

# COUNCIL

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

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***THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETING***

9<sup>th</sup> January 2007

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is requested at an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Monkton Park, Chippenham**. The items for decision and information at the meeting are as listed on the attached Agenda.

Any papers listed as "to follow", urgent items or supplementary papers will be made available as soon as possible and in any event no later than 30 minutes before the start of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

John Watling  
Policy and Democratic Services Team Leader

## AGENDA

### Prayers

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

#### 2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006, **(copy attached)**.

*Please note that this item is simply to approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006, there will be an opportunity to submit questions relating to the Minute Book at the next normal meeting of the Council (30<sup>th</sup> January 2007).*

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of interest from Members in respect of any item contained in this Agenda.

#### 4. Chairman's Announcements (If Any)

#### 5. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

To receive public questions and / or petitions in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 11 and 12.

#### 6. Local Government White Paper

At their meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the full Council agreed the following resolution:

##### **Resolved** that

- 1) Council welcomes the recent Local Government White Paper, particularly those parts which promise real local autonomy, the virtual abolition of nationally imposed targets, greater financial freedom, genuine local responsibility for byelaws and that more 'unitary authorities' will assume greater powers.
- 2) Council regrets the continued emphasis on Executive Mayors, especially the proposal to deny local people the right to a referendum on having a mayoral system.
- 3) This Council supports a unitary authority across the county of Wiltshire if the work being carried out at present and audited by Price Waterhouse delivers a business case with supporting financial breakdown, a full description of the proposed new local government structure, which is affordable and will deliver more resources for service provision and will build better community cohesion and a one Council service with a stronger local member leadership role and closer links and

support for parish and town councils to develop and represent their communities.

- 4) The County paper on a unitary authority is debated at an extraordinary District Council meeting to be arranged for January 2007.
- 5) The above motion be communicated to Ruth Kelly MP, to Michael Ancram MP and James Gray MP.

The purpose of Report No. 6 **(to follow)** is to inform the Council of Wiltshire County Council's report entitled "Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'; One Council for Wiltshire and to determine this Council's response.

Attached for reference is a copy of the above mentioned report which is being considered at an extraordinary meeting of the County Council on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

Any additional information received from the County Council regarding the Value For Money/Financial Modelling work commissioned from Price Waterhouse Coopers will be made available to members as soon as possible.