Wiltshire Council
Where everybody matters

CABINET

MINUTES of a MEETING held at County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge on 24 NOVEMBER 2009

Present:
Councillors

John Thomson	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community Services
John Brady	Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Housing
Fleur de Rhé-Philipe	Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Risk
John Noeken	Cabinet Member for Resources
Toby Sturgis	Cabinet Member for Waste, Property and Environment
Dick Tonge	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Stuart Wheeler	Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Culture
Lionel Grundy	Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Also in attendance:
Councillors

Alison Bucknell	Portfolio Holder for Customer Care
Linda Conley	Portfolio Holder for Waste
Chris Cochrane	Portfolio Holder for ICT
Richard Gamble	Portfolio Holder for Transport
Jerry Kunkler	Portfolio Holder for Leisure
Laura Mayes	Portfolio Holder for Organisational Structure
Jemima Milton	Portfolio Holder for Adult Care
Jeff Osborn	Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Management and Resources Select Committee

Councillors Richard Beattie, Trevor Carbin, Julian Johnson, Francis Morland, Bill Moss, Sheila Parker

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69. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Jane Scott, Leader of the Council

70. Chairman's Announcements

Wiltshire Council has achieved ten 5* grades in the 2009 Loo of the Year Awards.

This qualifies the council for membership of the 'Champions League' Standards of Excellence Award which will be presented at the Loo of the Year Awards event on Friday 4 December.

The loos are run on our benefit by Interpublic Urban Systems and are in the 10th year of their contract.

The ten loos have won 5* awards for the past three years and they are:

Melksham: Town Square, Bath Road and Church Street
Bradford on Avon: St Margaret's Car Park and Station Car Park
Warminster: Park and Central Car park
Westbury: Warminster Road and High Street
Trowbridge: Park

71. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20 October 2009 were presented.

Resolved:

To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2009.

72. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Bucknell declared a personal interest in agenda item13 as her husband is involved in the construction of dementia homes.

73. Public Participation

Questions from Mr Patrick Kinnersly, Secretary of the White Horse Alliance and Mr John Bowley were received prior to the meeting. The questions and responses are attached to these minutes.

Ms Jenny Raggett of the Campaign for Better Transport spoke regarding carbon emissions and urban design in the Core Strategy.

74. Budget Monitoring

(a) Revenue Budget Monitoring

Cllr de Rhe-Philipe presented a report on the monitoring of the revenue budget for the period April – September 2009. She explained that there had been reductions in the potential overspend and that a balanced budget was forecast for the end of the year.

She added that continuing pressures would be monitored closely.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

Reason for Decision

To make Councillors aware of the Council's budgetary position.

(b) Capital Budget Monitoring

Cllr de Rhe-Philipe presented a report on the monitoring of the capital budget for the period April – September 2009 she drew attention to section 3 of appendix B of the report which required approval of additional funding in the programme.

Resolved:

1. **That the current budget position of the 2009/10 capital budget be noted.**

2. **That the budget changes in sections 1 and 2 of appendix B be noted and that approval be given to the additional budget requirement as detailed in section 3 of appendix B of the report.**

Reason for Decision

To inform Cabinet of the current financial position of the 2009/10 capital Budget and to identify schemes within the programme where expenditure is not progressing as anticipated.

75. Parish Election Costs

Cllr Thomson presented a report regarding the costs of the Returning Officer in respect of parish elections. He explained that these fall to the council to pay, but legislation does allow the council the discretion to recover these costs from the parishes involved.

The options at paragraph 9 of the report were considered and it was agreed that option one be adopted.

It should be noted that the term 'parish' refers to city, town and parish councils.

Recommended to Council:

That the council absorbs the cost of all parish elections including uncontested vacancies, (i.e. where filled by co-option or an uncontested poll), but not polls consequent on parish meetings.

Reason for Decision

To ensure the authority is in place for the Council to recharge all of the costs of Parish Council elections to the parishes.

76. Joint Re-commissioning of the Wiltshire Speech and Language Therapy Service

Cllr Grundy presented a report which sought approval of the commissioning partnership with NHS Wiltshire required to take the partnership work forward to the newly commissioned service from 1st April 2010, and which would ensure that the right arrangements were in place for the successful management of the contract.

Resolved:

That Cabinet

(a) approves the Level Three Partnership between Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire to enable its subsequent registration in accordance with the Council's Partnerships Protocol;

(b) delegates authority to the Corporate Director for Children and Education to finalise the Partnership following its registration, so that the Partnership Agreement will be signed by both Wiltshire Council and NHS Wiltshire to ratify this partnership and

(c) notes the progress of the tendering exercise for the provision of the single Wiltshire-wide Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Reason for Decision

To re-commission an integrated county-wide single provider Speech and Language Therapy service offering improved economies of scale and more consistent quality of service.

77. Transforming Trowbridge Special Purpose Vehicle

Cllr Brady presented a report which sought Cabinet's agreement to establish a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to coordinate and facilitate the regeneration of Trowbridge.

Resolved:

That Cabinet

(a) approves the establishment of a Transforming Trowbridge SPV and its terms of reference including membership and

(b) delegates authority to the Service Director, Economy and Enterprise to agree minor changes in (a) above.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Transforming Trowbridge Vision Group has a mandate from Wiltshire Council Cabinet to continue its work and continue to move the vision forward.

78. Housing PFI – Approval of Final Business Case

Cllr Brady presented a report which sought agreement to the proposed details of the Housing PFI scheme and for the final business case.

Resolved:

That Cabinet agrees to proceed with the housing PFI scheme:

(a) to provide around 350 homes in total on a phased basis, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, with approximately 242 homes to be provided in Phase 1 and

(b) to submit a final business case on this basis, subject to final details being agreed by the Service Director, Housing in conjunction with appropriate councillors and officers.

and that Cabinet:

(c) confirms that the Council will make an annual index linked revenue contribution to the scheme of approximately £220,000 at current prices for 30 years;

(d) agrees that all Council owned land as set out in appendix 2 of the report will be provided for nil consideration or that any capital receipt in respect of this land will be used as a financial contribution to the scheme;

(e) authorises officers to seek such consents and permissions, and to issue such certificates and notifications as may be required to facilitate the project and

(f) requests a further report prior to entering into the PFI contract.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the housing PFI scheme is deliverable in view of current constraints.

79. New School Updates

Cllr Grundy presented a report which provided an update on progress of the new schools in Wiltshire – the Wellington Academy, the two Salisbury Academies and Melksham Oak.

Resolved:

That Cabinet note the updates.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that Cabinet are aware of the progress being made with the new schools.

80. Review of Senior Management Structure

Cllr Thomson presented a report which made final recommendations regarding changes to the senior management structure of the Council.

Paragraph 4.4 of the report suggested that the title 'Department of Place' may not be readily understood by members of the public and it was therefore agreed that this should be changed to 'Department of Neighbourhoods and Planning'.

Resolved:

1. That Cabinet endorse the changes to the senior management structure of the council as set out in Appendix 2 of the report with effect from 1st April 2010 or earlier for specific aspects with the approval of the Leader of the Council.

2. That the new Department be named Department of Neighbourhoods and Planning.

Reason for Decision

To enable implementation of the changes to the senior management structure of the council.

81. Department of Health Private Finance Initiative – Expression of Interest

Cllr Thomson presented a report which gave information about the proposed joint initiative between Wiltshire Council and Bath and North East Somerset Council that would provide a range of accommodation for people with dementia and high level needs including the provision of a Centre of Excellence for Supported Living, Community Outreach Support and mobile services to deliver support into rural areas.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

(a) authorises the Director of Community Services and the Director of Resources to submit an expression of interest for the social care PFI being offered by the Department of Health;

(b) authorises the Director of Community Services to finalise any negotiations with BANES local Authority / PCT regarding this joint bid;

(c) requests the Director of Resources and the Director of Community Services ensure that the EOI financial proposal considers all potential costs;

(d) requests the Strategic Property Team identify suitable sites that have not been allocated for alternative corporate purposes; and

(e) requests a further report once notification has been received to progress to the OBC stage outlining the proposed use of budget and resources and the governance and project management arrangements for this initiative.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the need for specialist nursing and dementia facilities for older people is achieved.

82. Update on Performance

Cabinet considered the report of the Service Director, Performance which provided an update on progress against the First Year Plan and performance for the period April to September 2009 for the Local Agreement for Wiltshire.

Resolved:

That Cabinet notes progress for the second quarter of 2009/10.

Reason for Decision

To keep Cabinet informed about progress against the First Year Plan and the Local Agreement for Wiltshire.

83. Wiltshire Leisure Facilities Strategy

The Corporate Director, Transport, Environment and Leisure presented a report which updated on the progress and sought approval of the review of the Wiltshire Leisure Facilities Strategy.

Resolved:

That Cabinet

(a) notes the work being undertaken to develop the Leisure Facilities Strategy;

(b) approves the vision and objectives for the strategy;

(c) notes the outline conclusions detailed in the report;

(d) notes the positive links to the Workplace Transformation Programme which is now responsible for the development of the campus and multi-use estate across the authority;

(e) authorises officers to work with the Workplace Transformation Programme on links with the MOD and explore potential opportunities to extend the concept of joint facilities in Wiltshire;

(f) endorses the approach that officers actively pursue links with education establishments with the objective of improving access to sport and recreation facilities on school sites;

(g) authorises officers to work with the Cabinet member for Leisure, Sport and Culture to review the service options open to the Council and develop a proposal for consideration by Cabinet; and

(h) authorises officers to work with the Cabinet member for Leisure, Sport and Culture and enter into negotiations with DC Leisure to discuss terms on which the current partnership agreements might need to be extended for a further period.

Reason for Decision

To keep Cabinet up to date on progress and for approval of the future direction of the review of the Leisure Facilities Strategy,

84. Concessionary Travel – proposals for harmonisation of alternative concessions

Cllr Tonge presented a report which gave proposals for the harmonisation of the various discretionary travel concessions that are currently offered to older and disabled residents as an alternative to the free bus pass.

Resolved:

(a) that no changes be made to the Bus Pass Scheme;

(b) that the existing alternative concession schemes be discontinued at the end of the 2009-10 period of availability. These are limited to north and west Wiltshire;

(c) that a mileage support for Link and similar schemes be introduced at the rate of 5 pence per mile as a pilot scheme for two years with the intention of continuing it permanently if it is shown to be effective by growth in use of Link Schemes;

(d) that a new scheme of taxi vouchers covering the whole county but with eligibility restricted to wheelchair users be introduced; and

(e) that the value of taxi vouchers be increased to £40 for 2010-11 and that this be reviewed after two years.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the various discretionary travel concessions that are currently offered to older and disabled residents in Wiltshire are harmonised across the County.

85. Waste Management

Cllr Sturgis presented a report which sought approval to consult on options to improve and harmonise waste collection arrangements throughout the Council's area.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approves that a consultation exercise on options for and implications of waste collection harmonisation is undertaken in early 2010.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the views of the council's various stakeholders on options to harmonise waste collection services are sought during early 2010.

86. Contracting Arrangements for Domiciliary Care

Cllr Thomson presented a report which sought approval to extend the existing block contracts for domiciliary care for one year to enable a full review to be undertaken of all services that help older people remain at home.

Resolved:

That Cabinet approves the extension of the existing contracts for domiciliary care for a further year to enable this review to be completed and new purchasing arrangements to be put in place to take effect from April 2011.

Reason for Decision

To enable the Council and its partners to take a completely innovative approach to the provisions of "Helped to Live at Home" services. The results of which are likely to produce significant benefits.

87. Harmonisation of Terms and Conditions of Employment

Cllr Noeken presented a report which gave details of the scope and outline plan for the harmonisation of terms and conditions of employment and sought authorisation for negotiations towards a collective agreement.

Resolved:

That Cabinet:

(a) authorises the Service Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development to negotiate a collective agreement on harmonised terms and conditions which assures equal pay; and

(b) agreed to consider the modelled options set out in a part two paper to this committee and to provide direction on the negotiating parameters for the project team. These parameters include the ratio of staff whose new rate of base pay would go up, go down or stay the same, the cost impacts of the proposal to the Council and the impact of the proposal on the Councils positioning within the labour market.

Reason for Decision

To ensure harmonisation of pay and conditions of employment for council staff.

88. Urgent Items

There was no urgent business

89. Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the following items of business because it was likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs cited in each case of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information to the public

90. Determination of the Negotiation Parameters for the Harmonisation of Terms and Conditions of Employment

(Exempt paragraph 4)

Cllr Noeken presented a confidential report concerning the Harmonisation of Terms and Conditions of Employment

Resolved:

That the proposals as detailed in the report be approved.

91. Development of the ICT Transformation Programme

(Exempt paragraphs 3 and 5)

Cllr Noeken presented a confidential report concerning the development of the ICT Transformation Programme.

Resolved:

That the proposals as detailed in the report be approved.

(Duration of meeting: (10.30am – 12.40pm)

Please note that matters defined as 'Key' decisions and included in the Forward Plan are shown thus 🔑.

The officer who has produced these minutes is Pam Denton, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718024 or email pam.denton@wiltshire.gov.uk.
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These decisions were published on 27 November 2009 and will come into force on 7 December 2009.