

WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the: **Cabinet**

Held on: **Wednesday 6 June 2007**

Held at: **Council Chamber, Bradley Road, Trowbridge**

Present:

Councillors: Payne(Leader), Conley, Davis, Fortescue, March, Mounde, Phillips OBE, While and Wiltshire

Also present: Cllrs Bolwell, Brown, Carbin, Hawker, King, H Osborn, J Osborn and Repton

Officers: Chief Executive (AP), Head of Finance, (IJ), Property and Estates Service Manager (JF), Principal Lawyer (A A-P), Member Support Team Leader (PS) and Member Support Officer (KH)

89. Apologies

There were no apologies.

90. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18 April 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

91. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

92. Announcements from the Leader

Local Government Review – The Leader asked the Chief Executive to update members on the progress with the Local Government Review (LGR). The Chief Executive reported that in a special MORI Poll 78% of people surveyed said that preferred the Districts and County working together in partnerships rather than a unitary council for the whole of Wiltshire.

Key points that came out of the Poll were:

- The preferred option was to see better working between District Councils and the County Council to improve services.
- Concerns with the remoteness of a unitary County
- Concerns with the inaccessibility of a unitary County

There was concern that the County Council had been selective in their use of the Poll results and had ignored the conclusions and misrepresented the facts.

It was hoped that the Secretary of State would see beyond these misrepresentations.

A response to the Secretary State was being prepared in conjunction with Kennet and Salisbury District Councils.

Cllr Phillips OBE then raised the point that the local radio stations had been announcing that the County Council were pleased that 80% of people were in favour of unitary County.

He asked that a press release be issued to counter this misrepresentation of the facts and that the District Auditor be informed. He also suggested that we should contact the Member of Parliament.

It was explained by the Chief Executive that the County were using a figure that relates to the public wanting a single point of contact for enquiries. That is not the same as wanting a unitary council. It was one of many factors taken into account before the public were asked, in their 10 minute interview, to conclude. One conclusion was that 78% prefer us to work in partnership rather than creating a unitary council for the whole of Wiltshire.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive writes to the District Auditor drawing his attention to the fact that under the Data Protection Act the County's voting slips that were sent to all households were one-sided and illegal and highlighting their misleading press statements.

Also that the Chief Executive request County Council to make a statement withdrawing its misrepresented facts and to draw the attention of the local Member of Parliament to these matters.

93. Land at Beech Grove (Key Decision)

Open Forum – Mr D Adams

The Property and Estates Service Manager presented the report, which detailed the options over an area of land at Beech Grove, Trowbridge which was no longer required for Housing PFI. The land had been maintained as a community garden for some time and Cabinet was requested to decide on its future use or disposal.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet

- **notes the contents of this report**
- **agrees to market the site**
- **agrees to consultation with the community over which alternative site**

- should go forward
- agrees that priority should be given to affordable housing use
- agrees that £10,000 should be contributed to a community garden

Key decision box

Statement of Reason for Key Decision	Capital value may exceed £25000 at point of sale
Options considered and rejected	See options section on report
Date of implementation	25 June 2007

94. Performance Plan 2007-08

Cllr While presented the report which provided details of the draft Performance Plan for 2007-08.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet recommends to Council that it approves the Performance Plan and delegates any further minor amendments as required to the Chief Executive and Leader.

95. Backward Look Annual Efficiency Statement 2006-2007

Cllr While presented the report which looks back at last year. Government sets the targets to be achieved and he was pleased to announce that the Council had exceeded these targets. The small number that were not achieved had been offset by efficiency gains.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approves the backward look AES 2006-07, and delegates any further minor amendments as required to the Chief Executive and Leader.

96. Waste and Recycling Review – First Interim Report (Key Decision)

Cllr Conley presented the report which updated Cabinet on progress with the review of waste and recycling and which asked Cabinet to consider options for suspending green waste collection during the months of July and August.

RESOLVED:

- **Agrees the format and indicative timescales and milestones of the proposed waste and recycling review.**
- **Agrees to proceed with Option 2**

Key decision box

Statement of Reason for Key Decision	Option 5, if selected, would require substantial expenditure, for which there is no budgetary provision
Options considered and rejected	Options 1 to 6 in report
Date of implementation	18 June 2007

97. Consultative Group for Greenspace Management and Street Cleansing Contract

Cllr Conley presented the report which sought to re-establish a Consultative Group for Greenspace Management and Street Cleansing Contract.

RESOLVED

That a consultative group be re-established as a matter of urgency.

98. Cabinet Forward Workplan

The latest version of the Cabinet Forward Work Plan was presented.

RESOLVED:

- **That the Cabinet Forward Work Plan be approved.**
- **That the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 1 August be cancelled and that items be moved to the September meeting.**

99. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Cabinet was scheduled for Wednesday 4 July at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, at the Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge.

100. Exclusion of Press & Public

Open Forum – Mr Frances Morland

RESOLVED:

That under S100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public including the press be excluded from the meeting during this item of business on the grounds that it was likely in view of the nature of business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the public were present

during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as described in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

101. Land at Bradford on Avon Golf Course (Key Decision)

The Property and Estates Service Manager presented a confidential report regarding land at Bradford on Avon Golf Course.

RESOLVED

As per recommendations in confidential report.

(7.00pm – 9.05pm)

These minutes were prepared by Pam Sidgwick, who can be contacted on 01225 776655 ext 204 or by e-mail: psidgwick@westwiltshire.gov.uk

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