

West Wiltshire District Council

Minutes

- Minutes of the:** Scrutiny Committee
- Held on:** Wednesday 18 March 2009
- Held at:** Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge
- Present:**
- Councillors:** Cllrs Clark (Chairman), Ezra, Hedley, Humphries, Jenkins, King, Mudge, Osborn H, Osborn J, and Ridout
- Also in attendance:** Cllrs Brown and Carbin
Cllr Francis Morland
Mr Frank Brine
- Officers:** Policy Officer (ML), Policy and Communications Service Manager (PM), Member Support Officer (HP) and Planning Policy and Conservation Service Manager (JS)

153. Apologies and Membership of the Committee

Apologies were received from Cllr Parks.

154. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

155. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

156. Announcements from the Chairman

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- The Chairman was present at the final meeting of Cabinet to submit the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations. He reported that the Leader echoed the Scrutiny Committee's concerns regarding the number of West Wiltshire staff who still do not have details of their future working

arrangements and has now sent a letter to Cllr Jane Scott expounding these.

- The Chairman also reported that the Leader has extended his thanks to the Scrutiny Committee for the valuable work they have done during the term of the current executive.

In response to concerns raised by the Scrutiny Committee at its previous meeting, the Policy and Communications Service Manager (PM) provided an update on the sources being used for severance pay. These include reported operational surplus (£596k), contingency fund and LGR reserve (£200k), bad debt provision (£100k), and balance from general fund (£49k).

157. Joint overview and scrutiny transition update

Cllr Humphries introduced a report on the work of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board (JOSTB). He also thanked officers for their work in supporting the JOSTB.

Cllr J Osborn thanked Cllr Humphries for his service on the JOSTB and for providing a valuable link between it and the Scrutiny Committee.

The Scrutiny Committee expressed its approval that Cllr Ridout continue to serve that as Cllr Humphries deputy on the JOSTB during the interim period.

Members of the JOSTB task groups each gave a verbal update:

Cllr Parks (Development Control) was not present at the meeting, however the task group has completed its work at present.

Cllr Ridout (Housing) reported that the task group's final report is now complete.

Cllr Hedley (Waste) reported that the Head of Waste and Recycling has now been appointed and has brought a report before the task group, in response to which they have made several recommendations. Cllr Hedley emphasised the need for Waste and Recycling to be a priority issue for Scrutiny under the new Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Walker (Area Boards) was not present at the meeting, therefore no update was received.

Cllr Mudge reported that a final document on the functioning of Area Boards will go before the Implementation Executive (IE) on 23 April.

Cllr J Osborn noted that the number of public attending Area Boards depended heavily on what issues were on the agenda.

Cllr Humphries noted that public attendance at Warminster's pilot Area Boards had in reality been very low, and that people were unlikely to wait six weeks to

voice opinions at an Area Board meeting when they could attend a town council meeting as they always have done.

Cllr Carr (Customer Access) reported that the task groups final report is now complete.

Cllr Humphries (Change Management inc. ICT Transition) had no further update to give.

Cllr Clark thanked the Scrutiny Committee's representatives on the JOSTB task groups for their valuable service.

Resolved that:

- **The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.**

158. Scrutiny Committee Annual report

The Policy and Communications Service Manager (PM) introduced a report providing an overview of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee during the final year of West Wiltshire District Council, from May 2008 to the end of March 2009.

Resolved that:

- **The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.**

159. Future timescales in respect of gypsy and traveller sites

Mr Frank Brine and Cllr Francis Morland spoke under the open forum section of the item.

The Planning Policy and Conservation Service Manager (JS) introduced a report providing the Scrutiny Committee with the future timescales in respect of gypsy and traveller sites.

Resolved that:

- **The Scrutiny Committee noted the information contained within the report.**

160. County Health Scrutiny update

Cllr Brian Mudge introduced the update.

Resolved that:

- **The Scrutiny Committee noted the update.**

(7.00pm – 8.10pm)

These minutes were prepared by Henry Powell, Member Support Officer,
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