

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING ON 9th NOVEMBER 2006

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive held on Thursday 5th October 2006 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham commencing at 7.00p.m.

Present: Councillor C. O’Gorman, Leader in the Chair

Councillors P. G. Allnatt, H. M. Dixon, S. K. Doubell, D. J. E. Evans, R. J. Henning, G. Offord and O. J. Thomas.

Non-Executive Councillors Present: Councillors S. M. Meadows, T. J. A. Northey, T. R. Sturgis, R. L. Tonge, A. J. Trotman, S. R. Walls and J. Webb.

Officers Present: D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), L. Bell (Community & Environment Strategic Manager), H. Braid (Policy & Democratic Services Officer), P. Jeremiah (Legal Services Team Leader), L. May (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), J. Moody (Partnership Development Officer), E. Orchard (Human Resources Team Leader), S. Pangbourne (Strategic Manager Corporate Services), J. Parry (Housing Policy & Strategy Officer) and D. Stirling (Asset, Design and Regeneration Manager).

E69. Play Facilities Development and Management – Recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

At its meeting on 31st August 2006, the Executive resolved the following:

- (1) The Council's freehold interest in the play area adjacent to the former Malmesbury Outdoor Pool site be disposed of to Malmesbury Town Council for a consideration of £1.00, but otherwise subject to contract, which shall require the imposition of a covenant not to use the site for any purpose other than as a play area. The transfer to take effect on completion of the construction and laying out of the new play area and to include the payment to the Town Council of the commuted sum of £7,000 for future maintenance of the play area
- (2) Further discussions with Parish or Town Councils on devolution or disposal of any other play areas and open spaces be continued.
- (3) Authority be delegated to the Assets, Design and Regeneration Team Leader to implement the upgrading and maintenance of play areas subject to the provision of budgetary limits in the Capital Planned Preventative Maintenance programme and revenue maintenance funds.
- (4) Authority be delegated to the Asset, Design and Regeneration Team Leader to establish and submit a play space strategy for the district and to engage with other stakeholders and in consultation with the Lead Member(s) on the submission of a grant application to the Big Lottery Fund.
- (5) A report be made back to the Executive in April 2007 on the actions taken.

This decision was "called-in" in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 41. Following its consideration of the decision on 19th September 2006, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee referred the decision back to the Executive for consideration as to whether the decision has breached adopted policy.



The Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked:

- (1) Whether the Play Facilities Development and Management Policy adopted on 21st June 2001 has been rescinded.
- (2) If the policy has been rescinded, is the new Policy District-Wide and what is the new Policy.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee also made the following recommendations to the Executive:

- (1) If the Executive is minded to rescind the Council's policy on Play Facilities Development and Management, clarification is needed from Officers of the ongoing budgetary implications.
- (2) That rules are set out for consultation in communities in play areas.
- (3) That a package is put together to incentivise Town & Parish Councils to take on play areas. (Minute O47 refers.)

Consideration was given to the report considered by the Executive on 31st August which had been reproduced as Report No.8 (circulated with the agenda) and to the responses made to the questions of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (circulated at the meeting).

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The requirements of the call-in procedure.
- The response to the issues raised by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be reported back to that Committee.
- The various policies and strategies already in place which impacted upon the provision of play areas, such as the National Play Strategy.
- The planned consultation for the proposed future Play Space Strategy and the consultation that may have already been undertaken by various Town and Parish Councils.
- A RoSPA inspection of all play areas in the North Wiltshire District is to be undertaken in November 2006.
- Community contributions from developers are held in a single budget and then allocated as required.

Resolved

- (1) That the decision of Executive made on 31st August 2006 in respect of Play Facilities Development and Management, set out at Minute E52, be endorsed.

- (2) The existing devolution policy on play facilities be suspended for the period of one year.
- (3) A report be made to the Executive on the proposed future Play Space Strategy, including a review of the existing devolution policy on play facilities.