

Minutes

Meeting of : The Cabinet
Meeting held in : Methodist Hall, St Edmunds Church Street, Salisbury
Date : Tuesday 15 July 2008
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor P W L Sample (Leader)
Councillor S R Fear (Deputy Leader) in the chair for minute 238

Councillors P M Clegg (Planning), 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 there were none

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor I McLennan addressed Cabinet at the start of the meeting due to a previously arranged Council engagement. He announced that, as the Chairman of the Council, due to the urgency of the decision contained in agenda item 8, the call-in procedure should not apply and the decision would not be subject to call-in (A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would for example - seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests) (Constitution – Part 4: Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules). Members were given until on or before 5.00pm on 16 July 2008 to submit any comments regarding the content of the "Our Place in the Future" magazine to the Chief Executive who would consider them in consultation with the Head of Forward Planning and the Portfolio Holder. Further to this, the Chairman addressed the Committee specifically regarding item 8.

230. Declarations of Interest:

Councillors Sample and Thorpe declared personal and prejudicial interests in respect of Agenda Item 10. Councillor Thorpe addressed the Committee and subsequently both Councillors left the meeting during discussion and did not vote thereon.

231. Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

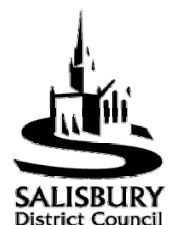
232. Public and Councillor Question and Statement Time:

Councillors Westmoreland, King and Moss addressed the Committee regarding Agenda Item 8. The comments included concerns regarding the specification of particular sites for potential development and the instability of the international economy and its possible effect on the housing market.

A statement from Parish Councillor Brian Edgeley of Firsdown was made in respect of Agenda Item 8 and is attached as Annex A to the minutes. The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Councillor Clegg, thanked Mr Edgeley for his statement and said he would send a full reply to his statement.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



233. Forward Plan:

The Leader presented his Forward Plan for the period 1 September 2008 – 31 December 2008 (previously circulated) to be published and become operational from 1 August 2008.

Resolved: that the Leader's Forward Plan 1 September 2008 – 31 December 2008, be adopted for publication, subject to the following being included for October -

Salisbury District Council response to Sub National Review (SNR) of Economic Development.

234. Call-in Matters:

There were none.

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Cabinet Decisions

*All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 28 July 2008
(unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)*

235. Hackney Carriage Fare Increase:

Councillor McKeown introduced the previously circulated report of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing and Enforcement Officer

Resolved: that

- (1) the proposed fare increase to the taxi tariff as set out in Appendix B of the report be approved;
- (2) the introduction of a "fuel surcharge" as an "extra" of 20p per journey be approved and this to be increased at the discretion of the Licensing Officer after consultation with the Forward Planning and Transportation Service Unit Head and Portfolio Holder.
- (3) If objections are made that authority be delegated to Forward Planning and Transportation Service Unit Head to determine any objection in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

236. Local Development Framework – 'Our Place in the Future' (Preferred Options Stage 2) Consultation

Councillor Clegg introduced the previously circulated amended report of the Team Leader of Forward Planning and Conservation, together with the four appendices.

Resolved: that

- (1) Cabinet authorise the 'Our Place in the Future' magazine for public consultation for a period 8 weeks commencing on 1st September 2008, and a report to be brought back to Cabinet in due course outlining the outcomes of the consultation.
- (2) the revised timetable highlighted as Appendix 1 of the report be accepted, as a pragmatic response to the new planning regulations while meeting the Corporate priority of submitting a Core Strategy for Salisbury prior to abolition of the Council.
- (3) The cost of the additional consultation required by Full Council, together with consultation on the submission draft, will be outside the limits of current budgets by approximately £55,000, however this sum can be funded as a one-off through the use of the LABGI (Local Authority Business Growth Incentive) scheme; and;
- (4) To delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Head of Forward Planning and the Portfolio Holder the content of "Our Place in the Future" Magazine having regard to any comments made by Members on or before 5.00pm on 16 July 2008.

237. Planning enforcement Draft Statement of Service Provision 2008:

Councillor Clegg introduced the previously circulated report of the Principal Planning Officer and Principal Solicitor.

Resolved: that the report be noted and the Enforcement Statement of Service Provision 2008 be adopted, subject to the amendments detailed in the report as the Council's Services Standards for planning enforcement, thereby replacing the 1999 Enforcement Policy.

238. Alabare Christian Care Society – funding for building works at flats 131 Exeter Street

Councillor Tomes introduced the previously circulated report of the Private Sector Housing Policy Officer.

Resolved: that the council provide a grant of up to £67,090 from the Private Sector Renovation capital budget toward the cost of the work and that the Head of Strategic Housing Services is given delegated authority to make payments on completion of the works to a maximum estimated cost for each individual item detailed in Appendix 1 attached to the report.

239. The Use of Consultants Scrutiny Review – final Report:

Councillor Thorpe introduced the attached report and recommendation of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 12 May 2008.

Resolved: that the Review be referred to the New Unitary Wiltshire Council, with particular attention drawn to the need for a robust system for the engagement of consultants to be put in place for the new council to mitigate possible risks and to ensure that value for money and efficiency are achieved when engaging consultants.

240. Joint Consultative Forum:

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the previously circulated recommendations together with the associated reports) of the Forum meeting held on 01 July 2008.

Agreed – that the recommendations from the Joint Consultative Forum meeting concerning the following policies be approved:

- (a) Cross Wiltshire Severance Pay Arrangements
- (b) Annual Leave Policy
- (c) Maternity Rights and Benefits
- (d) Revised Eye Test Policy

Resolved – that the above revised policies be approved

241. Queen Elizabeth Gardens Management Plan:

Councillor Roberts introduced the previously circulated report from the City Area (Community) Committee on 1 July 2008 meeting which considered and approved the Masterplan arising from the Queen Elizabeth Gardens Management Plan.

Resolved – that

- (1) in principal, the project to refurbish Q E Gardens in line with the previously circulated plan be approved;
- (2) in principal, the phased funding for the scheme outlined in the previously circulated report be approved subject to a further report detailing the exact funding commitment be brought before the Cabinet; and
- (3) final details be delegated to the Ward Councillors in conjunction with Officers.

242. Unitary Update:

The Chief Executive advised that:-

- (1) the Corporate Directors had been appointed and all Service Directors would be appointed by the end of July.
- (2) staff were working hard to maintain business as usual and also be involved in shaping the new council.
- (3) the importance of good communication in order to improve understanding of unitary issues, as there are some large-scale transformational projects, like organising the new arrangements for area governance and the Business Management Programme, which are quite complicated.

The Chairman stated that he was impressed with the ability of officers to deliver a high quality of service through such testing times and thanked the Senior Management Team for their support and commitment. All Members thanked staff for their efforts and noted that year-end 2007/08 performance management data proved that the Council is high performing.

243. Successes of the Council:

Councillor Sample introduced the previously circulated list of successes and achievements of the Council over the last month. That all staff be thanked for their commitment and hard work especially John Crawford, Head of Legal and Property, Eric Teagle and David Milton Forward Planning and their respective teams.

Further to the report it was noted by Members that the Council now has the highest level of dry recyclables in the County. Further to this, support was given to Salisbury's bid to become a healthier community as set out in the recently launched initiative from the Department of Health.

Resolved: that successes and achievements be noted with satisfaction.

244. Update on Petersfinger Park and Ride:

Councillor McKeown introduced previously circulated briefing note on this matter. Regarding the Park and Ride sites in general, the Chairman stated that the Council would have to explore ways of making the Park and Ride services more efficient in order to reduce revenue deficit from operating the services. He stated that there would be further reports exploring ways of reducing the deficit.

Agreed – the update position be noted.

245. Matters of Urgency:

Christmas Lights 2008:

At the discretion of the Chairman, Councillor Edge introduced the urgent item. He stated that there was a meeting to shortlist tenders for the project on Thursday 17 July 2008 and a subsequent meeting to view the short listed tenders.

Agreed – that the approval of the tenders be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and that a detailed report be brought back to Cabinet to obtain final approval.

Tisbury and District Sport Centre:

Councillor Sample referred to an email that he had been sent by Councillor D Parker in his capacity as Chairman of the Tisbury and District Sport Centre Managing Body regarding the creation of an umbrella group of all parties with an interest in the Sports Centre, Nadder Hall and school complex. Councillor Sample said that he endorsed this as a way forward for the Centre and asked that officers provide support to the project and if any issues regarding capacity arose then a report would come before the Cabinet.

*The meeting concluded at 8.50 pm
Number of public present 20*

Statement of Brian Edgeley to Cabinet meeting of 15 July 2008

I am well aware that if Whitehall makes you a directive you are obliged to act upon it. But in the current climate are we really to believe that the 12,500 houses for Salisbury by 2026 is set in stone or indeed feasible?

I have spent my business life in the financial world and the present situation is probably the worst I have experienced. Your concern appears to be that if you do not abide dutifully by Government dictates, they and developers will walk all over you.

How can this be? Builders are currently staving off bankruptcy nationally with substantial job losses and are only able to finance debt on penal terms. Government is not in the position of financing developers. Finance is only available prohibitively from the private sector. No builder in these markets will enter into projects unless they are guaranteed to offload completed housing.

This is all without such local problems that road and rail improvements is well nigh impossible to create to facilitate major development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you do not need a degree in rocket science to realise as many analysts have stated that this is no short term problem, it could take at least five years to achieve the housing targets conceived in 2006 let alone make up the shortfall.

So do Salisbury District Council echo any of this to their central government masters?

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