

Draft Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 24th January 2008 in Committee Rooms A, B & C, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Chair: C.J. Caswill

Committee Councillors: P.C.B. Coleman, P.J. Doyle, I.J. Henderson, A.K. Hill, R.B. McGregor, A. Phillips, N.M. Phillips and M.L. Singlehurst.

Other Members Present: R.L. Tonge, A.M. Bucknell, C. Berry and P.R. Darby.

Officers Present: J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant), S. Pangbourne (Deputy Chief Executive), J. Cogswell (Community Partnership Manager), C. Major (Parking Services Manager), G. Wilkie (Performance Management Officer) and S. McGregor (Section 151 Officer)

O99. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors J. Hartless, S. Parker and J.P.S.S. Thomson.

O100. Membership

Councillor to be replaced	Replacement	Political Group
J. Hartless	N.M. Phillips	Conservatives
S. Parker	A. Phillips	Conservatives
J.P.S.S. Thomson	I.J. Henderson	Conservatives

O101. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

O102. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13th December 2007 were considered

Resolved that the Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13th December 2007 be signed as a correct record.

O103. Declarations of Interest

None.

O104. Chair's Announcements

The Chair, Councillor C.J. Caswill:

The Chair welcomed Councillors N.M. Phillips, A. Phillips and I.J. Henderson to the meeting adding that it was good to see that there was a wider interest in the work of Overview & Scrutiny. He welcomed the Executive Members and officers in attendance.

The Chair stated that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee dates in next years calendar of meetings could be revised at the next Council meeting. He urged members of the Committee to be mindful of any changes and to note them in their diaries.

Urgent Statement:

In accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter namely The need to expeditiously consider a called in item, I am of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda, the matter of Call In of Executive Decision E152 should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency”.

This item will be taken after Item 8, Parking Issues in North Wiltshire.

O105. Action Report

Consideration was given to Report No. 7, circulated with the Agenda, which provided an update on actions from the meeting held on 13th December 2007.

Issues discussed included:

- The list of playgrounds has been circulated to Members;
- Possible recommendations of the Household Waste & Recycling Task Group and the implications for the budget; and
- The Housing Advice Task Group Report will be considered by the Executive on the 13th March.

O106. Parking Issues in North Wiltshire

Consideration was given to Report No. 8, circulated with the Agenda, which provided an update on the work plan for Parking Services until vesting day.

Issues discussed included:

- The respective responsibilities of Wiltshire County Council and North Wiltshire District Council;

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- The need for the majority of residents to respond positively to proposed residents parking schemes;
- The Wootton Bassett Scheme is time limited parking and does not fall into the same requirements as residents parking schemes;
- The Chippenham Town Centre Review is awaiting approval from the County Council;
- Ward Councillors will be consulted at the formal consultations phase which will also include an advertisement in the Gazette & Herald, notices on lamp posts and documents (Map based) being available for viewing at the County and District Offices;
- The consultation is taking place in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004; and
- Councillor Berry stated that the next meeting of the Car Parking Working Group would take place on the 8th February, starting at 10:30am. Members of the Committee will be welcome to attend.

Resolved that all Councillors be informed when the consultation dates are known.

O107. Call In of Executive Decision E152

The Chair welcomed Councillor A.M. Bucknell and J. Cogswell to the Committee to contribute to this item.

Issues discussed included:

- That Area Boards will be crucial to the success of the new authority;
- It is likely that the pilot Boards will involve both discussion of what Boards can achieve and the testing of new functions;
- The reasons for call in and whether the resolution would lead to a major adverse impact on the community;
- Comments from the Area Committees will be used to inform the development of Boards;
- The importance of Area Boards not starting with insufficient clout/function; and
- The need for local flexibility.

Resolved not to make any recommendations to the Executive.

O108. Draft Corporate Plan

Consideration was given to Report No. 9, circulated with the Agenda, which set out the draft Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09 for comments.

The Chair welcomed the opportunity to look at the Plan ahead of approval by the Executive.

Issues discussed included:

- The One Stop Shop refers to the Monkton Park Council Offices;
- The significance of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) which is essentially a contract between the Government and Wiltshire County Council. North Wiltshire District Council is a delivery partner. The LAA will be judged against 35 performance measures. Links have been included in the Corporate Plan to likely LAA actions;
- The possibility of changing the heading 'Climate Change' to 'Energy Management'; and
- The Council's statutory duties in respect of equalities and diversity.

Resolved that the following comments on the Transitional Corporate Plan be considered by the Executive:

- 1) That a column be added to the Plan setting out previous targets.
- 2) That actions assigned to CMB be re-assigned to the Chief Executive.

O108. Draft Budget Proposals

Consideration was given to Report No. 9, circulated with the Agenda, which gave the latest information concerning the proposed 2008-09 budget and following one year's forecast.

Issues discussed included:

- That the final grant settlement has just been received;
- Consultation has taken place in the form of 2 sessions at the Member Policy Day, consultation with DC Leisure, consultation with the Keep Leisure in Cricklade and the Calne Leisure Action Groups, consultation at Area Committees and input from the Household Waste & Recycling Task Group;
- The County Council have been informed during the budget setting process;
- There is an in-year capital program of approximately £10 million and a capital reserve of approximately £10 million;
- It is anticipated that a capital balance of approximately £9 million will be handed over to the Wiltshire Council;
- Issues raised at the Member Policy Day included homelessness and affordable housing;
- Risks to the Council include unknown unknowns, concessionary fares, job evaluation, the unitary process and leisure issues; and

- The budget next year will use a more open/transparent format, though there are some CPFA requirements which may hamper this approach.

Resolved that the Report be noted.

O109. Poorly Performing Performance Indicators

Consideration was given to Report No. 11, which provided information on performance indicators that, when compared with all District Councils, are amongst the worst 25% of performers.

Issues discussed included:

- Benefits continues to perform well;
- Figures for the average number of days sickness between April-November show a two day improvement in 2007 compared to 2006;
- Sickness has increased in October/November this year; and
- The reasons for falling performance in dealing with minor applications.

Resolved

- 1) That figures on sickness and turnover be included in the next quarterly report;
- 2) That a short note be produced outlining the reasons for the falling performance on minor applications.

O110. Corporate Plan Progress Report

Consideration was given to Report No. 12, which provided an update and exceptions report on the delivery and performance of the Corporate Plan for the third quarter of 2007/08.

Resolved that consideration of the Report be deferred.

O111. Joint Overview & Scrutiny Board Update

Resolved that consideration of the item be deferred.

O112. Councillor Call for Action/Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Consideration was given to Report No. 14, which provided information on forthcoming responsibilities for Overview & Scrutiny.

Resolved that consideration of the Report be deferred.

O113. A Programme for Work for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Consideration was given to Report No. 15, circulated with the Agenda, which considered the Committee's Work Plan and the setting up of a new task group.

Resolved that consideration of the Report be deferred.

The meeting finished at 9.05pm.

There was 1 member of the public present.