



IMPLEMENTATION EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2008

In Attendance

Wiltshire County Council (WCC)

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

Kennet District Council (KDC)

Mr Lionel Grundy – Leader

West Wiltshire District Council (WWDC)

Mr Tony Phillips – Deputy Leader
Mr Rod Eaton

North Wiltshire District Council

Mr Dick Tonge – Leader
Mrs Allison Bucknell – Deputy Leader

Salisbury District Council (SDC)

Mr Steven Fear – Deputy Leader

Also in attendance: Brigadier R Hall, Mr W Moss, Mr C Newbury, Mr R Parsons

137. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs J Scott.

138. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2008 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

139. Chairman's Announcements

None.

140. Members' Interests

No interests were declared.

141. Public Participation

Mrs Anne Henshaw had submitted a number of questions in relation to the future Development Control service to the Implementation Executive which were circulated at the meeting, together with the responses.

At the meeting, Mrs Henshaw raised further concerns in addition to her written questions about the process for call-ins where a member had an interest in an application and the potential need for recorded decisions.

Mr Sturgis, one of the lead IE members on Development Control, responded on behalf of the IE and stressed that members had to declare their interests under the Code of Conduct and, in the case of a declaration of interest, could nominate a colleague to deal with an application. He also emphasised that provision existed within the Constitution for recorded votes.

Mr Tonge pointed out that the responses to Mrs Henshaw's questions suggested that there was no policy change in North Wiltshire and asked that the change in the process in North Wiltshire be recognised.

142. New Executive Arrangements

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services which outlined the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 2007 in relation to new executive arrangements.

Resolved:

a) To adopt new executive arrangements as set out in paragraphs 13 -16 of the report to apply to Wiltshire Council from 7 June 2009, based on the decision previously made by the Council on 16 January 2007 and incorporated within the Council's bid for unitary status.

b) To authorise the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to arrange publication of the arrangements in accordance with the requirements of the 2007 Act.

c) To note that the new executive arrangements will be incorporated in the revised constitution which will go before the IE in January and the Council in February.

Reason for Proposal:

The Council is required to change its executive arrangements in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 with effect from 7 June 2009.

143. Building Schools for the Future

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Head of School Buildings & Places which set out the background to the proposal to submit an Expression of Interest to start Building Schools for the Future earlier than the current proposed date of 2016.

Members commented on the financial implications of the scheme and on alternative options potentially being available. The Head of School Buildings & Places confirmed that currently there was no alternative funding available, especially for balancing the deficit in building maintenance and backlog.

Members also expressed concerns about PFI schemes in general and it was agreed that a members' seminar should be arranged to give an overview of the PFI process.

Mr Tonge commented on the different funding streams and mixes mentioned within the report and was promised a written reply clarifying this.

Resolved:

a) To note the report.

b) To approve the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI) for Building Schools for the Future to commence earlier than 2016.

c) To note that a further report will be brought to the Implementation Executive on the outcome of the Expression of Interest and the implications at the resultant programme for the Council.

d) To note that any decision with implications for the Capital Programme in the period 2009-10 to 2011-12 will need to be considered as part of the overall capital budget process.

Reason for Proposal:

Building Schools for the Future will facilitate the rebuilding/refurbishment of all secondary schools in the county, and an earlier start to the programme will benefit Wiltshire pupils.

144. Private Finance Initiative (PFI) – Progress Report

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Corporate Director, Community Services which outlined the current PFI Round Six bidding process for social housing and the submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI).

The Deputy Leader introduced the report and drew members' attention to an error in a figure in paragraph 9 of the report. He also introduced an additional recommendation to request a further report to establish the Governance arrangements for this project.

Members expressed concern about alternative options potentially being available and noted that a seminar on PFI would be held.

The Deputy Leader also confirmed that a number of options would be considered as part of the preparation of the final business case which would also contain information on alternative funding.

Resolved:

- a) To note the EOI bid for a PFI for social housing.**
- b) To request a report on the resource and financial implications for the Council in relation to developing this Social Housing PFI bid further.**
- c) To request a further report to establish the Governance arrangements for this major project.**

Reasons for Proposal:

To advise the Implementation Executive on the submission of an EOI bid for a PFI for social housing.

145. Extra Care Housing Scheme

The report of the Service Director, Adult Care: Strategy & Commissioning was tabled prior to the meeting as an urgent item. The Deputy Leader highlighted that this matter was progressing under a very tight timetable. Legal advice had not been received until earlier in the week and the scheme would have to be signed off prior to the next meeting of the IE.

The Deputy Leader then adjourned the meeting to allow members time to consider the report, which contained an update on the successful submission of a bid to the Department of Health for funding to construct an extra care housing development in Trowbridge.

Resolved

- a) To agree to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Bedford Pilgrim Housing Association (BPHA) for the progression and delivery of this scheme. All terms to be agreed by the Director, Community Services after consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and the Chief Financial Officer.**
- b) To agree to lease the land on which the extra care development would be situated on a peppercorn rent basis to BPHA to comply with Housing Corporation and Department of Health (D of H) requirements. All terms to be agreed by the Director, Community Services after consultation with the Solicitor to the Council and the Chief Financial Officer.**

Reason for Proposal

The Department of Health require confirmation by 26 November 2008 that the Council and BPHA have agreed a Partnership Agreement to deliver the development of the 45 extra care units at the Rutland House.

146. Victoria County History (VCH)

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Acting Service Director, Libraries, Heritage & Arts which proposed the renewal of the Wiltshire County History Project in February 2009.

Mr Newbury, Chairman of the Wiltshire Victoria County History Committee, emphasised that the VCH in Wiltshire is the most advanced of its kind in England and that it provided permanently lasting value by capturing the social history of the County. Therefore, the project should be provided with continuity and security to attract the right staff and to progress.

Mr Phillips suggested that the new council should receive an annual report on the project's progress and the use of any income generated. It was agreed that this would be circulated to members of this Council.

Resolved:

To approve the renewal of the Wiltshire County History Project in January 2009.

Reasons for Proposals:

The current agreement for the Wiltshire County History Project ends in January 2009 and to continue production a new agreement has to be put in place. This report provided members with information on the Wiltshire County History Project, and asked for their approval for the renewal of the partnership agreement for 2009-14.

147. Development of the Corporate Plan

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Service Director, Policy, Research & Communications which provided an update on the work in progress regarding the production of the Corporate Plan for the first year of the new council.

Resolved:

To note the update on work in progress and to refer members to the timetable and process for delivering a Corporate Plan for the new council.

148. Branding and Communications

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Service Director, Policy, Research & Communications which contained an update on the progress on the communications campaign to raise awareness and increase understanding of the new council and the implementation of its new brand and identity.

Members suggested that the style guide which had been produced, together with the new logo for Wiltshire Council, should be circulated.

Resolved:

To note the update on progress and to ask Members to consider some of the issues relating to branding and the campaign to promote the new council.

149. Capital Budget and Service Standard Monitoring

The Implementation Executive considered the report of the Chief Financial Officer which provided a summary of the position on the Capital Budgets for the five councils. This was a projection of the year end position based on actual expenditure between April and September 2008.

Resolved:

a) To note the five councils' Capital Programmes set out in Appendices A to E.

b) To note the variation in the Wiltshire County Council (WCC) capital programme of £5.805 million, £5.850 million of which will be reprogrammed into 2009-10.

c) To note the WCC projected overspend of £45,000.

d) To note the projected underspend in the district councils' capital programmes of £4.557 million, the majority of which will be required to be carried forward into 2009-10.

150. Outline Work Programme

The Implementation Executive received the Outline Work Programme for future business.

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.