

Notice of Motion

General Subject: Interim Period between the District Council and the Wiltshire Council		
Proposer: Cllr C Caswill Seconder:	Date proposed at Council: 24/02/09	Minute No:

This Council notes with regret that there will be a gap of over 8 weeks between the demise of this elected authority and the election of members of the new Wiltshire Council. The Council is aware of the responsibility that this gap places on the small number of County and former District Councillors who make up the so-called Implementation Executive, who will be appointed to take decisions affecting the citizens of North Wiltshire in the interim period, and recognizes the importance of that group having a balanced and representative membership.

Council is also concerned that the arrangements for local government in North Wiltshire in this period are not understood by the vast majority of Council-taxpayers, and that adequate arrangements for public accountability are not in place.

Council therefore resolves *firstly* to put in place an urgent programme of public information about the arrangements for the interim period, these to include:

- Publication of a leaflet, to be made available in the Monkton Park office lobby, providing information about contacting members of the IE, meeting dates and locations, arrangements for Development Control meetings, dates and locations; contact details for County Councillors and the district wards they represent; responsibilities for front line services such as waste collection in the interim period; and opportunities for accountability and complaint
- Distribution of copies of this leaflet to Town and Parish councils, and local libraries, and through any other channels that are available in the next 35 days
- Urgent action to provide this information on the District Council's web site
- Support of these actions by press releases and all party collaboration in the publicity campaign

And *secondly* to recommend to the IE and the County Council that:

- This Council's web site, in which a great deal of public money has been invested, be kept live during the interim period on a low maintenance basis, as familiar port of call for North Wiltshire citizens, and a ready source of information and accountability
- Urgent action is needed over the next 35 days to improve the value and accessibility of the County Council's cumbersome web site, so that it can provide easy access to information about the meetings, deliberations and decisions of the IE
- The nominees of this Council on the IE report back to the citizens of North Wiltshire on a weekly basis, finding useful and cost effective ways to do so

And *thirdly*, to strengthen the credibility of the IE by improving its geographical and political balance.

- To that end, Council resolves that one of its two representatives on the IE be Cllr Patrick Coleman, thereby providing a political balance more in keeping with the votes cast by Wiltshire citizens, and including an elected councillor from Chippenham at a time when important decisions on the future of the town are likely to be made

And *fourthly*, Council resolves to take this opportunity to recommend to the IE that in this interim period it bears in mind the particular interests of the citizens of North Wiltshire, and particularly that:

1. it take all steps available to it in this period to prevent building on the flood plain and in the vicinity of the Birds Marsh reserve
2. it should belatedly make representations to government and the Regional Development Agency about the scale of development proposed for the outskirts of Chippenham
3. it ensures that a town, county or former district councillor be included in the decision making process on the disposal of the Bath road site in Chippenham
4. the defence of the decision on the Langley Park site in Chippenham also be pursued vigorously .