

Draft Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17 July 2008 at the Council Offices, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.00pm in Committee Rooms A, B, C & D, Level -1.

Present:

Councillor C Reid (Chair)

Councillors CJ Caswill, PCB Coleman, PR Darby, PJ Doyle, J Hartless, NM Phillips and ML Singlehurst

Other Members Present:

Councillor S Doubell

Officers Present:

J Densham (Democratic Services Assistant), P Jeremiah (Monitoring Officer), L Robertson (Head of Policy and Performance) and M Todd (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

O21. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Thomson and Parker.

O22. Membership

Councillor to be replaced	Replacement	Political Group
AK Hill	GR Greenaway	Conservative

O23. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

O24. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 June 2008 were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 June 2008 be signed as a correct record.

O25. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

O26. Chair's Announcements

A reminder was given that Alison Knowles of the Primary Care Trust would be attending on 30 July 2008 to update interested members of the bed closures at Chippenham Hospital.

O27. Action Report

Consideration was given to Report No. 7, circulated with the agenda, which provided an update on actions from the meeting of 12 June 2008.

Resolved that the report be noted.

O28. Rural Unitary Task Group Final Report

Consideration was given to Report No. 8, circulated with the agenda, which set out the final report of the Task Group.

Items discussed included:

- The task group members were thanked for their contributions to this report;
- It was noted that while three similarly large rural authorities were visited, none was an exact comparator with Wiltshire and that the challenges facing our County were larger;
- Where area forums existed within those authorities visited, none espoused the idea of devolved governance; therefore, our Community Board project would not be able to draw upon existing models and would be a genuine attempt at innovation;
- The importance of a single asset register;
- That the task of creating effective working interfaces between Community Boards and the Community Partnerships should not be underestimated;
- The 'citizen's link' be investigated early to allow sufficiently senior members of staff to communicate with rural areas;
- Highways officers should be located in the local planning teams to ensure close working from an early stage of the planning process;

Resolved that

- 1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee accept the report;
- 2 The recommendations be agreed and forwarded to the appropriate Committees as set out in

paragraph six of the report subject to the following amendments:

- a. To remove the references to possible locations from recommendation (2) to the Customer Access Task Group;
- b. That the recommendations to the Development Control Task Group should also be sent to the Implementation Executive; and

3 The report be considered by the Executive.

O29. CCTV Task and Finish Group

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group gave an oral update on the work of the group to date.

Items discussed included:

- The District Council have not been responsible for the funding or maintenance of CCTV cameras;
- Salisbury District Council have been funding their CCTV cameras which may become an issue with the Unitary merger;
- The group will speak to the Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction Officer regarding the role of mobile CCTV cameras for Community Safety;
- The main role of CCTV appears to be in aiding community safety rather than detecting crime;
- Chippenham's cameras are analogue and need to be replaced with digital cameras before expansion is possible;
- The purpose of the Task Group would be to recommend that existing policies regarding the use of CCTV be harmonised across the Wiltshire; and
- While it is useful to liaise with the police to determine effective locating of cameras, there is a strong desire not to have too close an involvement so as to allow for a broad use of the technology across many community groups.

Resolved that the Task and Finish Group's Terms of Reference be forwarded to the Chair of the Group.

O30. Car Parking Task & Finish Group

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group gave an oral update on the work of the group to date.

Items discussed included:

- The first meeting between the Task and Finish group and the local organisations was met with enthusiastic engagement;
- While Malmesbury had never had an hour's free parking there were many major parking issues that could be considered, namely insufficient parking spaces that has impacted on the profitability of businesses;
- It was considered that there would be some difficulty in determining the Task and Finish group's outcomes given the economic down-turn;
- The group considered their role to be important in terms of offering local businesses and organisations an opportunity to reflect back to the Council and voice concerns; and
- It was apparent that the outcomes would vary from town to town and as such would illustrate the differing needs of areas; and that this should be considered by the Implementation Executive at the end of the investigation.

O31. A Programme of Work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Consideration was given to Report No. 11, circulated with the agenda, which set out the Committee's work programme for 2008/09. The latest version of the Executive Work Plan was to follow as Appendix 1.

Items discussed included:

- Expenditure of existing budgets, particularly under-spends, to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its promises to our residents;
- Ensuring that services do not slip;
- This committee's possible involvement in the mid-year review on the Executive Work Plan; and
- The district's role in influencing budget-setting for the new Council to include local views.

Resolved that

- 1 The Head of Policy and Performance be requested to report to the next meeting on the role of this Committee during the remaining months of this District Council; and
- 2 The Leader of the Council be invited to the next meeting to offer his vision for the remaining time.

O32. Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board Update

The Chair gave an oral update on the main issues discussed at the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board (JOSTB) meeting on 4 July 2008.

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Items discussed included:

- Generally the Development Control Task Group presented a good report although some points need to be reconsidered;
- That there was some concern regarding the Chairmanship of the JOSTB;
- The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny be asked to recommend to the JOSTB that a separate scrutiny panel be established to consider the Local Area Agreements.

Resolved that the Chair to consider bringing a report to a future meeting regarding the effectiveness of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board.

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.

There were 0 members of the public present.