

DRAFT MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT NEXT MEETING ON 25th JANUARY 2007

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 11th December 2006 in the Council Chamber, Level –1, Monkton Park Offices, Chippenham, commencing at 6.00 p.m.

Present:

Chairman: T.R. Sturgis

Committee Councillors: J.R. Ireland, R.B. MacGregor, S.D. Meadows, N.M. Phillips, C. Reid, A.J. Trotman, S.R. Walls, J. Webb and J.M. Wood

Other Members Present: A.R. Baines, S.K. Doubell, M.P. Hatton, C. O’Gorman, G. Offord, P.S. Roberts and O.J. Thomas

Officers Present:

N. Fenwick (Strategic Manager – Customer Services), J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), G. Wilson (Customer & Business Support Team Leader), D. Burbidge (Chief Executive), P. Jeremiah (Legal Team Leader) and P. Timmins (Interim Section 151 Officer)

088. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Councillors S.R. Coy, J.H. Rooke, J.P.S.S. Thomson and R.L. Tonge.

089. Membership

Councillors to be replaced	Replacement	Political Group
R.L. Tonge	A.J. Trotman	Conservatives
J.P.S.S. Thomson	N.M. Phillips	Conservatives
J.H. Rooke	R.B. MacGregor	Liberal Democrats

090. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

Mrs J. Howells asked that the Committee consider 3 issues:

- 1) Childhood obesity and PSA targets;
- 2) The education requirement of the National Curriculum and the demand for 25metre pools; and
- 3) The distribution of leisure provision in the District, as all three centres facing closure are in the east of the District.

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Councillor P.J. Goldstone asked that the following question be put in his absence:
 "In my opinion North Wiltshire Leisure Ltd. have not been efficient in provision of their services, particularly I have concerns where there is dual usage and that the subsidy would never deliver the services required by school curricula. May I please be assured that the Malmesbury Activity Zone where there is dual usage that I may have sight of the contract and terms involved with the dual usage? "

Councillor T.R. Sturgis stated that Councillor Goldstone could view the contract whenever he liked as it was readily available. He added that he thought there was general agreement at the Council meeting that the centres could have been operated in a more efficient way and that this was backed up in comments contained within the Strategic Leisure Report.

091. Declarations of Interest

Name	Item	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest	Action
T.R. Sturgis	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of Wiltshire County Council	Spoke and Voted
C. Reid	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of the Leisure Provision Working Group	Spoke and did not Vote
G. Offord	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of the Leisure Provision Working Group	Spoke
A.J. Trotman	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of Wiltshire County Council	Spoke and Voted
J.R. Ireland	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of Calne Town Council	Spoke and Voted
S.K. Doubell	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of Wiltshire County Council	Spoke
M.P. Hatton	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of Cricklade Town Council and the Cricklade Advisory Body	Spoke
C. O’Gorman	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of Calne Town Council	Spoke
S.R. Walls	7 – Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In	Personal	Member of Wootton Bassett Town Council and the Lime Kiln Advisory Committee	Spoke and Voted

O92. Chairman's Announcements

None.

O93. Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved not to exclude the press and public.

O94. Council Procedure Rule 41 – Call In

Consideration was given to Report No 7, circulated separately, which enabled the Committee to consider the Call In.

The following decision of the Executive, made on the 23rd November 2006, was called in by ten Councillors in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 41:

Executive Minute Reference E116 Resolution 1

'In response to a request from North Wiltshire Leisure Ltd (NWLL) and having taken financial, legal and leisure consultants advice, the Council agrees to vary the Services which NWLL provide under the contract relating to the management and operation of six leisure centres within the district by removing any requirement to provide the Services at Cricklade Leisure Centre, the Lime Kiln Leisure Centre, Wootton Bassett and the White Horse Leisure Centre, Calne and that these centres be mothballed in a manner satisfactory to the Council.'

The decision was Called In for the following reason: It is believed that the decision would lead to a major adverse impact on one or more local communities or particular groups of people within the District

Issues discussed included:

- The impact on the community in the east of the District;
- The financial position of North Wiltshire Leisure Limited;
- The capacity of leisure centers both within and in areas bordering the District;
- Childhood obesity;
- Dual use of the various centers;
- The chronology of events;
- The marketing of the centers;
- The location of pools and centers has been more historical accident rather than strategically planned;
- The implications for schools and the requirements of the national curriculum; and

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- The Executive was forced to make a difficult decision.

Resolved

- 1) That the Executive should ascertain the amount of capital invested in the Devizes Leisure Centre which has resulted in a £500,000 increase in income.
- 2) That the Executive should give reasons why the planned future investment for leisure facilities will be in Chippenham, Corsham and Malmesbury, the west of the District.
- 3) That the Executive should ascertain the spare capacity within the leisure facilities of authorities bordering the east of the District, with particular regard to leisure swimming, competitive swimming and swimming instruction including schools.
- 4) That the Executive reconsider its decision in light of the additional information referred to in (1) and (3) above and the rationalisation required by (2) above.
- 5) To recommend to the Executive that, if the called in decision is confirmed, then the Leisure Provision Working Group be asked to look at measures to help people on the eastern side of the District, particularly those on lower incomes or with special needs, to access leisure centres, whilst having regard to the Council's financial constraints.
- 6) That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's first involvement in March 2005 be added to Page 267 of the Report 'Chronology Of Events'.

The meeting finished 8.10pm.

There were 6 members of the public present.