

County Council Meeting  
Date: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2001  
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 the Media Unit 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** (21st November, 2000) Circulated – pages CC1-15 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. **Budget and Precept 2001-2002** A bound booklet of budget reports prepared by the County Treasurer is circulated separately to the Summons. This includes the recommendations of the Policy & Resources Committee from its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2001 in respect of the District Audit Management Letter (Min. No. 5(2)/01) and Financial Plan (Min. No. 9(5)/10). The County Treasurer will be briefing the Leaders and their Groups on the budget and it is likely that a motion(s) will be circulated before Council.

## **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

6. **Report of Policy & Resources Committee** (21<sup>st</sup> November and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2000 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2001) (Pages PR1-19 on pink paper).

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

7. **Borrowing Resolution 2001-2002**

**The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to move:-**

*To agree that for the financial year 2001-2002 that the:*

- (i) maximum amount which the County Council may have outstanding by way of borrowing should be £100 million;*
- (ii) maximum amount which the County Council may have outstanding by way of short term borrowing should not exceed £30 million; and,*
- (iii) amount of borrowing on which interest payable by the County Council is at a rate or rates which can be varied by the person to whom it is payable or which can vary by reference to any external factors should not exceed 25% of the total borrowings outstanding at any point in time.*

8. **Wiltshire Direct Services: Options Appraisal**

**The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to move:-**

*To establish a Steering Sub-Committee of the Policy & Resources Committee to oversee the externalisation of Wiltshire Direct Services with the following terms of reference:*

*“To set objectives and agree the detailed timetable and mechanisms for engaging stakeholders.”*

The Policy & Resources Committee agreed at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2000 to commence the externalisation of WDS as quickly as possible, consistent with achieving Best Value. Standing Orders requires the County Council to approve the establishment of any new sub-committee and therefore it was agreed that the new forum should operate initially as a working party, pending consideration by Council (Min. No. 190 at PR8 on pink paper refers).

9. **Motion by Mr. P.G. Allnatt: North Wiltshire Schools PFI Project** At the County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000, Mr. Allnatt moved the following motion which was referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration and report:

- “(1) Council congratulates and thanks the officers and governing bodies for their efforts.*
- (2) Thanks the Leader of the Council for finally accepting that the process was a “curate’s egg” and has accepted Councillor Allnatt’s advice.*

- (3) *Nevertheless calls for a review by the Policy & Resources and Environment & 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."*

The Policy & Resources Committee considered the motion at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2000 (Min. No. 192 at PR9 on pink paper refers).

**The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to move:-**

- (1) *To congratulate and thank officers and governing bodies for their efforts.*
- (2) *To thank the Leader of the Council for his efforts in securing such a satisfactory outcome.*
- (3) *To record its thanks to the officers for their hard work in ensuring an outstanding project for Wiltshire.*

10. **Motion by Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Bacon** At County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000, Mr. Allnatt moved the following motion, which was referred to the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration and report:

*"In view of the continuing plight in Wiltshire of the pig industry, the County Council confirms that it recognises the quality and value of local produce and recognises that local bacon is purchased for consumption in County Council premises where that represents value for money."*

The Policy & Resources Committee considered the motion at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2000 (Min. No. 193 at PR10 on pink paper refers).

**The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to move:-**

*Resolved:*

- (1) *To remind the County Council of the decision taken on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1999*
- "To support the policy adopted by the schools meals service of buying local produce, especially meat..."*
- (2) *To note that within the constraints of Section 17 of the Local Government Act 1988, British bacon is purchased whenever possible.*
- (3) *To ensure that the above views of the County Council are conveyed to all interested parties during future discussions about the externalisation of WDS.*

**(Note** in respect of the Policy & Resources meeting:

- (1) Mrs. N.S. Bryant declared a pecuniary interest in this item. She left the room and took no part in the discussion.

- (2) Mr. J.N.B. Irving declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as he kept pigs as pets. He did not consider his interest to be clear and substantial and remained in the room).

A paper is circulated – page PR 20 on pink paper.

**11. Procedure for Electing Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council**

**The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to move:-**

*To abolish the secret nomination process for the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the County Council and to revise Standing Order 6 of Part 1 Standing Orders as follows:-*

**Delete**

*Standing Order 6.2.1 and 6.2.2*

**Insert**

*6.2.1 The person presiding at the meeting shall invite nominations for chairman or vice-chairman from those present at the meeting.*

*6.2.2 A member's name must be proposed and seconded to be eligible.*

*6.2.3 A member shall not be nominated in his or her absence for the office of chairman or vice-chairman without his or her written consent.*

A paper is circulated – pages PR 21-22 on pink paper.

**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** (21<sup>st</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2000) Pages E1-16 on yellow paper).

**The Chairman of the Education Committee to move the report.**

- 14. Motion by Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Asbestos in School Buildings** At County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000, Mr. Allnatt moved the following motion which was referred to the Education Committee for consideration and report:

*“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."*

The Education Committee considered the motion at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2000 (Min. No. 118 at E12 on yellow paper refers).

**The Chairman of the Education Committee to move-**

- (1) *To agree that the current programme of monitoring and containing the asbestos situation in Wiltshire Schools in accordance with health and safety legislation and guidelines should continue.*
- (2) *To note that best value would not be achieved by the adoption of a general policy of pro-active asbestos replacement.*

A paper is circulated – pages E17-21 on yellow paper refers).

**15. 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**

**16. Report of the Social Services Committee** (21<sup>st</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2000) (Pages SS1-11 on salmon paper).

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

**17. 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**

**18. Report of the Environment & Transport Committee** (21<sup>st</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2000) (Pages ET1-11 on light blue paper)

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

**19. Motion by Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Western Wiltshire Sustainable Transport Strategy**  
At County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000, Mr. Allnatt moved the following motion which was referred to the Environment & Transport Committee for consideration and report:

- “(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.”

The Environment & Transport Committee considered the motion at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2000 (Min. 132 at ET9 on light blue paper refers).

**The Chairman of the Environment & Transport Committee to move:-**

*To note that:*

- (i) *depending on the success of the Local Transport Plan Bid, it was hoped to consider the provision of pedestrian crossing facilities in London Road, Chippenham, at an early date;*
- (ii) *a full safety assessment was carried out at the site of the new Abbeyfield Secondary School, Chippenham;*
- (iii) *the preferred scheme for highway safety measures in the proximity of the new school met the necessary safety regulations and was the most suitable that could be appropriately achieved;*
- (iv) *and it would be reviewed after a period of 12 months’ operation from the opening of the school, as was the case with all such schemes.*

A paper is circulated – pages ET 12-13 on light blue paper.

20. **Motion by Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Corsham: Pockeredge Farm and Peel Circus** At County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000, Mr. Allnatt moved the following motion which was referred to the Environment & Transport Committee for consideration and report:

*“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 Council’s Social Services, schools and highways will cope.”*

The Environment & Transport Committee considered the motion at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2000 (Min. 133 at ET9 on light blue paper refers).

The Chairman of the Environment & Transport Committee to move:-

- (1) *To note the size of the proposed housing development on land at Pockeredge Farm and Peel Circus, Corsham.*
- (2) *To note that there has been strong opposition to the proposed development.*
- (3) *To note that determination of this particular planning application is the preserve of North Wiltshire District Council as the relevant local planning authority.*
- (4) *To note that all major residential development has potential service implications for the County Council which have to be addressed.*
- (5) *To accept that it is impracticable to obtain committee reaction to planning applications on which the County Council is consulted.*
- (6) *To express confidence in present arrangements whereby County Council officers provide professional advice in respect of new development.*
- (7) *To make no change, therefore, to current delegated authorities to officers in respect of responses to referred planning applications.*

A paper is circulated – pages ET14-15 on light blue paper.

21. **Notice of Motion from Mr. P.G. Allnatt: Rural Buffers and New Schools** At County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000, Mr. Allnatt moved the following motion which was referred to the Environment & Transport Committee for consideration and report:

*“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.”*

The Environment & Transport Committee received the motion at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2000. At the suggestion of Mr. Allnatt and with the agreement of the Chairman, it was resolved to refer the motion back to the County Council without comment. (Min.134 at ET10 on light blue paper refers).

**The Chairman of the Environment & Transport Committee is likely to move a response at Council.**

22. **Motion by Mr. J.N.B. Irving: Floods** At County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000, Mr. Irving moved the following motion which was referred to the Environment & Transport Committee for consideration and report:

*“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.”*

The Environment & Transport Committee received the motion at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2000. At the suggestion of Mr. Irving and with the agreement of the

Chairman, it was resolved to refer the County Emergency Planning Officer's report in response to Mr. Irving's motion, back to the County Council without comment. (Min No. 135 at ET10 on light blue paper refers).

**It is likely that the Chairman of the Environment & Transport Committee will move a response at Council.**

A paper is circulated – pages ET16-19 on light blue paper).

23. **Motion by Mr. J.N.B. Irving: Crisis Management** At County Council on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2000, Mr. Irving moved the following motion which was referred to the Environment & Transport Committee for consideration and report:

*“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.”*

The Environment & Transport Committee received the motion at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2000. At the suggestion of Mr. Irving and with the agreement of the Chairman, it was resolved to refer the County Emergency Planning Officer's report in response to Mr. Irving's motion, back to the County Council without comment. (Min No. 136 at ET10 on light blue paper refers).

**It is likely that the Chairman of the Environment & Transport Committee will move a response at Council.**

A paper is circulated – pages ET20-22 on light blue paper).

24. **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**

25. **Report of the Salisbury Transportation Plan Joint Committee** (6<sup>th</sup> November 2000) (Pages STJC1-13 on lilac paper)

**The Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee to move the Report.**

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

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



## **SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEES**

27. **Report of the Policy & Resources and Environment & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee** (24<sup>th</sup> November 2000) (Pages PRETS 1-4 on dark blue paper).

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

28. **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.

29. **Report of the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee** (30<sup>th</sup> November 2000 and \*25<sup>th</sup> January 2001) (Pages ESSS1-6 on peach paper).

(\*These minutes will be circulated).

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

30. **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**

31. **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 6<sup>th</sup> December 2000 are circulated – pages WPA1-6 on buff paper.

32. **Wiltshire & 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 16<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2000 and \*18<sup>th</sup> January 2001, are circulated – pages WSFA1-6 on grey paper.

(\*These minutes will be circulated)

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

33. **Notice of Motion: Procedure** Under Part I Standing Order No. 13, the following motions have been received. The members 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. T.P. Chivers: Privatised Rail Industry

*“Due to the lack of confidence that the public have in the privatised rail industry, this Council writes to Mr. John Prescott and all other party spokesmen urging them to take urgent steps to bring all parts of the rail industry back under public ownership.”*

(2) Mr. J.E. Syme: Litter on Highway Verges

*“The amount of litter on highway verges has reached an unacceptable level. The appearance of our countryside is being damaged by this problem.*

- (i) *Council agrees to take positive steps to tighten up existing litter picking policies and to consult more closely with the district councils.*
- (ii) *Council agrees to carry out a litter picking exercise in conjunction with the district council.”*

(3) Mrs. M.E.M. Groom: Park and Ride at Junction 16 of the M4

*“In view of previous motions on the subject, namely that the site of the park and ride at Junction 16 of the M4 (proposed at Spittleborough Farm) should be reconsidered.*

*And in view of:*

- (i) *The results of the survey on the proposed park and ride at this site.*
- (ii) *The chartered town planner's opinion that the proposed park and ride at this site is inappropriate.*
- (iii) *The draft regional planning guidance which seeks protection for historic towns.*

(iv) *The overwhelming evidence presented at the public inquiry where not one member of the public spoke in favour of this proposed park and ride:*

(a) *It is proposed that the decision to transfer highway powers to Swindon Borough Council regarding the Spittleborough Farm site be and hereby is rescinded; and*

(b) *That no Authority is given pursuant to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, to delegate compulsory purchase powers contained in Sections 32 and 40 of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, to Swindon Borough Council”*

## **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.

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2001