

Minutes

Alamein Suite
City Hall, Salisbury
4.00 pm: 20 October 2004

Part I: Procedural Matters

ACTIONED BY
Cabinet Member
(Contact Officer)

397. Present:

Councillors K C Wren (Leader), J M Collier (Deputy Leader), J C Noeken & Mrs M M A Peach (Planning and Economic Development), D W Brown & Mrs S A Willan, (Environment and Transport), J A Cole-Morgan & R Britton (Community & Housing) and Mrs S A Warrander & D A Culver (Resources).

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor P V H Paisey and Councillor Hewitt were also in attendance, and with the Chairman's permission the latter Member spoke on minute 405.

The Leader welcomed the students from local schools who were present to observe the Cabinet in action as part of the Salisbury Citizenship project. The Leader explained how the Council worked, and outlined his and the Cabinet's roles and responsibilities.

398. Code of Conduct - Members & Officers' Interests:

Councillor Noeken declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 the New Parish Charter for Wiltshire as he was on the WALC Executive Committee in his Amesbury Town Councillor capacity.

Councillor Britton declared a personal interest in agenda item 9, delayed discharges, as he was a Director of the Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Mrs Willan declared a personal interest in agenda item 9, as she was a Non-Executive Director of Salisbury Health Care Trust.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

399. Minutes:

The [minutes](#) of the last meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

400. Public Questions and Statements:

Mr P Matthews of the Customer Forum at Five Rivers expressed his support for the recommendation specified in the report on the Leisure Trust at agenda item 7.

401. Call-in:

No decisions from the last meeting had been called-in.

Cllr Wren
(S Agland)

402. Forward Plan:

The Leader presented his [Forward Plan](#) for the period 1 November 2004 – 28 February 2005 (previously circulated) that would be published on 21 October 2004 to become operational from 1 November 2004.

Agreed: that the Leader's previously circulated Forward Plan be adopted for publication on 21 October 2004.

***Cllr Wren
(S Agland)***

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Part 2: Cabinet Decisions

All decisions set out in this section of the minutes will be implemented on or after 2nd November 2004 (unless called in for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

ACTIONED BY
Cabinet Member
(Contact Officer)

403. Review of Leisure Trust:

The Cabinet Member for Community & Housing introduced the [report of the Acting Head of Community Initiatives](#), circulated after agenda dispatch and gave a presentation on the issues surrounding this matter.

Councillor Cole-Morgan advised that the District Council was still in negotiation with Wiltshire County Council over the maintenance and future funding commitments for the relevant facilities. Also the impact of recently bringing the Five Rivers Centre in-house and its profitability is still being assessed. The upheaval of further change so soon after this must also be taken into account. For these reasons, whilst not losing sight of the considerable benefits the formation of a trust could bring to future sport and leisure provision in the District, he considered it prudent to defer taking a decision on the Trust option.

Agreed: that the decision on the Trust option be deferred for eighteen months.

Cllr Cole-Morgan
(R Townsend)

404. New Parish Charter for Wiltshire – Council's Response to WALC:

The Leader of the Cabinet introduced the previously circulated [report of the Principal Democratic Services Officer](#), which incorporated the responses of the rural area committees (excluding the Northern Area which was circulated later as the meeting was held after agenda dispatch). The Leader advised that he considered that the Charter contained a highly prescriptive protocol on development control and that he had noted the various concerns of the Area Committees.

Councillor Noeken advised that the timing of the consultation on the proposed new Charter was unfortunate as, in respect of the Development Control element, full and lengthy consultations had already fairly recently been carried out with the Parish Councils and local changes subsequently introduced to accommodate the performance improvement requirements of the Secretary of State- these changes appeared to be working well.

Councillor Cole-Morgan referred to the section on acting as a local voice and the views of the Southern Area Committee on this. He emphasized that Councillors, both District and Parish, are not just mouthpieces for their constituents, they are elected to take decisions having regard to strategic issues as well as their constituents' views.

Cllr Wren
(S Milton)

Agreed: that

- (1) the Council welcomes the new Charter, albeit there are certain issues that need refinement;
- (2) notwithstanding (1) above, it is accepted that as was the case with development control, local authorities will need to consult with local town and parish councils to develop practical local service protocols that reflect local circumstances (as outlined in Para. 3 of the report), consequently this Council is unable to sign up to the planning protocol attached to the Charter; and
- (3) the responses received from the rural area committees be forwarded to the Wiltshire Association for Local Councils.

405. Delayed Discharges:

The Leader introduced the previously circulated final report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel. He thanked the Panel Chairman, Councillor Hewitt and his Panel for undertaking such a thorough review. The Leader particularly referred to the recommendations set out at paragraph 15.2 which were relevant to the Cabinet. The Cabinet noted that Wiltshire County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee had adopted the recommendations relevant to its Authority. Councillor Willan advised that a great deal of work to reduce the level of delayed discharges had already been done prior to the review and that the number of delayed discharges was down to an average of 10 per week.

Councillor Cole-Morgan responded to the recommendations set out in the report at paragraph 15 i - vi - as follows -

- i. Strategic Housing continues to develop the role of Anchor Staying Put which provides the adaptations to help people maintain their independence. The revised Private Sector Housing Strategy will also reflect this
- ii. Whilst there is no objection in principle to the Council contacting Pharmacy organisations, in reality this should come through the Primary Care Trust as it has closer links and the ability to influence. The Council would not want to administer drugs as Scheme Managers are not qualified to do so
- iii. The link is a hospital scheme to help people to and from hospital - it was not something he believed the Cabinet should be concerned with;
- iv. This recommendation is linked to the extension of the Council's Community Warden pilot to provide a scheme manager service to private customers. Currently the service does not have the capacity to deliver a comprehensive service but it is being considered as part of the review of the scheme manager service; (on a separate matter the concept of encouraging innovative private sector housing schemes should be undertaken with developers such as Bovis Homes)
- v. The Council could provide every older person with a lifeline as long as it is paid for. The Control Centre does not currently operate with a positive budget and any proposal to offer free lifelines will have a dramatic impact on the sustainability of the centre;
- vi. The Council continues to develop good partnership working.

Councillor Cole-Morgan concluded that he believed that the vision paper that he had Circulated to Members goes further than the Panel's recommendations. Councillor Hewitt advised in respect of iii, that the link scheme is now a private scheme run by local people rather than the hospital. As regards v, the Panel never intended the Lifeline service to be offered free, instead it wanted the service to be advertised at the normal price, especially targeting siblings of those persons that may benefit from the service.

**Cllr Wren
(S Draper)**

Agreed: that the response to the recommendations given by Councillor Cole-Morgan (having regard to Councillor Hewitt's points of clarification) be endorsed and the actions therein be progressed where considered practical and useful so to do.

406. Licensing Act 2003 – Consultation on Regulations and Orders:

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport introduced the [report of the Legal Services Manager](#) (previously circulated). It was noted that the public response to the consultation exercise had not been overwhelming and that if time permits prior to the imminent expiry of the consultation period, Spire FM be used to encourage a greater response.

*Cllr Brown
(S Tovey)*

Agreed: that

- (1) the Officers respond in relation to the technical aspects of the draft Regulations; and
- (2) option 2 be the preferred option of the three provided in the Consultation process.

407. Licensing Act 2003 – Staffing & Financial Implications:

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Transport introduced the previously circulated [report of the Head of Environmental Services](#). Councillor Brown explained the different licence types and their requisite renewal frequency. The Cabinet noted that whilst the new arrangements were intended to be self financing, it was difficult to establish this as the application fees have yet be set by Government - Clearly less income would be generated after year one as certain of the licenses once granted would not come up for renewal for 10 years.

*Cllr Brown
(G Silver)*

Agreed:

- (1) that the financial position with regard to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 be noted;
- (2) that approval be given for the appointment of an additional Licensing Clerk (initially on a fixed term basis) and a Senior Licensing Officer in the Environmental Services Unit - with due account being taken of possible candidates being available within the Authority; and
- (3) that once likely demand from licence applications is clearer and has been assessed, which hopefully will be by the beginning of the new year, a further report be submitted to Cabinet outlining the additional staffing resources needed in Legal/Property Services and Democratic Services and any other Unit affected by the new licensing regime.

408. New Markets and Events on the Market Square Salisbury during 2004 and their Impact on the Charter Market:

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development introduced the [report of the Head of Marketing, Economic Development & Tourism](#) (previously circulated). It was noted that the City Area (Community) Committee, supported the recommendations in the report. Councillor Noeken added that the trial had had no demonstrable impact on the Charter market or individual traders and that the economic benefits of the new market had been proven.

*Cllr Noeken
(G Gould)*

Agreed: that

- (1) approval be given to the continuation of the once a month (first Wednesday of each month) farmers' market from January 2005 on an ongoing basis;

- (2) approval be given to the continuation of the 2-day (Thursday and Friday) French and continental market in May, September and November on an ongoing basis;
- (3) approval be given to an additional Farmers' Market, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month on a trial basis from January – December 2005;
- (4) the Head of Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism explore the feasibility of staging additional Farmers' Markets in other South Wiltshire locations with a view to holding them from the spring or summer of 2005; and
- (5) that the impact of these changes on the Charter Market be kept under review.

409. Review of Medium Term Financial Strategy:

The Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the [report of the Policy Director, David Crook](#) (previously circulated). It was noted that the year referred to paragraph 2.3 should be 2005/6 and in paragraph 4.1 it should read February 2005.

Agreed: the proposals set out in Section 3 of the previously circulated report, be approved subject to the following changes -

- The section on Park and Ride sites under paragraph 3.2 should read "Given the heavy subsidy and substantial parking charges implied by the current policy to provide 5 park and ride sites, Cabinet wishes to retain the 3 sites to which the Council is committed and will continue to review the future of the London Road and Petersfinger sites in line with the next Local Transport Plan".
- The statement on affordable housing being moved to the "working differently" section and to it being made clear that the Council will be exploring alternative ways of ensuring the availability of additional affordable housing eg through the Asset Trust.

*Cllr Warrander
(D Crook)*

410. Disabled Facilities Grants – Budget Virement Proposals:

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Community & Housing introduced the previously circulated [report from the Private Sector Housing Policy Officer](#).

Agreed: that

- (1) approval be given to the virement of £75k from the Renovation Grants Budget to the Disabled Facilities Grants budget;
- (2) approval be given to a virement of £25K from the Renovation Grant budget to Housing Repairs Assistance budget; and
- (3) the need to increase the Disabled Facilities Grants budget be noted and that this will receive consideration in the current budget setting round.

*Cllr Britton
(J Hudson)*

411. Special Leave Policy:

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the [Special Leave Policy](#) (previously circulated) which was supported by the Joint Consultative Forum.

Agreed: that the Special Leave Policy be approved.

*Cllr Culver
(D Crook)*

There were 12 members of the public present
The meeting finished at 5.35pm