

Minutes

Meeting of : The Cabinet
Meeting held in : The Alamein Suite City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Wednesday 10 October 2007
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor P W L Sample (Leader)

Councillors B E Dalton (Community Initiatives), P D Edge (Economic Development and Tourism), Mrs H McKeown (Transport), A C R Roberts (Finance), J C Robertson (Environment), A A P Thorpe (Resources) and I R Tomes (Housing)

Apologies: Councillors P M Clegg (Planning) and S R Fear (Deputy Leader)

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor D W Brown (minute 79), J A Cole-Morgan (minutes 78) and Councillor Hill (minute 81) addressed the cabinet on those matters set out under the minutes stated.

72. Declarations of Interest:

There were none declared.

73. Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 05 September 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

74. Public and Councillor Question and Statement Time:

Councillor Parker made a number of points concerning the Tisbury and District Sports Centre attached as Annex 3 to the minutes. The Leader requested that the Head of Community Initiatives produce a response to all the points raised and that he also convenes a meeting with Councillor Parker and Cabinet Members, Councillors Dalton and Tomes, to produce a paper on how best to encourage greater patronage of the centre, as an alternative to the free swimming offered to children during the holiday periods there.

Councillor Parker also raised the issue of composting and an offer by a local farmer in Teffont to provide facilities for domestic composting on his farm. The Chairman advised that he understood the reason that progress had not been made was because of difficulties with Wiltshire county Council and Hills Waste. He asked that the matter should be discussed with the Head of Environmental Services, Matti Raudsepp and a report brought to the appropriate Committee in due course.

Mr Tony West of College Street, Salisbury made a statement relating to agenda item 7 attached as Annex 1 and Sue Wright, representing the Green Party made a statement relating to agenda item 7 attached as Annex 2. The Leader advised that the issues raised would be addressed during the debate at agenda item 7, however he advised that he shared Mr West's concerns about incineration.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



75. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman was very pleased to announce that the Environment Agency's plans for a £2 million flood defence scheme at Harnham took an important step forward this week when the Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee recommended local levy funds be used to pay for the scheme. The final design will be agreed following consultation with residents in Harnham. A public exhibition will be held in late October/early November when details of the revised scheme will be displayed.

The Chairman was also very pleased to advise that the District Council was to reinstate £50,000 worth of funding to the three leading arts organisations - Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury Playhouse and the Salisbury International Festival. This would be reflected in the District Council's Arts Budget for next year. This decision was taken as the cultural and artistic life of the District was very important and the Arts employs many people, either directly or indirectly, and brings a large number of visitors to the District which in turn produces extra income. He had asked that the restored funding should be used to provide more free events, particularly street events, more outreach in to rural towns and villages, and more works in deprived areas.

The Chairman advised that he had that day met with the Chairman of Wiltshire Primary Care Trust to discuss the Trust's support for Home-Start. He was awaiting a response on whether the Trust was prepared to restore its £8,500 grant.

The Chairman expressed his strong desire for the District Council to welcome home and in some way support the local troops following their imminent return from conflicts abroad. The officers would be working up some proposals including the possibility of staging a civic parade and a package of benefits for leisure centre use.

The Chairman advised that he would like to see the Park and Ride Service in operation during the late night shopping Thursdays in the lead up to Christmas and called for the officers to produce a paper.

The Chairman advised that Christmas Eve falls on a Monday this year. The Council would normally be open for business in the morning and closed from lunchtime, however the Cabinet recognise that doing this on a Monday is not very cost effective. In recognition of the difficult times facing staff, as a result of the proposed Local Government Reorganisation, the Cabinet has decided to give them an extra half day's leave and close the offices for the whole of Christmas eve. The Council will be open for business again on Thursday 27th December.

76. Forward Plan:

The Leader presented his Forward Plan for the period 1 November 2007 – 29 February 2008 (previously circulated) to be published and become operational from 1 November 2007.

Resolved:

- (1) that the Leader's Forward Plan 1 November 2007 to 29 February 2008 be adopted for publication subject to the inclusion of an update every month on the implementation progress for the fifth park and ride site at Petersfinger.
- (2) that Mr T West be provided with a response within 10 working days as to why the scrutiny review concerning Rural Sustainable Communities had been delayed in coming before Cabinet.

77. Call-in Decisions:

There were none.

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Recommendations to the Council

(The recommendations set out below will be considered by the Council on 10 December 2007)

78. Review of Political Priorities:

The Cabinet considered the previously circulated report of the Acting Chief Executive. The Leader thanked the Senior Officers involved for their excellent work in assisting the Cabinet in the preparation of its priorities, which he acknowledged were necessarily ambitious. In respect of project 51 it was noted that the lottery bid for the Community Centre in Bemerton had been unsuccessful. Councillor Dalton had questioned this decision and was awaiting a response.

Recommended to the Full Council on 10 December 2007:

- (1) the recommendations contained within Appendix 1 be confirmed;
- (2) the resource and subsequent financial implications that need to be factored into the budget strategy paper be agreed in principle; and
- (3) the progress of the projects be monitored on a quarterly basis (more frequently should staffing levels within units reduce to a level which could jeopardise the status of the projects).

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Cabinet Decisions

All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 23 October 2007 (unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

79. Waste and Recycling:

Councillor Robertson introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Environmental Services explaining that the officers had undertaken further work on Option 2 of the report submitted to Cabinet on 5 September. The Leader advised that he had received a letter from the Leader of Wiltshire County Council dated 8 October 2007 (attached as Annex 4 to the minutes) in which she states that the key issue for the Wiltshire Partnership and the County Council is whether the proposals will increase recycling to acceptable levels. The extent to which the alternative scheme might deliver or pave the way for future delivery of higher recycling will determine the County Council's decision as to whether its financial support has been properly spent or should be refunded. Councillor Sample advised that the District Council would need to have regard to these views. He also advised that he would be considering how best to involve Local Agenda 21 in the waste and recycling scheme.

As regards the signage on the bins, it was noted that they would carry the words "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle".

Councillor Brown asked why it was not intended to reconvene the Improving Waste Management Board, and why the roll out of the scheme had been delayed. The Leader advised that he would get a formal response within 10 working days, however in respect of the latter point, it was delayed in view of the need to seek the views of the public prior to determination.

Resolved: that the key aspects of the proposed service be as follows -

- (1) Weekly collection of landfill waste using 180 litre bin, from October 2008;
- (2) Fortnightly collection of plastic bottles and cardboard using 180 litre bin from October 2008;
- (3) Extension of fortnightly Black Box kerbside recycling scheme across the whole District from November 2007;
- (4) The Introduction of chargeable Garden waste collection services across the whole District from April 2008, using 180 litre bins at a cost of £26.pa per bin per household;
- (5) Continued use of sacks for properties unsuited for wheeled bins, with a review after 6 months to see if labels are required;
- (6) That households be encouraged to restrict landfill (or non-recyclable) waste to their 180 litre bins, but that all waste put out for collection be taken away, this to be reviewed after 6 months;
- (7) That 120 litre bins be provided where appropriate up to 5%of total bins supplied (5000);
- (8) That the Improving Waste Management Board be not reconvened.

80. Financial Strategy 2008-2010:

Councillor Roberts introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Financial Services, and advised that it may be necessary at some point to revisit the strategy following the Chancellor's recent pre-budget statement.

Resolved: that

- (1) the Financial Strategy to provide the framework for 2008/09 budget setting be approved; and
- (2) the principal risks be noted.

81. Proposed Eco-Homes Affordable Housing Development:

Councillor Tomes introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Strategic Housing and congratulated the Officer for producing such an excellent report, a view echoed by the Leader who considered that the proposals in the report represented a major step forward for the Council.

Resolved:

- (1) To determine in principle that the site at Lower Road/Cherry Orchard Lane, Churchfields, is a suitable site and consequently authorise Officers to prepare a Concept Plan and financial appraisal for further consideration by Cabinet.
- (2) Officers prepare a further report on the disposal process following consultation with Wiltshire County Council.

82. Housing Allocations Policy and Choice Based Lettings Scheme:

Councillor Tomes introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Strategic Housing.

Resolved:

- (1) the change from the points based housing allocations scheme to Choice based Lettings be approved;
- (2) to commit to county-wide housing allocations policy and housing application form; and
- (3) officers be authorised to progress with identifying the most appropriate CBL system and to receive a more detailed report on the financial requirements and procurement process.

83. Recruitment Protocol:

Councillor Thorpe introduced the previously circulated (version 7) recruitment protocol between Wiltshire County Council and the four District Councils within Wiltshire.

Resolved: that the protocol be adopted for immediate application, subject to the Head of Personnel and Organisational Development receiving a reassurance from the County Council that it in no way fetters the District Council's recruitment of the Chief Executive and Deputy Executive Officers, and if this reassurance is not forthcoming, the protocol be referred back to the Cabinet meeting in November for further consideration.

84. Security of Employment and Redundancy Policy:

Councillor Thorpe introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of People and Organisation Development, together with the joint union statement and the recommendation of the Joint Consultative Forum.

Resolved: that the proposed local government reorganisation has overtaken this report, and whilst it is recognised the work undertaken by staff and unions to resolve the challenges of the new legislation, the best course of action is to seek a county wide agreement to reflect the impact of the proposed reorganisation, consequently the existing arrangements should be kept in place and the Officers press their colleagues across the County to agree a joint approach to this problem.

85. Fair Trade Proposal:

At the request of the Leader, Councillor Sample it was

Resolved:

That the Cabinet approves the following resolution to support Fairtrade and in doing so commits the Council to supporting and promoting Fairtrade and nominates Councillor Clegg as the Fairtrade Member champion to act as the representative member on the Fairtrade Steering Group and other relevant groups;

Salisbury District Council aims to be recognised by residents; local businesses; schools; local fair-trade and A21 partnerships ; as well as its suppliers and employees and other local councils as a Council that actively supports and promotes the concept of Fairtrade - ensuring that producers from developing countries get fair price for their goods and local labour. The Council will

- (1) support the Fairtrade City Steering Group in its work to achieve Fairtrade City status;
- (2) promote awareness of Fairtrade issues, and resources be provided to make publicity and educational information available to local people, businesses, schools and other local organisations concerning the impact of unfair trade and opportunities that Fairtrade provides to promote sustainable development
- (3) undertake an investigation of its own purchasing policies to enable the purchase of Fairtrade products such as those carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark, as they become available
- (4) ensure that Fairtrade products be purchased, for all staff kitchens and canteens, wherever possible when catering for Council meetings and functions and ensure that all Council managed facilities provide Fairtrade products for sale

86. Recommendations from the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

The Cabinet considered the recommendations arising from the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 03 September 2007 as set out at agenda item 15.

Resolved: that (1) the recommendation to consider extending the opening hours of park and ride be not supported in view of the results of the extensive survey work of District customers and the patronage levels on the buses at the start and finish of the day (2) the principle of providing greater dedicated off street parking for residents is already part of the parking review and the Cabinet do not wish to pre-empt that work; (3) that the recommendation concerning Council recycling is supported.

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm

Number of public present 4

Mr A West
7 Guilder Lane
Salisbury
SP1 1HW

Statement to Cabinet on 10 October 2007 –

Agenda Item 7 'Waste and Recycling'

The argument has been made that by providing adequate recycling opportunities most people will take advantage, considerably reducing their residual waste. The 120 litre wheelie bin proposed for weekly collection would provide a months capacity for most responsible families. I fail to see how increasing the capacity to 180 litres weekly, which is an increase of 100% on the original AWC service proposed will be any encouragement for the resistant families to recycle. I also believe a larger bin will create an adverse reaction from responsible recyclers who have difficulty managing wheelie bins on their property.

I feel an argument mainly on operational grounds has been made but the real reason is contained in 3.5. The order has already been placed.

It is the counties intention to send 50,000 tonnes of our waste to Slough for incineration next year. I think this should start to be made clear in your reports by now using the term 'incineration' instead of 'landfill' as shown in paragraph 6.

Tony West



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**Question and statement to Salisbury District Council
Cabinet meeting 10 October 2007**

This statement relates to item 7 – Waste and recycling

- Salisbury Green Party welcomes the long overdue roll out of the black box scheme across the district.
- We remain concerned that the scheme proposed is very under ambitious and may fail to meet the recycling/landfill targets set for us by central government.
- Our voters and supporters don't want Salisbury or Wiltshire to be dragging its feet at the bottom of the recycling league. They want us at the top. The best local authorities are now hitting 50% and that's what we should be aiming for. 31% is pathetic.
- We think 180l is too big for many householders for a fortnight's waste and when emptied weekly will result in an unnecessarily large amount of waste being produced.
- Question. Report paragraph 4.4: 'Using a 180 litre bin with a no-side-waste policy will provide a capacity constraint to a significant number of households and lead to increased recycling without an overall increase in the current weight of waste arisings.' What is 'a significant number of households'? Please can we be told the proportion of households who are expected to produce more than 180l of waste a week after the district-wide roll out of the black box scheme.

Question for Cabinet meeting held on 10 October 2007

Tisbury and District Sports Centre

I cannot understand why the previous administration has been so neglectful of promoting Sports and Leisure in the district. I attended a meeting of Tisbury and District Sports Centre managing body last week as a substitute for Councillor Mrs Green. I was told by Robin Townsend that I can sit on the body as of right. Is this correct?

Also, we discussed the site's mix of users and a possible planning application for adjoining land which could result in a windfall for the parish council and the site users – stakeholders. We hope an umbrella organisation will be formed to meet future demands for sports and leisure in the nearby villages and Tisbury on the sports centre site in conjunction with the Nadder Hall and the schools.

In the meantime, we have decided to try to improve our publicity and marketing and I had a 2-hour meeting with Darren from Five Rivers in my office this week. I was asked to pursue avenues that would improve the standing and lift the profile of the Tisbury site but also to include opportunities for all the centres. Darren told me that the Sports Centre's participation in Tisbury Carnival resulted in real time clients signing on at the centre. We agreed on the importance of putting our message in the front line. I asked for a welcome notice to be erected at the sports centre for a start, and to have posters designed, printed and erected in the area, publicising the centre and the other SDC sports facilities. We hope to produce leaflets about the centre and a diary of future activities. We want to plan ahead with activities through the autumn, winter, spring and into next summer. We need to give families plenty of notice of what we are doing. We want to attract sponsorship from commercial and private sources and Valley News, the local monthly news magazine, is the first to offer sponsorship money and consumables.

We want to organise FREE activities days, family days, perhaps a Christmas Party, funded or part-funded by sponsors and / or SDC. We want to put together a visual presentation with slides or moving film and commentary to be presented at youth clubs, parish councils, WI, Mothers Union, gardening clubs, societies and any other places where people are gathered together for another purpose – a captive organisation.

We must not stray outside budgets or working practices, health and safety and legal requirements but require a more forward thinking approach from those outside the box to get into the box and those inside the box to get out and look around. It would be helpful to have the Cabinet's blessing and guidance to make an immediate start. We want Tisbury and District to have the best and most progressive family sports centre that resources can provide, and don't forget we must encourage the goodwill of volunteers who would be willing to offer services.

Councillor D O Parker

Jane Scott
Leader of the Council



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Please ask for: Jane Scott

Our ref: jas/lg.JAS/1K/b
AC/AC/R20/37/SDC10

Your ref:

8 October 2007

Dear Paul

District Council Plans for Refuse and Recycling Collections

Thank you for your letter dated 28 September explaining the proposals that your Cabinet will consider on 10 October.

I understand that the extended kerbside black box collection is already being put into place by officers and the contractors. The proposals to collect plastic and cardboard and make a charged collection of garden waste would be welcomed by the County Council, provided that the plastic collection is restricted to plastic bottles to ensure that the material can be recycled and the garden waste collection excludes cardboard.

The issue of cardboard in the current garden waste collection is becoming very urgent. Salisbury District Council had promised to sort this problem out in changes planned for this October. I would therefore request your Authority to introduce a new garden waste only collection very quickly.

My main concern is that you propose to offer a choice of 120 litre and 180 litre bins to households for their residual collection. 180 litre bins are used widely throughout Wiltshire including for alternate weekly collections and would provide a good basis for integrating services across a unitary authority. On the other hand, 120 litre bins may provide some incentive to recycle with a weekly collection. My concern is that a mixture would not meet either objective. (I understand and accept that your Council will have good reasons for offering a different service in certain defined areas where wheelie bins would not be appropriate, for example the centre of Salisbury.)

The key issue for the Wiltshire Waste Partnership and the County Council is whether your proposals will increase recycling to acceptable levels. The extent to which your alternative scheme might deliver, or pave the way for future delivery of higher recycling, will determine the County Council's decision as to whether its financial support has been properly spent or should be refunded.

Yours sincerely

Cabinet Office, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JN