

THE EXECUTIVE

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on Thursday 2nd February 2006 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor C. O’Gorman, Leader in the Chair

Councillors H. M. Dixon, S. K. Doubell, D. J. E. Evans, C. Reid and O. J. Thomas.

Non-Executive Councillors Present: Councillors T. Northey, J. A. Scott, T. R. Sturgis and A. J. Trotman.

Officers Present: L. Bell (Strategic Manager Community & Environment), H. Braid (Policy & Democratic Services Officer), A. Davies (Strategic Manager Planning Services), M. Gilmour (Principal Community Partnership Officer), P. Jeremiah (Legal Services Team Leader) J. Stirling (Principal Housing Enabling Officer) and P. Tovey (Chief Accountant).

E150. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors C. R. Coleman and G. Offord.

E151. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions had been submitted.

E152. Questions from Non-Executive Councillors

No questions had been submitted by Non-Executive Councillors.

The Leader made the following announcement:

I would like to take this opportunity to remind Non-Executive Members of the request that they submit their questions about agenda items by the deadline indicated on Executive agendas. As you know, I have given Members some latitude and taken questions that have not been submitted as requested. However, if I feel that this flexibility is being abused, or the opportunity for questions is being used as an opportunity to make statements, I will review the situation.



E153. Minutes

The Minutes of the Executive meeting held on 5th January 2006 (circulated with the agenda) were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 5th January 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

E154. Declarations of Interest

None.

E155. Leader's Announcements

The Leader made the following announcement:

Councillor Simon Coy has resigned his position as an Executive Member with effect from 31st January 2006. His resignation is due to the pressure of other work commitments. I am currently considering the re-allocation of the Youth Issues and Equalities & Diversity portfolio responsibilities.

E156. Corporate Plan Update

Consideration was given to Report No.7 (circulated with the agenda) which provided an update and exceptions report on the delivery and performance of the Corporate Plan for the period October - December 2005.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The achievements of the past few months including the Implementing E-Government programme and the Improving the Customer Experience programme.
- The Council is working with Age Concern Wiltshire to ascertain the needs of older people in North Wiltshire and outcome of this work will help inform future objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Resolved that the exception reporting for delivery and performance of the priority areas and actions in the Corporate Plan for October - December 2005 be noted.

E157. Annual Prudential Indicators Statement

Consideration was given to Report No.8 (circulated with the agenda) which proposed the Council's prudential indicators for 2006/07 and the two following years.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream included some expected capital receipts where contracts had been exchanged. Expected receipts could only be included where the contract was not conditional.

Recommended to Council that the prudential indicators as outlined in the Appendix to Report No.8 be approved.

E158. Equality & Diversity Policy

Consideration was given to Report No.9 (circulated with the agenda) which sought approval of the draft Equality and Diversity Policy

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Any further comments received to the consultation exercise will be incorporated into the policy presented to Council for approval.
- The action plan will be reviewed every six months and the policy reviewed annually.
- The inclusion of rural proofing in the policy.
- The policy will take account of the requirements of all Equalities legislation.

Recommended to Council that the amended draft Equality and Diversity Policy be approved and adopted.

E159. Request for Affordable Housing Grant to Provide Affordable Housing – Flowers Yard, Chippenham (Phase 2)

Consideration was given to Report No.10 (circulated with the agenda) which sought an allocation of Affordable Housing Grant to enable the provision of general needs social housing at Flowers Yard, Chippenham.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Housing Team's target of completing 100 affordable new homes during 2005/06 had been exceeded, with 137 units having been completed and a further 15 units anticipated to be completed by the end of March 2006.
- The affordable homes completed during the year had been a mix of 1 and 2 bedroom units as well as larger family homes, with a mix of tenure.

- This agreement had been reached prior to the introduction of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance.
- There was no provision for solar heating at the Flowers Yard social housing, but energy efficient housing will form part of the housing to be developed on the former Chippenham Cattle Market site.

Resolved that

- (1) The commitment of Affordable Housing Grant of £918,662 to enable the provision of 23 new affordable homes by Sarsen Housing Association at Flowers Yard, Chippenham be authorised.
- (2) Authority be delegated to the Legal Services Team Leader to agree a nominations agreement with Sarsen Housing Association.

E160. Request for Affordable Housing Grant – Greenway Corner, Chippenham

Consideration was given to Report No.11 (circulated with the agenda) which sought authorisation for an allocation of Affordable Housing Grant to enable the provision of general needs social housing at Greenway Corner, Chippenham.

Resolved that

- (1) The commitment of Affordable Housing Grant of £300,000 to enable the provision of 10 new affordable homes by Knightstone Housing Association at Greenway Corner, Chippenham be authorised.
- (2) Authority be delegated to the Legal Services Team Leader to agree a nominations agreement with Knightstone Housing Association.

E161. Community Awards Policy

Consideration was given to Report No.12 (circulated with the agenda) which asked Members to consider and approve amendments to the “Community Area Awards” policy and procedures.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- How the proposed changes will benefit community groups in the district.
- There was provision to carry forward capital funding to the next financial year. The position with regard to carrying forward revenue funding was currently under consideration.

Resolved that

- (1) The suggested amendments from the Grants Working Group be noted and the criteria adopted for the 2006/2007 Community Area Awards Policy.
- (2) The amendments to the criteria for 2006/2007 District-wide Awards be adopted.

E162. Rural Proofing

Consideration was given to Report No.13 (circulated with the agenda) which informed Members of the work that has been carried out by the Countryside Agency and other organisations on the rural proofing of policies and services.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The links between rural proofing and Equality & Diversity.
- Definitions of rurality in North Wiltshire can be found in the Equality & Diversity policy.
- Clarification will be provided in respect of the reference to North Wootton Bassett in the report.
- The policy maker's checklist from the Countryside Agency was only guidance and not a mandatory requirement.

Resolved that

- (1) The inclusion of 'rural proofing' under the new committee report heading of 'Equality and Diversity Issues' be agreed.
- (2) That the guidance notes produced are circulated to senior officers throughout the District Council
- (3) The issue of rural proofing is brought to the attention of the North Wiltshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Wiltshire LSP.

E163. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved that in accordance with Regulation 21 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following items of business involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as follows:

Agenda item/Report name	Paragraph(s) of the Act / Schedule describing the exemption
Item 15 – Mobile Skate Park	Paragraph 9
Item 16 – The Stone Yard, Potley Lane, Corsham	Paragraph 9
Item 17 – Land at Beversbrook, Calne	Paragraph 9
Item 18 – Lifeline Centre	Paragraph 9
Item 19 – Chippenham Golf Club	Paragraph 9

Note: It was agreed that agenda item 19 would be the next item to be considered.

E164. Chippenham Golf Club

Consideration was given to Report No.19 (circulated with the agenda) which was to consider the grant of a new Lease of Chippenham Golf Course to Chippenham Golf Club. Consideration was also given to additional information in respect of the negotiations (circulated at the meeting).

Resolved that, subject to contract to include the provision of a break clause, the Council enter into a new 99 year lease of land presently comprising of the Chippenham Golf Course with the Trustees of the Chippenham Golf Club, on terms to be agreed by the Legal Services Team Leader in consultation with the Council's Retained Valuer.

E165. Mobile Skate Park

Consideration was given to Report No.15 (circulated with the agenda) which informed Members of the current situation regarding the use of the Mobile Skatepark and to provide options for the future delivery of the service.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The history of the mobile skate park project.
- Negotiations that have been ongoing with the Wiltshire Alternative Youth Sports Partnership (WAYS) with a view to them providing the skate park facility as part of a wider alternative sports programme.
- Under the proposed agreement, the Council will transfer ownership of the skate park equipment to WAYS.
- All local authorities in the area contributed funding to the WAYS partnership and were represented on the partnership.
- The skate park equipment met all health and safety requirements.

Resolved that

- (1) The Council will no longer provide the mobile skate park service, with the equipment being transferred to the Wiltshire Alternative Youth Sports Partnership.
- (2) It be noted that this transfer will have no further cost implications for the Council.
- (3) A further report providing details of the transfer agreement will be provided to Members.

E166. The Stone Yard, Potley Lane, Corsham

Consideration was given to Report No.16 (circulated with the agenda) which advised Members of a revised offer made to the District Council by Colburn Homes Ltd for the proposed re-development of the Stone Yard, Potley Lane in Corsham.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Information that had been received in respect of the stonemasonry business currently operating at the Potley Lane site.

Resolved that consideration of this matter be deferred, pending the outcome of further enquiries in respect of the present occupiers of the site.

E167. Land at Beversbrook, Calne

Consideration was given to Report No.17 (circulated with the agenda) which sought agreement to the sale of the Council owned site at Beversbrook, Calne.

Resolved that, subject to contract, the Council dispose of the freehold interest in the land at Beversbrook, Calne identified on the plan annexed to Report No.17, to the highest bidder identified in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

E168. Lifeline Centre

Consideration was given to Report No.18 (circulated with the agenda) which sought agreement for the termination of the agreement to provide a joint lifeline centre between North Wiltshire, West Wiltshire and Kennet District Council.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The services that had been provided at the centre were now redundant.

Resolved that the Legal Services Team Leader be authorised to:

- (1) Complete the proposed termination agreement for the provision of the joint Lifeline Centre, subject to being satisfied, in consultation with the Council's retained valuer, that West Wiltshire District Council have put in place an appropriate process for the sale of the building for the best consideration that can reasonably be obtained, and
- (2) Secure a capital receipt for disposal of the building where the Lifeline Centre has been situated.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and concluded at 8.05pm.

There were 2 members of the public present.

Signed:

Dated: