



## **JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRANSITION BOARD**

### **Notes of the meeting held in County Hall - 25 April 2008**

#### **In Attendance**

<b>Members</b>
Cllr Tony Molland (Chairman) WCC
Cllr Chris Caswill NWDC
Cllr Robert Hall WCC
Cllr Mike Hewitt SDC
Cllr Clyde Hoddinott KDC
Cllr Keith Humphries WWDC
Cllr Jeff Osborn WCC
Cllr Ian West WCC
Cllr Margaret Taylor WCC

Also in attendance:

Cllr Bobbie Chettleburgh SDC

Cllr Jane Scott – WCC

Cllr Alan Hill - NWDC

Cath Hasted – Transition Communications Manager

Paul Kelly, Ceri Williams, George Batten - WCC

Steve Milton - SDC

Marie Lindsay – WWDC

Marie Todd, Julia Densham - NWDC

#### **1. Apologies and Membership**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ricky Rogers.

#### **2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Jeff Osborn was elected Vice-Chairman.

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 28 March**

The minutes were confirmed as a correct record.

#### **4. The Structure and Organisation of the New Council**

A report by the Chief Executive WCC to the IE on 15 April was considered by the Joint Board. This was the second report on the matter. The Joint Board had previously responded to the Chief Executive with comments on his first paper following the last meeting.

Jane Scott, Leader of the IE and George Batten, One Council Programme Director attended the meeting to present the report and respond to questions.

Referring to paragraph 15 the Leader emphasised that the new structure avoided significant change to ensure a successful transition to the new council. Wiltshire Council and a new Chief Executive would have the ability to introduce further change in the future.

Some of the issues to emerge during debate included:

- a) Community leadership and support – members were concerned that this function's importance was not reflected in its location within the new authority.
- b) Deputy Chief Executive – the Board questioned why the proposals did not include a Deputy Chief Executive.
- c) The role of the Joint Director of Public Health.
- d) The number of service directors that would be made redundant due to transition to One Council.
- e) Concern that Libraries, Heritage & the Arts were not in the same department as Leisure and Parks.
- f) The location of Overview and Scrutiny within the new organisation.
- g) The timescales for appointments of the new Chief Officers.

### **Agreed**

- 1. To thank the Leader of the IE and the One Council Programme Lead for responding to the Joint Board's questions.**
- 2. That the Chairman would feed back the comments of the Board to the Chief Executive**

## **5. One Council Transition Extranet and Website**

Cath Hasted, Transition Communications Manager, provided the Joint Board with an overview of the website developments taking place during transition.

The Joint Board observed the extranet, noting initiatives such as the Bright Ideas Board and Leader's blog. Members were also given a demonstration of the new web site for the public which would follow the format of the extranet.

### **Agreed**

- 1. To thank Cath Hasted for the briefing**
- 2. That the Scrutiny Officers liaise with the communications team to promote the work of the JOSTB via the website**

## **6. Task Groups**

### **(1) Development Control**

Marie Lindsay, supporting officer updated the Joint Board on progress to date, including the involvement of the Task Group at the seminar held on 24 April. The task intended to report its findings to the June meeting of the JOSTB, with the endorsed report going to the IE in July.

The Board also discussed the decision of the task group not at this stage to commission the technical expert identified by the IE.

#### **Agreed**

- 1. To ask the scrutiny officer to circulate the outcomes from the April 24<sup>th</sup> Development Control seminar to the members of the Joint Board.**
- 2. To ask the task group to utilise the offer of a technical expert as part of its evidence gathering.**

### **(2) Waste**

Alan Hill - Chairman of the Task Group presented an interim report to the Board. It was highlighted that the timescale for transformation was reasonable and that Waste budgeting for 2008-09 was to be finalised by June. The task group had been assured resources for transition were adequate but would have liked to see additional evidence to support this statement.

The Chairman moved a motion which was carried.

#### **Agreed**

- 1. To endorse the interim report, and acknowledge that the Task Group had successfully reviewed the Project Board's achievements to date**
- 2. To ask the Task Group to continue to scrutinise the Waste Project Board's development of its transformational action plan**

### **(3) Community Area Boards**

Cllr Mike Hewitt Chairman of the task group gave the Joint Board an overview of progress to date. The second meeting was scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>, following which a detailed programme of work would be developed.

**Agreed – to note the report.**

### **(4) Customer Access**

Marie Todd scrutiny officer from NWDC updated members on the review's progress. A meeting was arranged for May 6<sup>th</sup> where members would agree a programme of meetings and a more detailed scope of the scrutiny review.

**Agreed – to note the report.**

### **(5) Housing**

Steve Milton, on behalf of the supporting officer updated the Joint Board on progress. The task group had met for the first time on April 15 and anticipated reporting to JOSTB in June/July.

**Agreed – to note the report.**

## **7. Member Interests**

Cllr Chris Caswill briefed the Board on his work scrutinising transitional risk. Communication links with Programme Manager, Ian Cook were working well and Cllr Caswill was satisfied that management of risk was being effectively handled. A copy of the latest risk register summary was circulated with the One Council Progress Report.

Cllr Keith Humphries lead member for ICT was to meet Tim Gregory ICT Lead Officer for the first time on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

The WCC Scrutiny Manager informed the Board that he had been approached by the WCC Cabinet Member for ICT, Partnerships and Procurement to invite scrutiny to review the intended procurement delegated decision surrounding the Wide Area Network.

**Agreed**

- 1. To note the member updates.**
- 2. To appoint Councillors Tony Molland, Keith Humphries and Chris Caswill to meet with the WCC Cabinet Member for ICT to review the procurement and implementation of the new Wide Area Network.**

## **8. Handling of Scrutiny Reports from Existing Councils**

The Joint Board considered a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Manager WCC.

There were a number of reviews currently being completed within the district councils with potential implications for transition or the new council. Members debated options for how these should be handled.

**Agreed - District Council scrutiny reports could be submitted as evidence to the relevant Joint Board's Task Groups through the district representative member of the task group, or promoted where not applicable by district reps within other parts of the governance arrangements.**

## **9. Finance Update**

The JOSTB considered a report by the Chief Financial Officer prepared for the IE on 15 April.

### **Agreed**

- 1. To note the report**
- 2. To ask officers to circulate the 'Council Tax Equalisation' report prepared by the Chief Financial Officer**

## **10. Towards One Council Progress Report**

The Joint Board considered the latest transition programme progress report prepared for the IE meeting on April 15.

**Agreed - To note the report.**

## **11. Implementation Executive Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting of the IE held on 15 April were circulated.

**Agreed -To note the minutes.**

## **12. Next meeting – Friday 30 May at Salisbury District Council Offices**

Items to be considered in addition to standard items:

- Transition Plan
- Benefits Realisation Plan

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30am – 1.05pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Ceri Williams, Democratic & Members' Services, Wiltshire County Council direct line: (01225) 713079.