IMPLEMENTATION EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2008

In Attendance

Wiltshire County Council

Mrs Jane Scott – Leader – in the Chair
Mr John Thomson – Deputy Leader
Mr Mark Baker
Mrs NS Bryant
Miss Fleur de Rhe Philipe
Mrs Mary Douglas
Mr John Noeken
Mr Toby Sturgis
Mrs Bridget Wayman

Kennet District Council

Mr Lionel Grundy – Leader

North Wiltshire District Council

Mr Dick Tonge - Leader
Mrs Allison Bucknell – Deputy Leader

West Wiltshire District Council

Mr Tony Phillips – Deputy Leader
Mr Rod Eaton

Also in attendance: Mr P Clegg, Mr P Edge, Mr A Molland, Mr J Osborn, Mrs P Rugg, Mr A Lake.

48. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Brown, Mr Fear and Mr Sample.

49. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 May and 2 June 2008 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

50. Leader's Announcements

(a) Bourne Hill Office Project

The Leader updated Members on the decision of Salisbury District Council following the special meeting of the Implementation Executive on 2 June 2008, in relation to the Bourne Hill Office Project. The Leader asked the Chief Executive of Salisbury District Council for an update on progress and how they intended to respond to the requests of the IE.

The Chief Executive reported that since the last meeting the deadline to sign the Deed of Variation with the contractors had been extended until 23 July 2008 for a number of reasons. Discussions were taking place with officers of the County Council over the location of the Customer Care Unit and the Registrar's Office as well as the IT server room. In addition the County Council was now also represented on the Project Board.

The Leader confirmed that from the viewpoint of the County Council:

(i) the Customer Care Unit should not be located at Bourne Hill. Officers were investigating alternatives in the City Centre.

(ii) the Registrar's office should be located at Bourne Hill as originally planned (although the precise specifications might need review in the context of the new, smaller, overall project).

(iii) Officers had advised that server facilities should be the minimum necessary for business continuity on 1 April 2009.

(b) Visit by John Healey, Local Government Minister

The Leader reported that she had recently attended a very useful meeting of Leaders from all future unitary authorities with DCLG where progress on the transition was discussed. Following this the Minister had indicated that he wished to visit Wiltshire, possibly on 21 July 2008, to meet members of the IE. The Leader asked that Members note this potential date in their diaries.

51. Members' Interests

No interests were declared.

52. Public Participation

None.

53. Towards One Council – Progress Report

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Programme Director which outlined the main activity that had occurred since the last meeting.

In response to Members' questions it was noted that:-

(a) the briefing for the next IE would commence at 2.30pm to enable officers of the Corporate Leadership Team to attend and explain how the management of the overall project would change as a result of the appointment of corporate and service directors.
(b) a report on the outcome of the work between the Front Line Services and Community Leadership and Governance Workstreams on which services could be delivered via area boards and/or town and parish councils, would be brought to a future meeting of the IE.
(c) there should be members involved in the group working on Member Development and Induction.

Resolved:

To note the Progress Report

54. Salisbury Vision

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Salisbury Vision Project Director.

Mr Edge, Salisbury District Council's Economic Development Portfolio Holder, introduced the report and outlined the 5 major projects within the overall scheme. The South West Regional Development Agency (RDA) and the District and County Council had funded the development phase but now the project had reached the delivery phase. In terms of the recommendations contained within the officer's report the Portfolio Holder suggested that the further report requested in (d) should concern the future management and governance arrangements for the delivery of the vision, rather than restricting the delivery to be via a Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV).

There was a wide ranging discussion on the report and in particular on the future funding arrangements and the Leader asked for more detail on this to be reported to the IE meeting in September to ensure that any future liabilities could be considered for inclusion within the MTFS.

On a related matter the County Council's Chief Executive suggested that the IE should also have a report on the status of the capital programmes within the five councils to include commitments and planned expenditure so that the IE can take a view on long term potential liabilities.

Resolved:

(a) To note the report and to endorse the Salisbury Vision.
(b) To receive further reports on issues relating to the delivery of the Salisbury Vision as appropriate.
(c) To request a further report in September giving details of anticipated major decisions and expenditure over the next three years.
(d) To request a further report in September on proposals for the management and governance arrangements for the delivery of the Vision.
(e) To authorise the launch of the Market Place design competition.
(f) To request a further report in September on the status of the capital programmes for each of the five councils.

Reason for Proposal:

To ensure that the Salisbury Vision is included within the Implementation Executive's forward plan and to give members of the Implementation Executive advance notice that the delivery of the Salisbury Vision will require major decisions concerning expenditure and the possible disposal of assets.

55. Access to Services Strategy

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Workstream Manager for Customer Access which outlined a customer access to services strategy.

Mr Lake, Chairman of the Customer Access Scrutiny Task Group, reported that his group were confident that what would be in place on 1 April 2009 would be at least as good a service as currently existed but that for the future the strategy offered a huge improvement. His group would continue to monitor the communications and awareness surrounding the strategy.

Resolved:

To implement the Access to Services Strategy.

Reason for Proposal:

To endorse the content of the customer access strategy and authorise its implementation within the timescales identified. The report outlines the way forward for the customer access strategy for the new authority after a period of intense consultation.

56. Financial Update

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Chief Financial Officer which identified the key finance activity which needed to take place by January 2009.

Resolved:

To note the Financial Update

57. Delegation to Town and Parish Councils

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Delegation to Town and Parish Councils Project Manager which identified current and proposed activity up until April 2009.

It was suggested that "sustainability" should be included within the criteria at paragraph 6 of the report.

Resolved:

To note the report

58. Outline Work Programme

The Implementation Executive noted the Outline Work Programme and the dates for meetings of the IE from August 2008 through to March 2009.

59. Minutes of the Implementation Appointments Sub-Committee

An amended set of minutes of the meeting of the Implementation Appointments Sub-Committee held on 4 June 2008 were received.

The meeting closed at 6.15pm.