noted that the recommendation was correct and that exact numbers would depend on the skills and experience of the individuals.

Resolved:

That Cabinet

- 1. Approves the setting up of a Management Board for the governance of council housing consisting of an equal number of Councillors, tenants and independents, with a recommendation that such a panel should be in place by April 2013. This will enable full consultation to take place in line with the Compact and to carry out a transparent recruitment process.**
- 2. Approves the setting up of an advisory panel of two Councillors and two tenant representatives to oversee the project of setting up a management board.**
- 3. Endorses the proposal to work with tenants to review other methods of tenant involvement such as the Tenants Panel to ensure that broader tenant participation :**
 - a) Compliments any governance arrangements that are developed**
 - b) Develops a strong area base locally**
 - c) Works for all groups of residents including younger adults and the more vulnerable tenants.**

Reasons for Decision

To seek Cabinet approval to extend and strengthen the governance arrangements for delivering an excellent Housing Landlord Service.

The Localism Act has given additional freedoms to councils and tenants to determine their future housing services and priorities under the term 'co-regulation' Tenant participation has evolved to an extent where tenants expect and are encouraged to work closely with the Council to have more of a direct say in the decision making process.

Minor amendment to the Homes4Wiltshire allocation policy in advance of completing a full review

Councillor Jemima Milton, Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Housing, presented the report on behalf of the Cabinet Member. The report sought approval from Cabinet to make an amendment to the Homes4Wiltshire policy that was approved by cabinet on 11 November 2009. The amendment sought to introduce additional reasonable preference criteria for working age households residing in Wiltshire, who were social housing tenants and under-occupying by 2 bedroom or more and identified as most at risk of suffering financial hardship if they continued to remain in their current property.

The Cabinet welcomed this change to the policy, and it was noted that proactive work was ongoing to mitigate the impact of this and other elements of Welfare reform. In response to questions it was confirmed that tenants who were over-occupying would not be exempt from the reduction in Housing Benefit if they were on the Housing list for a new property, however, the Housing Service would work with such tenants to identify hardship grants as and where required.

Resolved

That Cabinet:

Introduce an additional reasonable preference criteria within the Gold plus band as follows:-

- **Under Occupation – This applies to any working-age, social sector households in Wiltshire who is under-occupying by two or more bedrooms and who would suffer financial hardship if they remained in their existing home.**

Reasons for Decision

To try and facilitate moves for working age housing benefit households to help reduce the impact of arrears and potential evictions we need to prioritise these households within the Homes4Wiltshire policy.

Currently households who are under occupying are assessed as being Gold. To ensure we maximise opportunities for households to downsize to more suitable accommodation that meets the needs of the family, and free up larger family accommodation, we propose to introduce an additional local reasonable preference criteria to allow this group to be awarded Gold plus status

160 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

Appendix 1 - Questions and Responses

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 - 11.30 am)

<p>These decisions were published on the 24 January 2013 and will come into force on 1 February 2013</p>
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