

Minutes

Alamein Suite
City Hall, Salisbury
12.00 noon: 5 February 2003

Part 1: Procedural Matters

420. Present:

Councillors: K C Wren (Leader) E R Draper & J C Noeken (Planning and Economic Development), D W Brown & D A Culver (Environment and Transport), J A Cole-Morgan & A G Peach (Community & Housing) and Mrs S A Warrander & S G Sanders (Resources).

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Leader Councillor J Collier

Councillors Mills, Bissington, Mrs Chettleburgh, Fowler, Hewitt, Hooper, Ms Mallory, McLennan and West, were in attendance and with the Chairman's permission spoke on items as minuted below.

ACTIONED BY
Portfolio Holder
(Contact Officer)

421. Code of Conduct: Members & Officers' Interests:

Ms Jane Ferguson, Principal Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer, declared a personal (non prejudicial) interest in all Strategic Housing sites owing to the fact she was related to a headteacher of a school.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

422. Minutes:

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

423. Questions and Statements:

It was noted that special arrangements for item 7 minute 427 below applied regarding the Local Plan and that the Chairman agreed to allow a further questions/Statement time at the start of business following consideration of the Local Plan.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

424. Call-in:

None of the decisions from the Cabinet's last meeting had been called-in.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

425. Adjournments

The meeting adjourned at 2.30pm for 40 minutes

426. Forward Plan:

The Leader presented his Forward Plan for the period 1 March 2003 – 30 June 2003 (previously circulated) which would be published on 14 February to become operational from 1 March 2003.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

Agreed: that the Leader's previously circulated proposed Forward Plan be adopted for publication.

Minutes

Alamein Suite
City Hall, Salisbury
12.00 noon: 5 February 2003

Part 2: Recommendations to the Council

ACTIONED BY
Portfolio Holder
(Contact Officer)

427. Replacement Salisbury District Local Plan

Proposed Modifications (for consideration at Full Council on 24 March)

The Chairman outlined the procedures to be followed at the meeting as set out in the previously circulated procedure note (Item 7A).

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development introduced the previously circulated report of the Team Leader Forward Planning & Conservation. The Cabinet also received the subsequently circulated minutes (with recommendations) of the Planning & Economic Development Overview & Scrutiny Panel meetings held on 14 and 22 January 2003 respectively and received the notes of the Working Group meeting held on 13 January. The Cabinet also noted the recently circulated extract minute from the City Area (Community) Committee following its meeting on 28 January 2003 concerning its recommendation relating to the New Cemetery provision in Salisbury, namely that the Cabinet is requested to consider deleting the proposed cemetery site at Fugglestone Red (Modification Ref: R/PUB/1 from the Replacement Local Plan) in view of the decision to proceed with the St Andrews Church Site Laverstock option. The Cabinet was also provided with copies of a letter from DPDS Consulting and Penningtons Solicitors (both dated 13 January 2003) and both on behalf of Blenheim Property Company concerning Old Sarum Airfield/ original modification PM/HSG/14/MAP.

The Team Leader, Forward Planning & Conservation then provided an overview of the Local Plan process to date and the remaining steps to be taken for the adoption of the Replacement Local Plan. The Team Leader then summarised the main issues in the Plan.

Consideration was then given to the Officer's recommendations as set out in the appendices accompanying the above report having regard to the recommendations of the Planning & Economic Development Overview & Scrutiny Panel and the City Area (Community) Committee.

Housing Omission - Duck Lane Laverstock, the Officers advised that the Traffic Consultant's report on the Highways and access issues had been received (copies were circulated at the meeting). The report concludes that if the allocation on this site is to be resisted, the decision must be based on sound and compelling evidence that was clearly not available to the Local Plan inspector. On balance the Traffic Consultant feels that it is unlikely that such sound and compelling evidence can be put forward.

Cllr Draper
(A Macdonald)

Housing Omission - Land at Tisbury -development phasing - revised wording was proposed (circulated at the meeting) and accepted - see resolution below.

Public Questions and Statements were made as follows:

(1) The Local Plan Process

Councillor Hooper asked that if adoption of the Local Plan was challenged, would the challenger be entitled to legal aid.

The Chairman advised that the Councillor would receive a written response within 10 working days

Mr Medley, a Salisbury District Council Tax-payer, stated that he was concerned that the advice provided to Members by Officers was influenced by the Officers' keenness to ensure that a second Plan Inquiry did not take place and that, as a result, the views of the public (objecting to a number of the proposed modifications) were being overridden. An example of this being the changes being made by Officers to the phasing arrangements in PM/HSG/10. Mr Medley urged the Cabinet to look closely at the advice being given to them by Officers and to not shy away from a second Inquiry if such was necessary to ensure that the 'democratically expressed wishes of local people' were upheld.

The Chairman responded that the Council had been as open and transparent as it had been possible to be during the whole Plan process and had offered the people of Salisbury every opportunity to 'have a voice' and to contribute to the process. The Chairman assured Mr Medley that Council, in its deliberations, had taken into account all of the representations received (observations, requests and criticisms) and had gone beyond its statutory duties as far as the matter of public inclusion and consultation was concerned. Regarding the comments relating to the conduct of Officers, the Chairman informed Mr Medley that the conduct of Officers in this matter was irreproachable; the Officers provided professional advice and Councillors either accepted this advice, or not, as they saw fit.

(2) Appendix 2 – Housing

PM/HSG/12 - Fugglestone Red

Mr Stedman, for the Wilton Estate, spoke in objection of the proposed modification to delete the Fugglestone Red site from the housing allocation and requested that, should the Cabinet decide to approve the deletion of the site, that the site be given priority consideration, for housing allocation, in the next Plan period.

PM/HSG/19 - Salt Lane Car Park

Councillor Mrs Chettleburgh requested that this site be retained as a car park.

PM/HSG/34 - Housing Omission, Duck Lane, Laverstock

Mr Meecham, Chairman of Laverstock Parish Council spoke in objection to the proposed modification to include a 4.05ha site at Duck Lane, Laverstock, for housing.

Mrs Grimsdale, resident of Duck Lane and speaking on the behalf of herself and other Laverstock residents, spoke in objection to the proposed modification to

include a 4.05ha site at Duck Lane, Laverstock, for housing.

Mr Carrington, representing Hawthorne Kamm, Planning Consultants, for Linden Homes, spoke in support of the proposed modification to include a 4.05ha site at Duck Lane, Laverstock, for housing.

Councillors Bissington, McLennan and Mills spoke in objection to the proposed modification to include a 4.05ha site at Duck Lane, Laverstock, for housing

As regards the local plan process generally, Councillor Mills stated the Cabinet's decision to establish a Local Plan Members Working Group, to consider the Plan from a 'local' perspective, had proved most useful (the Planning and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Panel having provided consideration from a 'strategic' perspective).

PM/HSG/36 - Housing Omission, Land at Tisbury

Mr B Woodcock, a resident of Tisbury, speaking on the behalf of himself and other residents of Tisbury, spoke in objection to the inclusion of a 2.7ha site at Weaveland Road, Tisbury, for mixed use development.

Mrs Henderson, Chairman of Tisbury Parish Council, spoke in objection to the proposed modification to include a 2.7ha site at Weaveland Road, Tisbury, for mixed use development.

Councillor Hooper spoke in objection to the proposed modification to include a 2.7ha site at Weaveland Road, Tisbury, for mixed use development.

Councillor Hooper also spoke of his concern regarding the New Political Management Structure in the context of the Local Plan process.

PM/HSG/41 - Housing Policy Boundary, Tilshead

Councillor Mills spoke in objection to the proposed modification to include the land at Chapter Rise, Tilshead within the Housing Policy Boundary.

Appendix 3 Employment

PM/EMP/10 Amesbury and Porton Down

Mr Mitchell (Amesbury Link Road Action Group) expressed concern with the Amesbury Link Road route and that employment development should not be focussed on that road.

Appendix 4 Conservation Rural and Natural Environment and the New Forest

PM/RNE/6 Landscape Setting of Salisbury and Wilton

Councillor McLennan stated that the exclusion of the residential allocation at Duck Lane Laverstock from the Landscape Setting designation would impair the view of Salisbury from the Downlands.

Appendix 5 Transport

PM/Trans 20 Amesbury Link Road

Mr Mitchell was concerned that some of the key issues regarding the proposed Amesbury Link Road route have not been addressed/clarified, including the uncertainty of the road's usage and function and measures to mitigate its impact. He also stated that he was unaware of the proposed development

when he moved into the area in 1999.

Councillor West advised that this road had been a long-standing proposal.

Mr Westmoreland, Amesbury Town Council advised that the Town Council had made strong recommendations to the County Council as regards traffic calming measures for this road.

Mr Tilley, a County Council Transport Officer advised that the link road would not be signed as a route for HGVs.

Appendix 6 Sport Recreation and Leisure and Public Services PM/SPR/11&SPR/12 Open Space Provision on the H9 allocation at Amesbury

Mr Mitchell objected on the basis that map published to show the extent of the open space depicts an indicative route for the Amesbury Link Road. He was also concerned that the full detail of his objection had not been set out in the Officer's report - it should have stated - further to this he suggests the link road use is incompatible with the recreational uses shown on the plan .

Appendix 7 Shopping PM/ SHP/23&24&25 - Retail Development in Amesbury

Mr Westmoreland, Amesbury Town Council, was concerned that the Local Plan did not appear to address the identified need in Amesbury for a second medium sized store.

The Cabinet did however note that Mr Macdonald had assured Members of Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 22 January 2003, that no other developments were precluded from coming forward. Once the Redworth House Site had been developed, all future developments would be considered on their individual merits and would need to meet the criteria as set out under Policy S4.

The Principal Solicitor, Jane Ferguson, advised that the existing policy would allow for an additional store in Amesbury and it was thus not necessary to seek any changes in the Local Plan.

Resolved – that

- (1) the recommendations in the covering report and appendices be accepted (as amended by the replacement text in the proposed modifications relating to phasing arrangements in PM/HSG/10 set out below - this supercedes the wording set out on page 50 of the report under issue 1) and no further modifications are required to the Replacement Local Plan;
- (2) the Replacement Local Plan be progressed through the publication of the notice of the intention to adopt

4**In order to assist in monitoring the release of housing allocations, the Replacement Local Plan has been divided into two phases:

Phase 1 – to 2006; and Phase 2 – 2006 to 2011.

The final column of Table 3 gives an indication, based on guidance set out in PPG3, as to which of these phases sites are anticipated to come forward for development. The phase indicated for each site takes account of the need to

bring forward brownfield/previously developed sites before greenfield sites whenever possible and also acknowledges that as of 1st April, 1999 a number of the sites were already in the process of being developed. In addition, the phasing is intended to ensure that a choice and range of sites are available and that development takes place first in the most sustainable locations of Salisbury City and Amesbury.

4**The phasing policy will also enable the plan to be more responsive to the results of monitoring, in particular by keeping second phase greenfield allocations under review. For example, a settlement may currently be the subject of a second phase greenfield housing allocation which was made in the absence of suitable brownfield alternatives. Should the monitoring of the plan (whether through the assessment of existing permissions or further Urban Capacity work) reveal the existence of an alternative brownfield site which is suitable in planning policy terms, and is able to bring forward a similar number of houses in the relevant timescale, then the District Council will take the opportunity to amend the allocation outlined in the Local Plan.

Recommended to Full Council on 24 March 2003
that following the publication of a Notice of Intention to Adopt the Local Plan, and subject to any intervention on the part of the First Secretary of State, the replacement Local Plan be formally adopted.

428. Portfolio Holder Plans (Corporate Plans)

The Cabinet considered the previously circulated Portfolio Plans which were introduced by the respective Portfolio Holders. The Cabinet also considered the report of David Neudegg, Policy Director summarising the feedback from the various Overview and Scrutiny Panels which had in turn been considered by the Resources Scrutiny Panel on 29 January its views of which had been previously circulated.

Cabinet Response To Scrutiny Comments Arising From Consultation On Corporate Planning And Budgets For 2003/4 And Portfolio Plans

1. On Categorisation of Services

The Cabinet welcomes the feedback from Scrutiny Panels on categorisation and Portfolio Plans

The categorisation has been developed to give a better understanding of where the Council's priorities lie with regard to resource allocation and service planning. It is considered that this is a useful means of providing greater clarity and focus for future service planning, which has not been previously given to staff.

The Cabinet will use the categorisation as a basis for more extensive community consultation as set out previously during the Spring and Summer. This will inform our corporate planning and budget process for 2004/5. Before seeking the views of the community the Cabinet will revisit the existing categorisation to consider whether any external factors have changed to impact upon the categorisation.

The Cabinet notes the specific views expressed concerning Economic Development, Legal Services and Marketing and PR. The Cabinet has been flexible in seeking budget reductions against those services and has accepted budget reductions put forward by SWEP and a saving within Legal and Property Unit, which does not undermine Legal provision within the Council.

*Respective Cabinet
Members*

2. Feedback on Corporate Planning and Budget Process

The Cabinet's view is that any form of "top slicing" is the least desirable method for balancing budgets. However, given the scale of known unavoidable costs facing the Council within the next financial year, it has been considered as an essential part of the strategy. Overall, it is less than 20% of the total budget strategy to meet the shortfall of £867k.

The Cabinet has further attempted to adopt a more sophisticated process than adopted in previous years, by seeking budget reductions linked to the importance of services and ensuring that essential services are protected.

The Cabinet have also stated that the principles adopted within this years budget, will be developed into a longer term 5 year budget planning process, which will set clear guidance and targets for Service Managers to achieve and plan for.

The Cabinet have further set out measures to meet future budget pressures through changing the way services are delivered, whilst protecting basic levels of service. Unless the Council agrees to change the way services are delivered it will always need to revert to balancing the budget through either high level of Council Tax increases or top slicing of budgets.

By categorising services, the Cabinet has sought to minimise the risk to those services considered most important to the public. The Cabinet has also been flexible in its approach to budget reductions. Where it was considered that a reduction could affect the sustainability of a service it has not pursued a budget reduction (for example, Personnel, Legal, Community Safety and Unison)

The Cabinet intends to produce detailed guidance on how future budget efficiencies can be made to meet the expected budget shortfalls, setting long term budget targets for Service Managers that gives confidence to plan and manage change in a structured way. It will also set targets for corporate savings and the areas, which will be investigated to achieve this.

It is the Cabinet's expectation that a more proactive and planned approach will enable budget decisions to be taken earlier and reduce the need for "top slicing" to an absolute minimum.

3. Portfolio Feedback

- Dog Fouling – The Council will undertake a Best Value Review of Street Services in the next financial year, which will include a review of services to combat dog fouling
- Park and Ride – Officers have undertaken an investigation into the feasibility of extending operating hours at the Beehive Park and Ride site. The initial conclusions are that given the low levels of usage during the evenings and the increased costs associated with such a proposal, that this is not a viable proposal at this time. It is recommended that this is not pursued further at this time
- Public Conveniences – The budget includes for increased budget provision for the maintenance of Public Conveniences. However, this may still not be sufficient without reviewing the current levels of provision and operation. Officers have

- been asked to bring forward a report setting out options in the Spring
- Car Parking – The Joint Transportation Committee have approved the introduction of a 15 minute time slot at a cost of 20 pence

Recommended to Full Council on 19 February 2003 – that

the Portfolio Plans together with the recommendations therein be adopted.

429. Revenue Budget 2003/04, Capital Programme (Including Housing) 2002/03 – 2007/08 and Council Tax 2003/04:

Councillor West as Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel expressed his concern that efficiency savings if continued would lead to service reductions.

The Cabinet considered the previously circulated reports from the Chief Accountant set out at Agenda Items 16, 18 and 19. The Cabinet noted that the final Revenue Support Grant Settlement was £50,000 less than the figure announced in December 2002. Although there is an overall increase in the grant (2.4%) this will not meet the statutory commitments for the forthcoming year.

The Cabinet noted the recommendation from the City Area (Community) Committee at its meeting on 28 January 2003 concerning additional capital investment in the refurbishment of the Lush House Public Convenience at the Queen Elizabeth Gardens Salisbury (extract minute previously circulated). The Cabinet also had regard to the views of the various Overview and Scrutiny Panels and the Chairman of Salisbury Tourism Partnership, Mr Williams (circulated at the meeting). Finally, the Arts Centre Director Ms Lowe was present to explain the Centre's fund raising position - a note was circulated clarifying the text in the Capital Programme report relating to the Arts Centre, namely that in respect of its funding £2 million was offered by the Arts Council Lottery £674,000 from Heritage Lottery, £276,000 by fund raising - including the Mayor's appeal and £250,000 from Salisbury District Council. The £250,000 from SDC granted to this project was made some years ago, although it has only just recently spent the bulk of it as it has taken some time to move the project forward.

Recommended to Full Council on 19 February 2003 – that

- (1) the draft Revenue Estimates be approved as previously circulated,
- (2) The capital Programme 2002/03- 2007/08 be approved as set out in the previously circulated report
 - (a) To note the funding position as regards the proposed refurbishment and extension of the Salisbury Arts Centre and that options to help meet the total project cost continue to be explored;
 - (b) to note that the prudential legislation will require a review of current policy in relation to investment, financing and debt; and
 - (c) to note that a full rescheduling of the Capital Programme will be required once the Government publishes its new Capital Legislation.
- (3) For the year 2003/04 the sum of £522,220 giving a Council Tax of £35.24 (at Band D) (thereby contributing £90,990 to reserves) be determined as the amount of the special expenses incurred in the City of Salisbury in accordance with Section 35 (2)d of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

*Cllr Mrs Warrander
(M Tiller)*

- (4) Taking into account the following:
- (a) the deficit on the Council Tax collection fund estimated at £323,420 of which £40,416 falls on the District Council Tax providing an adjustment of 92p deficit for a Band D property;
 - (b) the surplus on the Community Charge Collection fund estimated at £500 providing an adjustment of 1.1p credit for a Band D property

The basic amount of Council Tax at Band D for District Council purposes in 2003/04 be £100.27 (4.5%) based on a net District budget requirement of £11,536,000, excluding City Area Committee. This will therefore require £272,840 to be drawn from the Council's reserves (an increase of £50,000 to accommodate the reduction in the final Revenue Support Grant Settlement) resulting in a reserves balance of £1.44m).

Further to 4 above the District Tax sum together with the information from Wiltshire County council, Wiltshire Police Authority and the relevant Town and Parish Councils be incorporated in the formal Tax Resolution (to be circulated prior to the Council Tax meeting) for adoption by Full Council showing the Tax Rates for Bands A-H for each part of the District Council's Areas.

Resolved that (a) the City (Community) Area Committee be advised that if it wishes to see the Lush House refurbishment work carried out to a standard that costs £73,500 it should fund the entire additional cost from that allocated in the general fund capital programme from within its own reserves.(b) should the Committee not be minded to support (a) above the Cabinet will consider rescheduling the capital project to the subsequent year.

430. Housing Revenue Account Budget & Rent Setting 2003/04:

The Cabinet considered the previously circulated report of the Head of Housing Management and the Chief Accountant, introduced by the Cabinet Member for Community & Housing.

Recommended to Full Council on 19 February 2003 – that

- (1) the HRA Budget for 2003/04 as previously circulated be approved;
- (2) the level of increase for dwelling rents of between 0% and 4.1% be approved and applied from 7 April 2003
- (3) For the purposes of the 2003/04 budget an increase of 3% be applied on existing service charges and garage rents.

*Cllr Cole-Morgan
(A Reynolds)
(M Tiller)*

Minutes

Alamein Suite
City Hall, Salisbury
12 noon: 5 February 2003

Part 3: Cabinet Decisions

All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 18th February 2003 (unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

ACTIONED BY
Portfolio Holder
(Contact Officer)

431. Questions and Statements:

A member of the public referred to the recent publication of local authority grading results (Comprehensive Performance Assessment) and asked how well the Council had performed.

The Chief Executive advised these results did not relate to District Councils, which have yet to be assessed - for Salisbury District Council this was likely to be early 2004.

Leader

432. Fees & Charges 2003/04:

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the previously circulated report of Policy Director, David Neudegg and the Chief Accountant. It was noted that in

Agreed: that (a) the fees and charges for 2003/04 set out in Appendix B to the previously circulated report be approved, subject in respect of page 4 Commercial Waste per 1100 litre bin the fee being £6.41 and not as shown; and (b) an interim report be produced for Cabinet in June 2003 on the profit share agreement that the District Council has with Leisure Connection in respect of the 5 Rivers Leisure Centre and Swimming Pool.

Cllr Mrs Warrander
(D Neudegg)

433. Car Parking Charges:

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport advised that the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Salisbury Joint Transport Plan Committee both supported the proposed charges, consequently other than to reaffirm the decision, no further action was required by the Cabinet as it was covered by the recommendation from Cabinet on 18 December 2002 (minute 388) to Full Council.

Cllr Brown
(E Teagle)

434. Additional Costs - Stonehenge Project:

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development introduced the previously circulated joint report of the Head of Development Services and Head of Legal & Property Services. Councillors Mills, Hewitt and Fowler spoke in support of the proposal.

Cllr Noeken
(C Lane)
(J Crawford)

Agreed: that

- (1) funding for up to £65,000 be sought by the Officers through firstly approaching the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and/or exploring the possibility of using funds due to be announced shortly for planning performance to off-set these costs;
- (2) should both these approaches prove unsuccessful a supplementary revenue estimate in the sum of up to £65,000 be approved.

435. Development Control - Student Placement:

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development introduced the previously circulated report of the Development Control Manager.

Agreed: that the appointment of a year out planning undergraduate student, on JE grade E (Spinal point 17) be approved for a trial period of two years.

*Cllr Noeken
(S Thorne)*

436. Peer Review:

The Leader introduced the previously circulated report of the Policy Director Debbie Dixon. Councillor West spoke against the proposal to earmark funds to the public relations function.

Agreed: that

- (1) the "Peer Review" Action Plan set out in the report be approved with regular quarterly progress monitoring reports;
- (2) Subject to budget approval, £60,000 be earmarked from the political priorities contingency budget, to provide additional support in Public Relations and Personnel, subject to consideration of reports from the relevant Service Unit Heads at the next Cabinet meeting.

*Cllr Wren
(D Dixon)*

437. Major Arts Organisations Service Agreements and Salisbury Museum Funding level:

The Cabinet Member for Community & Housing introduced the previously circulated report of the Principal Arts Officer.

The Director of Salisbury Museum, Peter Saunders made a number of comments on the proposed cut in the Museum grant. In summary he felt (a) the cut was draconian and disproportionate (b) there had been a lack of consultation over the proposal (c) it was unfair as the cuts had not been made across all the arts bodies (d) there had been a mis-conception about the museum's reserves, which they build up to generate income

Councillors Mrs Chettleburgh, Mrs Green, Hooper, Moss and McLennan spoke in support of the Salisbury Museum.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Housing Councillor Cole-Morgan expressed appreciation for the information provided by Mr Saunders especially as regards the museum's reserves and recognised that when having to make savings it inevitably has an impact.

*Cllrs Cole-Morgan
(R Efemey)*

Agreed: that

(a) the Service Agreements for 2003/04 be approved as follows:-

Salisbury Arts Centre (Annual) at a funding level of £67,016
Salisbury Festival (Three year) at a funding level of £102,500
Salisbury Playhouse (Three year) at a funding level of £135,591

(b) the funding level of Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum for 2003/04 be £30,777 (£12830 more than originally proposed)

438. Swag Budgets:

During development of the Portfolio Plans, the Cabinet Members for Resources and Community & Housing considered the need for a budget to support organisations which provide services or activities to the whole district as opposed to those funded through the Area Committees' SWAG Budget. Following discussion with the Area Chairmen these Cabinet Members originally proposed that each SWAG Budget is proportionately cut and then merged to form a new District-wide budget. This would result in a District-wide budget of £20,000 and Area Committee SWAG budgets for 2003/04 as follows:

City Area	£13,930
Southern Area	£16,850
Northern Area	£21,450
Western Area	£19,010

The Cabinet noted that there had been subsequent written representations from the Area Committee Chairmen regarding this proposal. Councillors Mills, Fowler and Ms Mallory also presented their views at the meeting. Whilst the principle of a District Wide Grant Scheme was generally supported there were concerns about using the SWAG budget to fund it and about such decisions being taken without the Area Committees firstly being given the opportunity to comment.

Resolved that consideration of the proposal to establish a new district-wide budget of £20,000 utilising SWAG funds, with applications determined by the Cross Party Community Grants Panel be deferred for consultation with Area Committees to seek ideas on the most acceptable way forward.

439. Performance Monitoring – third Quarter:

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the previously circulated report of the Best Value Officer and urged Cabinet Members to monitor closely the performance in their respective portfolio areas.

Agreed: that the report be noted.

440. National Non-Domestic Rates – Write-Offs:

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the previously circulated report of the Head of Revenue and Benefits.

Agreed: that the amounts shown on the schedule set out in the report be written off for the reasons indicated and due to the fact that the Council is a non preferential creditor.

*Cllr Cole-Morgan
(L Waller)*

*Cllr Sanders
(T Beer)*

*Cllr Mrs Warrander
(P Ruddle)*

441. Environmental Sustainability Action Plan:

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport introduced the previously circulated report of the Environmental Policy Officer.

*Cllr Brown
(K Humphreys)*

Agreed: that regular quarterly reports on the progress towards achieving these actions, targets and performance indicators set out in the report continue to be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

442. Establishment of Flood Solutions Working Group:

The Leader introduced the previously circulated report of the Policy Director, David Neudegg.

*Cllr Wren
(G Silver)*

Agreed: that

(1) an all party working group be set up comprising Councillors Mrs Green, Hewitt, Leo and Mills, plus representatives of other agencies including – Environment Agency, Wiltshire County Council, Highways and Parish Councils, with a remit to provide a report to Cabinet with recommendations for short and long term work and strategies to alleviate flooding.

(2) The working party to be supported by the Democratic Services Unit.

443. Exempt Information:

In view of the confidential or sensitive nature of the matters to be considered, it was:

Agreed: that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of those matters defined as 'Exempt' under the Access to Information Act 1985 as specified below:

Paragraph 7 namely: 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority)'.

Paragraph 8 namely: 'The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred By the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services'

Paragraph 9 namely: 'Any terms proposed or to be Proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services'

Summary of Exempt Matters

Agenda Item 25 – CCTV (minute 444 below)

*There were 60 members of the public present.
The meeting finished at 7.00 pm*