

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive (Budget) held on Thursday 20th September 2007 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor R. L. Tonge in the Chair

Councillors R.M.H, Berry, A.M. Bucknell, R.A. Causer, V.H. Greenman, C.V. Ramsey, T.R. Sturgis and V.A. Vines

Non-Executive Councillors Present:

Councillors A. Phillips and C. Reid

Officers Present: L. Bell (Deputy Chief Executive), D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), S. McGregor (Section 151 Officer), S. Pangbourne (Acting Deputy Chief Executive) and L. Pullin (Policy and Democratic Services Assistant)

E60. Apologies for Absence

None received.

E61. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

E62. Questions from Non-Executive Councillors

There were no questions from Non-Executive Councillors received.

E63. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 30th August 2007 (circulated with the Agenda) were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 30th August 2007 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

E64. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made in respect of any item on the Agenda.



E65. Leader's Announcements

The Leader made the following announcements:

1. Councillor Peter Roberts will be taking on responsibility for Carbon Trust issues in the Monkton Park building.
2. An AWARE (A Way for All to Respect the Earth) Business Forum will be held on Friday 21st September in the Committee Rooms in the Council Offices between 8.30am and 11.30am.
3. The Pound Arts Centre in Corsham will be holding an open day on Friday 28th September, all are welcome to attend.

E66. Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09

Consideration was given to Report No. 7 (circulated with the Agenda), which set out the latest position in producing a Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09. The Plan will be transitional in light of the Government's recent announcement to create a new unitary council for Wiltshire. It will clarify the Council's priorities for improvement and key actions for the next 12 –18 months.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The level of detail in the Corporate Plan for the public to see and understand what the Council does;
- Noting that the District Transport Officer post will not now be filled as this is seen as a County responsibility;
- There would be no financial implication for the District Council for not achieving recycling targets;
- The Council would be focusing on its 3 priority areas as identified in the Plan; and
- A number of other minor amendments that would be made to the Plan.

Resolved that the Transitional Corporate Plan as amended be progressed and inform the budget setting for 2008/09 as indicated in the Report.

E67. Revenue and Capital Budgets Scene Setting 2008/09

Consideration was given to a Report (circulated on 19th September 2007) which combined Agenda Items 8 and 9 (Revenue and Capital Budget Scene Setting). The Report was the starting point of the budget process for compiling the proposed 2008/09 budget and the following one year's forecast.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The generation of the base budget was slightly behind schedule due to a shortage of staffing resources; and

- The missing dates from the budget timetable in Appendix 2 to the report would be provided by the next meeting of the Executive.

Resolved that

- (1) The progress in compiling the proposed 2008/09 budget and the following one year's forecast be noted;
- (2) A further Report will update the Executive on progress on 29th November 2007;
- (3) Clarification is obtained from Wiltshire County Council of the following;
 - What the year 2 budget process will be in the light of Unitary
 - The length of contract extension to be negotiated with DC Leisure
 - Where any redundancy costs associated with Unitary will accrue.
- (4) The year 2 plan be revisited should Unitary be delayed from the proposed vesting date of 1st April 2009 or abandoned.

E68. Gershon Annual Efficiency Statement 2006-07 Backward Look

Consideration was given to Report No. 10 (circulated with the Agenda) which presented the backward looking Annual Efficiency Statement for 2006-07 to the Executive for their information.

Resolved that the backward looking Annual Efficiency Statement for 2006/07 that was submitted to the Government in July 2007 be noted.

E69. Council's Proposals for Unitary Local Government - An Approach to Implementation

Consideration was given to Report No. 10 (circulated with the Agenda) which sought the Executive's instructions as to any comments it may wish to make in response to the consultation paper published by the Department for Communities and Local Government previously provided to all members of the Council.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- Whether the Transitional Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be politically balanced; and
- Issues concerning dual hatted Members.

Resolved that the Chief Executive responds to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on behalf of the Council in accordance with the views of the Executive as detailed below:

- (1) That the date of election be May 2009 with new single member wards only.
- (2) The Vesting Day be 1st April 2009.
- (3) The Transitional Overview and Scrutiny Chairman be a District Councillor.
- (4) The Transitional Cabinet should not be dominated by County Councillors. If there are to be more County Councillors than District, that the named substitute District Councillors be invited to all meetings and be able to participate.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and concluded at 7.40pm.

There were no members of the public present.