

## WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### MINUTES

Minutes of the: **Cabinet**

Held on: **Wednesday 6 February 2008**

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

Present:

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

Also present: Cllr J Osborn,

Officers: Chief Executive (AP), Principal Lawyer (AA-P), Head of Finance (IJ), Management Accountant (SH), Corporate Director (TD) Housing Services Manager (GH), Leisure Manager (LM-B) and Member Support Officer (AM)

#### **13. Apologies**

No apologies were received.

#### **14. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **15. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

#### **16. Presentation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee**

Cllr J Osborn presented a report to Cabinet containing the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee concerning the 2008/09 budget.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That Cabinet noted the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee:**

**That having heard the rationale for the 2008-9 budget the Scrutiny Committee acknowledges that it has been prudently prepared but raises**

**its concerns over waste collection and recycling. The Committee has been informed that changes to the recycling service need to be made through the Wiltshire Waste Partnership. The introduction of kerbside collection of plastics and cardboard would have an impact on the proposed council tax increase for 2008-9.**

**17. Announcements from the Leader**

1. The Leader noted that this was to be the last Cabinet meeting that the Principal Lawyer, Austen Austen-Peters would be attending. The Leader thanked Austen for all his work and wished him well for the future.
2. The Leader also informed Cabinet that:
  - a. a previous employee of the Council, Richard Martin, had passed away recently. A letter of condolence would be sent by the Leader.
  - b. this was the last but one Cabinet meeting that the Chief Executive would be attending. A photo shoot had been arranged for before the next Full Council meeting.
  - c. that he had received an acknowledgment from the Post Office confirming receipt of the letter sent on behalf of the Council regarding the Councils objections to Post Office closures.
  - d. agenda item 6, Multi- Storey Car Park Project, had been withdrawn as the tender process was not sufficiently complete. The item would be taken to the next meeting of Cabinet.

**18. Adoption of the Revised Character Assessment for Bradford on Avon Conservation Area.**

Cllr Phillips OBE and the Corporate Director Tim Darsley presented a report that considered the responses to the consultation exercise on the draft revised conservation area character assessment for Bradford on Avon and requested that Cabinet agree to its adoption as a background planning document.

**RESOLVED**

**Cabinet adopts the revised Conservation Area Character Assessment for Bradford on Avon.**

**19. Capital Improvements at Westbury Pool**

Cllr Wiltshire presented a report requesting that Cabinet considers the necessary capital improvements required at Westbury Swimming Pool and determines how to fund the works.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cabinet approves the capital improvements required at Westbury Swimming Pool as follows:**

**The replacement of the existing perspex and fixings, at a cost of approximately £60,000 that will give the roof a life expectancy of 20 years.**

**Key decision Box**

<b>Statement of reason for key decision</b>	<b>Requirement to spend capital funds of £60,000</b>
<b>Options considered and rejected</b>	<b>Consideration was given to not completing remedial works but this option was withdrawn due to potential health and safety implications</b>
<b>Date of implementation</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> February 2008</b>

**20. Project to develop a Wiltshire Wide Choice Based Lettings Scheme**

Cllr Fortescue and the Housing Services Manager presented a report to support the Council's participation in a sub regional project to develop a Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme across the whole of Wiltshire. The report also informed Cabinet of the likely implications of introducing a Wiltshire wide Choice Based Lettings scheme.

**RESOLVED**

**That Cabinet supports the development of a sub regional Choice Based Lettings scheme across Wiltshire and the participation of Council officers in the development of that project.**

**In Particular, Cabinet supports the development of a Choice Based Lettings Scheme that will operate on the basis of a single policy and IT system applying across the whole of Wiltshire.**

**Prior to the implementation of the proposed CBL scheme a report is to be brought to Cabinet setting out details of the policy and IT system proposed.**

**21. Financial Monitoring 2007-08**

Cllr While presented a report informing Members of the Councils financial position for the period ending 31 December 2008.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cabinet notes the current financial position and the likely out-turn.**

**22. Treasury Management Strategy Report**

Cllr While presented a report that sought Member approval for the prudential indicators for 2008/09 and the Treasury Strategy 2008/09, which sets out the strategy to be pursued in the coming financial year and includes the Investment Strategy.

**RESOLVED:**

**Cabinet agreed the following and recommended adoption to Full Council:**

- a) Adopt the revised Prudential Indicators for 2007/08 and the Prudential Indicators and limits for 2008/09 contained within Appendix A of the report.**
- b) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy 2008/09 and the treasury Prudential Indicators contained within Appendix B.**
- c) Approve the Investment Strategy 2008/09 contained in the Treasury Management Strategy Appendix B.**

**23. Capital Strategy 2008**

Cllr While presented a report requesting Cabinet to consider the capital strategy for 2008 and to recommend it to Council.

**RESOLVED:**

**Cabinet considered the Capital Strategy and;**

- a) Recommended it for approval by Council**
- b) Subject to the actual regulations and guidance to be issued, recommended that Council calculate the minimum revenue provision using the 'Asset Life Method'.**

**24. Update on Local Government Reorganisation**

Cllr Eaton updated Members on the progress with the Local Government Reorganisation. This included:

- Draft orders went through Parliament on 5 February 2008, vote had been at 12.30pm on 6 February 2008. Outcome was that the vote was in favour of the orders being drafted.
- 16 staff had left WWDC during January/February 2008.

- WWDC had received more applicants for posts in planning services.
- The Implementation Executive is next due to meet on 13 February 2008.

Cllr Phillips OBE updated Members on the proceedings at the Judicial Review that he had recently attended. The case had been completed on Wednesday 30 January 2008, a decision will be due in a couple of weeks.

Cllr Phillips OBE also updated Members on Area Boards. This included:

- At the recent seminar a document was tabled regarding Community Area Partnerships and Boards, this would be circulated to all Members of the Council.
- At the last meeting Members requested that the new Unitary Authority Scrutiny Committee consist of two Members from each District. This was discussed at the Interim Joint Scrutiny Committee but was not supported.

**Note:**

**Following a request from Cllr Wiltshire it was agreed that information be brought back to Cabinet on the eligibility of membership of the new unitary authority, for example teachers can currently be Members of a District Council but not the County Council. What would the arrangements be in the Unitary Authority?**

**It was also agreed that the Leader would write to the Leader of WCC, expressing the view of Cabinet Members that there should be an assurance that sufficient evening meetings are planned to ensure that all Members have an opportunity to attend meetings as we move towards a Unitary Authority.**

**25. Cabinet Forward Work Plan February – May 2008**

The Leader presented the revised Cabinet forward Workplan for February – May 2008.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cabinet approves the revised Forward Work Plan February – May 2008**

**26. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Cabinet is scheduled for Wednesday 5 March 2008 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, at the Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge.

(7.00 – 8.10pm)

These minutes were prepared by Andrew Mitchell, Member Support Officer, who can be contacted on Tel: 01225 776655 ext. 242