

County Council Meeting
Date: 21st November, 2000
Time: 10.30am
Place: Council Chamber, County Hall, Trowbridge.

**PLEASE SIGN THE ATTENDANCE
BOOK BEFORE ENTERING THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Please direct any queries on this Summons to Paul Kelly, Committee Services Unit, Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Trowbridge. Tel: (01225) 713049.
Press enquiries to Communications on Trowbridge (01225) 713115/713116.

Members are reminded of the need to consider whether they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest to declare in any of the matters on this agenda.

PART I

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. **Apologies**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (11th July, 2000) Circulated – pages CC1-7 on green paper.
3. **Communications by the Chairman**
4. **Public Participation** To receive any questions or statements from members of the public for which two clear working days' written notice has been given to the Director of Corporate Services.

A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for this item and individual speakers are limited to two minutes.

STATUTORY ITEMS

5. **Bedwyn and Pewsey County Electoral Division By-Election: 20th July, 2000 – Returning Officer's Return** To receive a copy of the result of poll (circulated – page CC8 on green paper).
6. **Report by the Council's Monitoring Officer** A report by the Monitoring Officer into the finding of maladministration by the Local Government Ombudsman in his report on an investigation into complaint no. 99/B/2400 against Wiltshire County Council is circulated – pages CC9-51 on green paper.

The Chairman of the Council to move the recommendations in the Monitoring Officer's report.

APPOINTMENTS

7. **Review of Allocation of Seats on Committees to Political Groups** A report by the Chief Executive is circulated – pages CC52-60 on green paper.
8. **Appointment of Committees** To appoint members to the following standing committees to serve until the next occasion membership is reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989:-

Policy & Resources
Education
Environment & Transport
Social Services
Joint Committee for Appointments to the Wiltshire Police Authority
Salisbury Transportation Plan Joint Committee

(Note: List of current committee memberships is circulated, pages CC61-66 on green paper.)

9. **Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees** To appoint members as chairmen and vice-chairmen of the following standing committees to serve until the allocation of places on committees is next reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989:-

Policy & Resources
Education
Environment & Transport
Social Services

(Note: Current chairmen and vice-chairmen are shown on the list of committee memberships at pages CC61-66 on green paper.)

10. **Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority : Membership** To consider the appointment of 9 County Council members to serve on the Combined Fire Authority.

Current members are:-

<u>Labour</u> (1)	<u>Liberal Democrat</u> (3)	<u>Conservative</u> (5)
Mrs. M.E. Salisbury	Mr. B.E. Atfield Mr. P.R. Davis Mr. N.S.E. Westbrook	Mrs. C. Crisp Mrs. L.P. Morris Mrs. P. Rugg Mr. T.R. Sturgis Mr. D.J. Willmott

The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 applies in respect of political proportionality. The nine places divide Conservative, Liberal Democrat 3, and Labour 1.

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

11. **Report of Policy & Resources Committee** (7th July, 25th July, 19th September, 17th October and 31st October, 2000) (Pages PR1-25 on pink paper).

The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to move the report.

12. **Questions : Policy & Resources Committee**

- (1) Questions on matters referred to in the Policy & Resources Committee report (Standing Order 15.1).
- (2) Questions in accordance with Standing Order 15.2.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

13. **Report of Education Committee** (28th September and 3rd November, 2000) Pages E1-11 on yellow paper)

The Chairman of the Education Committee to move the report.

14. **Questions : Education Committee**

- (1) Questions on matters referred to in the Education Committee report (Standing Order 15.1).
- (2) Questions in accordance with Standing Order 15.2.

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

15. **Report of the Social Services Committee** (7th September, and 12th October, 2000) (Pages SS1-21 on salmon paper).

The Chairman of the Social Services Committee to move the report.

16. **Questions : Social Services Committee**

- (1) Questions on matters referred to in the Social Services Committee report (Standing Order 15.1).
- (2) Questions in accordance with Standing Order 15.2.

ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

17. **Report of the Environment & Transport Committee** (1st November, 2000) (Pages ET1-10 on light blue paper)

The Chairman of the Environment & Transport Committee to move the report.

18. **Wiltshire Structure Plan 2011** The Environment & Transport Committee on 1st November, 2000, agreed the Authority's response to the representations on the further proposed modifications together with the minor amendments on recommendation of the Joint Structure Plan Working Party.

The Chairman of the Environment & Transport Committee to move that the County Council adopt the Wiltshire Structure Plan 2011.

(The Structure Plan was circulated as Appendix 2 to the report for the Environment & Transport Committee and to other members under separate cover of a letter from the Director of Corporate Services dated 20th October, asking for the papers to be brought to this meeting.)

19. **Questions: Environment & Transport Committee**

- (1) Questions on matters referred to in the Environment & Transport Committee report (Standing Order 15.1).
- (2) Questions in accordance with Standing Order 15.2.

SALISBURY TRANSPORTATION PLAN JOINT COMMITTEE

20. **Report of the Salisbury Transportation Plan Joint Committee** (31st July and 18th September, 2000) (Pages STJ1-19 on lilac paper)

The Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee to move the report.

21. **Questions : Salisbury Transportation Plan Joint Committee**

- (1) Questions on matters referred to in the Joint Committee report (Standing Order 15.1).
- (3) Questions in accordance with Standing Order 15.2.

SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEES

22. **Report of the Policy & Resources and Environment & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee** (28th July, 20th September and 27th October, 2000) (Pages PRETS1-14 on dark blue paper)

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee to move the report.

23. **Questions : Policy & Resources and Environment & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

- (1) Questions on matters referred to in the Sub-Committee report (Standing Order 15.1).
- (2) Questions in accordance with Standing Order 15.2

24. **Report of the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee** (24th July, 6th September and *26th October) (Pages ESSS1-6 on peach paper)

(* These minutes will be circulated)

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee to move the report.

25. **Questions : Education and Social Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

- (1) Questions on matters referred to in the Sub-Committee report (Standing Order 15.1).
- (2) Questions in accordance with Standing Order 15.2

**QUESTIONS ON DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS OF
POLICE AND FIRE AUTHORITIES**

26. **Wiltshire Police Authority** Questions on matters relating to the discharge of functions of the Wiltshire Police Authority in accordance with Standing Order 15.4. Any received will be circulated prior to the start of the meeting. Mrs. M.E.M. Groom and Mrs. B.M. Jay have been appointed by the Police Authority to respond to such questions.

The minutes of the Wiltshire Police Authority meeting held on 27th July and 27th September, 2000 are circulated – pages WPA1-13 on buff paper.

27. **Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority** Questions on matters relating to the discharge of functions of the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority in accordance with Standing Order 15.5. Any received will be circulated prior to the start of the meeting. Mr. D.J. Willmott (or in his absence, Mrs. L.P. Morris) has been nominated by the Fire Authority to respond to any questions arising from these minutes at County Council meetings.

The minutes of the meeting of the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority held on 20th July and 21st September, 2000 are circulated – pages WSFA1-7 on grey paper.

NOTICE OF MOTION

28. **Notice of Motion : Procedure** Under Part I Standing Order No.13, the following motions have been received. The member who gave notice of the motion shall formally move them. On being seconded, it is at the Chairman of the Council's discretion whether to allow them to be dealt with and debated at this meeting or whether they stand referred without discussion to the appropriate committee for consideration and report. Following the briefing meeting, members will be informed of the likely method of dealing with each motion:

- (1) **Mr. N.S.E. Westbrook: County Council Balances**

“Council notes with concern that the County Treasurer predicts a negative balance at the year end as committees struggle to meet increasing demands; and calls for a report on what cuts are planned in services to return balances to a level acceptable to the District Auditor.”

(2) **Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Chief Inspector of Schools**

"Council rejoices that Mr. Woodhead has chosen to jump before being pushed into resignation and looks forward to a wholly more constructive climate of Ofsted inspection in our schools."

(3) **Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Western Wiltshire Sustainable Transport Strategy**

"(i) Council welcomes:

(a) the succinct glossy consultation document with reply coupon to the Director of Environmental Services;

(b) this good example of three tier working; and

(c) in particular, the eight pedestrian crossings planned for Hungerdown Lane, Chippenham with the positive assistance of the North Wilts District Council.

(ii) However Council is disappointed at the poor provision for pedestrian crossing points in London Road, Chippenham, particularly in the proximity of the new secondary school."

(4) **Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Pockeridge Farm and Peel Circus, Corsham**

"Given the size of this development and strength of opposition to it, including by Cllr. T. Sturgis, Council regrets that the County Council's comments as Highways Authority and Local Education Authority were taken under delegated authority and invites councillors Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Seager, Mrs. Crisp, Mrs. Bryant and Mr. Sturgis to explain how the County's Social Services, schools and highways will cope."

(5) **Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Structure Plan**

"Council regrets that the Chairman of Environmental Services Sub-Committee, Councillor T. Sturgis (Wootton Bassett) failed to support constructive proposals to strengthen North Wiltshire against incursion by urban Swindon and calls for his immediate resignation."

(6) **Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Rural Buffers and New Schools**

"Council congratulates the Salisbury District Council on its robust defence of the countryside and calls for a full inquiry by the appropriate Scrutiny Sub-Committee into the action by the Leader of the Council, Councillor P. Chalke, in promoting such penetration without a committee decision of this Council."

(7) **Mr. P.G. Allnatt: North Wiltshire Schools PFI Project**

- “(i) Council congratulates and thanks the officers and governing bodies for their efforts.*
- (ii) Thanks the Leader of the Council for finally accepting that the process was a “curate’s egg” and has accepted Councillor Allnatt’s advice.*
- (iii) Nevertheless calls for a review by the Policy and Resources and Environment and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee into the whole process and, in particular, the causes of the delay in signing the contract from May to October, and any additional costs incurred as a result.”*

(8) Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Asbestos in School Buildings

“Given the fact that some Local Education Authority school buildings still have “safe” asbestos material, Council requests that:

- (i) a report be brought on the cost to school budgets caused by the specialist maintenance requirements and its impact on utility, such as fixtures to walls etc. and*
- (ii) a second report be brought to demonstrate the feasibility of a programme of asbestos replacement on a best value basis.”*

(9) Mr. J.N.B. Irving: Floods

“In view of the recent serious flooding in Wiltshire, that Council be informed of what strategic measures are planned to alleviate any future such crises.”

(10) Mr. J.N.B. Irving: Crisis Management

“That Council be informed if any alterations to current procedures for emergency command and control are planned as a result of experiences gained during the recent fuel crisis.”

(11) Mr. J.N.B. Irving: Bacon

“In view of the continuing plight of the Wiltshire pig industry, that Council be assured that local bacon is purchased for consumption in County Council premises where possible.”

PART II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

NONE

PETER SMITH,
Director of Corporate Services,
Wiltshire County Council,
County Hall,
Bythesea Road,
Trowbridge, Wilts. BA14 8JN

10th November 2000