



IMPLEMENTATION EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2008

In Attendance

Wiltshire County Council

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

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

Salisbury District Council

Mr Paul Sample - Leader
Mr Steven Fear – Deputy Leader

Also in attendance: Mrs EA Chettleburgh, Mr P Clegg, Mr AN Deane, Mr M Hewitt, Mrs C Hill, Mr A Molland

109. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs NS Bryant and Mr P Brown.

110. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 23 September and 6 October 2008 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

111. Leader's Announcements

None.

112. Members' Interests

No interests were declared.

113. Public Participation

None.

114. A Vision for Chippenham

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Project Lead of the Chippenham Vision Steering Group which set out a strategic analysis of the challenges Chippenham faces, opportunities for improvement and priority actions. An outline vision for the town had been developed which endeavoured to enhance Chippenham as a place to live, work and visit.

Members commented on the financial commitments and resource implications for the new authority, and requested further information on this, especially on the overall cost and existing and future funding streams. Members identified the development of a Master Plan and Communications Plan as priorities before further actions were taken.

Members also noted that marketing on the Bath Road/Bridge Centre site had already commenced and that this superseded the preparation of the development brief suggested within the report.

Resolved:

a) To endorse the Vision for Chippenham and to support the work of the Chippenham Vision Task and Finish Group and the further study work recommended in section 4 of the document.

b) To provide support and resources to complete the work to review the Chippenham Conservation Area Management Plan and produce it as a Supplementary Planning Document by April 2009.

c) To request that further work be undertaken on the financial commitments and resource implications of the proposals contained within the Vision.

Reason for Proposal:

To enable the Vision for Chippenham to be progressed.

115. Parishing of Salisbury

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Service Director, Policy, Research & Communications which set out proposals for the parishing of Salisbury. The report also contained a proposed package of services and assets that should transfer to the new parish council on 1 April 2009.

With regard to the level of member representation in the proposed St Mark's and Bishopdown city ward, it was suggested that this should be reduced to two as the ward was not coterminous with the proposed unitary division and approximately one third of electors lived within the boundaries of the adjoining Laverstock parish.

The Leader tabled a revised set of recommendations for discussion. The meeting adjourned to allow Members time to consider them.

The debate then focussed on the proposed package of services and assets that should transfer to the new city council on 1 April 2009 which was set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

In general, Salisbury District Council members spoke in support of the report and the balanced package of assets and services but highlighted specific issues of concern. In particular both Members spoke of the historical connections between the City and the Market and Guildhall Squares and the City Hall.

Mr Fear moved a specific amendment to the Leader's recommendations that the City Hall should be transferred to the new city council, and this was seconded by Mr Sample.

The Leader's view was that this property was not required to enable the City Council to be up and running for 1 April 2009 and therefore this was a matter that the new Wiltshire Council should make a decision after consultation with the new city council.

The amendment to the Leader's recommendations was lost in the subsequent vote. Mr Sample, Mr Fear and Mr Phillips requested that their dissent from that decision be recorded.

It was also proposed in the Leader's recommendations to defer the decision on the transfer of the Market Square to the next meeting so that further work could be undertaken on the matter. Mrs Chettleburgh, local member for St Edmund and Milford, expressed concern about potential implications on charter markets and fairs if the Market Square was owned by Wiltshire Council.

As part of the discussion on the transfer of assets, the future of the swimming pool site adjacent to the Bourne Hill offices was raised. The Leader requested an update paper to the next meeting on the District Council's policy on the swimming pool site and its association with the Bourne Hill project.

Resolved:

a) To recommend the following in the final stage of the statutory consultation to Salisbury residents;

- i. the name of the parish council be Salisbury City Council;**
- ii. the number of wards be eight, in line with the Boundary Committee Draft Recommendations for the unitary divisions for the city, and that they are coterminous with those divisions insofar as they fall within the boundary of the City, or any subsequent modifications identified by the Boundary Committee;**
- iii. the names of the wards be:**
 - Bemerton**
 - St Francis & Stratford**
 - St Mark's & Bishopdown**
 - Fisherton & Bemerton Village**
 - St Paul's**
 - St Edmund & Milford**
 - St Martin's & Cathedral**
 - Harnham**
- iv. Subject to the final recommendations of the Boundary Committee the number of councillors is three per ward and two for the St Mark's and Bishopdown ward.**

b) To agree that the overall arrangements for transfer of services and assets should be cost neutral to the new Wiltshire Council. A financial evaluation of the impact of the proposed transfer on the budget and services of Wiltshire Council will be presented to the Implementation Executive on 13 November by the Chief Finance Officer. Subject to that evaluation, the Implementation Executive agrees that on 1 April 2009 the package of services and assets set out in Appendix 3 will transfer to the City Council with the exception of the area of land known locally as 'Market Square' and that this be deferred for a further report to the next meeting of the IE.

c) To agree that, subject to the receipt of formal legal advice at the time of transfer, these assets and chattels will transfer for a nominal fee and will include appropriate covenants to ensure continued community benefit.

d) To agree that the existing Salisbury City Charter Trustees act in an advisory capacity to the officers of the new Salisbury City Council between the 1 April 2009 and the coming into office of the first elected members of the city council in early June 2009.

e) To agree that the City Hall will initially transfer to the new unitary authority. This position will be reviewed by the new unitary authority within the context of the new authority's cultural, arts and leisure strategies and further discussion between the new unitary authority and Salisbury City Council following the elections in June 2009.

f) To agree that if detailed work by officers identifies that the any asset or chattel proposed for transfer would have a unforeseen material impact on the financial accounts of either Wiltshire County Council or Salisbury District

Council, the resolution of this is delegated to the Chairman of the Implementation Executive, after consultation with the Leader of that District Council.

g) To request an update report to the next meeting on the District Council's policy on the swimming pool site and its association with the Bourne Hill project.

h) To note that further detailed work will be undertaken on specific areas, including:-

- i. Wiltshire County Council finance staff will undertake further work, building on that undertaken by SDC officers, and recommend the level of precept for Salisbury City Council to a future meeting of the Implementation Executive.**
- ii. The Chair of the Project Team would continue to liaise with the DCLG, with the aim of ensuring that the frontline staff affected by this proposal are fully consulted and are able to transfer in a TUPE like manner to the new parish council on 1 April 2009. An update on this issue will be provided at a future meeting of the Implementation Executive.**
- iii. Consultation would be undertaken with the current Charter Trustees and the Clerk to the Charter Trustees, regarding what additional capacity and support will initially be required by the new parish as neither the County Council nor the District Council will be in a position to appoint officers for the new Salisbury City Council prior to the elections in 2009.**

(NB. Mr Phillips requested that his dissent from the above decisions be recorded.)

Reason for Proposal:

The One Council for Wiltshire bid included a commitment to the parishing of Salisbury. Responsibility and accountability for the creation of the new parish council was vested in the IE by the recent transitional regulations. These proposals would ensure that the new parish council in Salisbury is able to be created and that on 1 April 2009 is in a position to deliver the agreed services. The services proposed are reflective both of local views, as evidenced within the statutory consultation, and the aspirations of the One Council for Wiltshire submission.

116. Constitution for Wiltshire Council

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services. The constitution for Wiltshire Council would be based on the Wiltshire County Council's constitution as the continuing authority. Many parts of the constitution would not change as they are governed by legislation and statutory guidance.

Members of the IE were asked to nominate representatives from their respective authorities on the Focus Group and noted the list of volunteers which had been generated in conjunction with the members' survey.

Members suggested that in addition to the formal constitution a summary version for the public's use should be considered.

Resolved:

a) To note the work being undertaken and timescales involved to prepare a constitution for Wiltshire Council and that a draft constitution will be presented to the Implementation Executive on 13 January 2009 for consideration.

b) To establish a Focus Group comprising five elected members and a representative of the Standards Committee with terms of reference as outlined in paragraph 31 of the report to assist with the progress of work on the constitution.

Reasons for Proposal:

To advise the Implementation Executive on the work being undertaken to prepare a constitution for Wiltshire Council and the timescales involved.

117. Ceremonial Issues

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services which set out the issues for the future Wiltshire Council in relation to the protection of certain ceremonial privileges and historic traditions following a DCLG consultation of local authorities undergoing restructuring.

Members noted that confirmation was currently being sought from DCLG regarding the naming arrangements for the new authority and that members would be notified on the outcome of this.

District council members were asked to confirm their councils' position with regards to honorary aldermen in order for the County Council to submit a view to DCLG.

Resolved:

a) To note the implications of local government restructuring in relation to ceremonial functions and arrangements in Wiltshire.

b) To ask the Solicitor to the Council to write to DCLG confirming Wiltshire's position as set out in this report, including the district councils' views on DCLG's proposal concerning honorary aldermen, as sought under paragraph 10 of the report.

c) To endorse the application submitted by Salisbury District Council to the Ministry of Justice requesting Her Majesty the Queen to exercise the Royal Prerogative to preserve the city status of Salisbury.

Reasons for Proposals:

To inform the Implementation Executive of the implications on ceremonial arrangements arising from the move to One Council and to advise DCLG of Wiltshire's position.

118. Municipal Waste Management

The Implementation Executive considered the joint report of the Corporate Director, Transport, Environment & Leisure (Wiltshire Council) and the Director of Environment & Street Scene (Swindon Borough Council). The report outlined progress made towards dealing with the implications of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) for the disposal of Municipal Solid Waste arising within Swindon and Wiltshire. It recommended a joint project between Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire County Council to develop an Outline Business Case (OBC) for minimising the costs of compliance.

The report had already been endorsed by Swindon Borough Council's Executive as well as Wiltshire County Council's Cabinet, where the decision was taken on 21 October.

Resolved:

a) To approve the appointment of specialist consultants to develop a joint Outline Business Case to procure a waste disposal solution for all of Swindon Borough Council's residual municipal waste and the residual municipal waste from mainly the North of Wiltshire County Council's administrative area.

b) To note the allocation of £50k from both Swindon and Wiltshire County Councils for the preparation of the Outline Business Case in 2008-09 and to note that if the Business Case is approved, Wiltshire Council will have an unavoidable commitment for the allocation of £100k for the preparation of tender documentation during 2009-10.

c) To note the future financial risks which the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme represents for the respective authorities.

d) To note the risk which the lack of certainty on waste disposal arrangements beyond June 2016 represents for the respective authorities.

Reason for Proposal:

To update Members on progress made towards dealing with the implications of the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) for the disposal of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), and to recommend a joint project between Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire County Council to develop an Outline Business Case (OBC) for minimising the costs of compliance. To meet the requirements of the Landfill Directive and to minimise exposure to fines.

119. 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.

Resolved:

To note the Progress Report.

120. Financial Update

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Chief Financial Officer which identified progress along the schedule of key finance activity taking place between now and January 2009.

Resolved:

To note the Financial Update.

121. Business Management Programme & Shared Services Team: Confirmation of Cost Reduction Plan and Year One Achievements

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Corporate Director, Resources which confirms the detailed cost reductions planned over the life of the BMP/SST programme and those to be achieved in the first year.

The Leader reported that savings had already been achieved in establishing one senior leadership team of corporate and service directors (£0.75m) and one communications department (£0.25m).

Resolved:

To note the report and the associated cost reductions of implementing BMP/SST of £2.010m in 2009-10

122. Minutes of the Implementation Appointments Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Implementation Appointments Sub-Committee held on 26 September and 7 October 2008 were received.

123. Outline Work Programme

The Implementation Executive received the Outline Work Programme which would now include reports requested during the course of this meeting. Members also noted the revised Outline Work Programme which reflected additional meeting dates and the migration of Wiltshire County Council Cabinet business.

The meeting closed at 5.55pm.