

Agenda

Meeting of : The Council
Meeting held in : Auditorium, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Monday 25 June 2007
Commencing at : 6.00pm

1. **Apologies:**
To receive any apologies for absence.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
To receive declarations of interest from District Councillors and officers present.
3. **Public Questions/Statement Time:**
Fifteen minutes will be set aside to allow members of the public to ask questions/make statements relating to the Council. Questions or Statements are required to be submitted (either by fax or by email) to Stewart Agland, Head of Democratic Services by 12 noon on the working day prior to the meeting and anyone wishing to ask a question is advised to contact Stewart who will provide advice, a question submission proforma and a leaflet explaining how 'Public Question Time' works, if required.

*Contact Stewart Agland, Tel: 01722 434253
email sagland@salisbury.gov.uk*

Please note that this agenda item does not allow Members of this Authority to ask questions or make statements. The opportunity for Members to ask questions on matters not on the agenda is available under agenda item 13 below, subject to providing 7 days written notice. Questions on matters before the Council require no notice, and should be asked when the item is being considered.
4. **To Receive Minutes of last Meeting:**
To approve the minutes of the Annual Council held on Monday 21 May 2007 (attached).
5. **Chairman's Announcements:**
6. **Cabinet Recommendations:**
To consider recommendations from the Cabinet concerning matters outside its powers.
 - a. **Review of Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities: Councillor Sample**
To consider the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 13 June 2007 (Minute 11 to follow) (the report of the Head of Democratic Services is attached).



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



- b. **Corporate Plan and Best Value Performance Plan: Councillor Sample**
To consider the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 13 June 2007 (Minute 12 to follow) (the report of the Acting Chief Executive and the Plans are attached).
 - c. **Annual Statement of Accounts 2006/07: Councillor Roberts**
To consider the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 13 June 2007 (Minute 13 to follow) (the report of the Head of Financial Services is attached). The Audit Committee has noted the Accounts.
7. **Audit Committee Recommendation:**
Statement on Internal Control 2006/07: Councillor Roberts
To consider the Audit Committee's recommendation to Full Council from its meeting on 13 June 2007 (**minutes 9 and 13 attached**). The report of the Acting Chief Executive is attached.
8. **Standards Committee Recommendation:**
Model Code of Conduct:
To consider the Standard Committee's recommendation to Full Council from its meeting on 18 June 2007 (**Recommendation attached**). (The report, with Code, from the Standards Committee is attached).
9. **Questions on Cabinet Decisions taken since the last Council Meeting:**
To question (without notice) the Leader or other relevant Cabinet Member, on any of the issues on which decisions have been made as set out below: The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June will follow shortly.
- (1) 001 – 003 (31 05 07) Procedural Matters
Cllr Sample (Leader)
 - (2) 004 (31 05 07) Office Project Bourne Hill
Cllr Sample (Leader)
 - (3) 005 (31 05 07) Matter of Urgency – Cabinet Away Day to be Arranged
Cllr Sample (Leader)
 - (4) 006 – 012 (13 06 07) Procedural Matters
Cllr Sample (Leader)
 - (5) 014 (13 06 07) Recycling of Household Waste - Alternate Week Collection Scheme
Cllr Robertson (Environment and Transport)
 - (6) 015 (13 06 07) Corporate Consultation Project – Context Report
Cllr Edge (Planning and Economic Development)
 - (7) 016 (13 06 07) Revenue and Capital Outturn 2006/07:
Cllr Roberts (Resources)
 - (8) 017 (13 06 07) Performance Monitoring - Review of Fourth Quarter and Annual Review
Cllr Roberts (Resources)
 - (9) 018 (13 06 07) Appointment on Outside Bodies:
Cllr Sample (Leader)
 - (10) 019 (13 06 07) Re-Establishment of the Joint Consultative Forum:
Cllr Thorpe (Deputy Resources)
 - (11) 020 (13 06 07) Housing Revenue Account Planned Maintenance Programme 2007/08
Cllr Dalton (Community and Housing)
 - (12) 022 (13 06 07) Office Project - Land Appropriation Issues
Cllr Fear (Deputy Leader)
10. **Project and Policy Progress Reports:**
To receive any progress reports from the Cabinet (including the portfolio holders) not covered under item 9. The Council may question (without notice) the relevant Cabinet Member on the information given.
11. **Reports of other Committees/Panels on which questions may be asked:**
- 1. City Area (Plan) (Special) 001 – 005 (21 05 07)
 - 2. City Area (Com) (Special) 001 – 005 (21 05 07)
 - 3. Southern Area (Special) 001 – 006 (21 05 07)
 - 4. Northern Area (Special) 001 – 005 (21 05 07)

5. Western Area (Special) 001 – 005 (21 05 07)
6. Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee (Special) 001 – 003 (21 05 07)
7. Resources OSP (Special) 001 – 003 (21 05 07)
8. Community & Housing OSP (Special) 001 – 003 (21 05 07)
9. Environment & Transport OSP (Special) 001 – 003 (21 05 07)
10. Planning & Economic Development (Special) OSP 001 – 003 (21 05 07)
11. Planning/Regulatory Panel (Special) 001 – 002 (21 05 07)
12. Licensing Committee (Special) 001 – 003 (21 05 07)
13. Standards Committee 243 – 255 (16 04 07)
14. Audit Committee 105 – 118 (04 04 07)

12. Call in Matters:

To consider any decisions taken by the Cabinet which have been called-in by the relevant overview and scrutiny panel in the belief that it is contrary to the policy framework.

[There are none for this meeting]

13. Questions to the Council Chairman, Cabinet Member, Chairman of any Committee - on any matters not on the agenda in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the District:

(subject to 7 working days written notice) – no notice required for supplementary questions so long as they arise directly out of the original question or reply.

Councillor John Cole-Morgan - Question to Cabinet Member for Community and Housing

Sheltered Housing Schemes

As one of the fiercest critics of the changes made in the support of people in the Council's sheltered housing schemes in 2005 will the Portfolio Holder now join with me in congratulating the officers responsible for running our sheltered housing schemes on the recent receipt of an accolade for the restructured service in the form of Code of Practice approval, following a very rigorous assessment of procedures, inspections of and interviews with the residents of the Norfolk Road scheme and meetings with other tenants representing many of the 22 schemes through the Sheltered Housing Forum? Does he also take the same pride as I do in the fact that this authority is one of only 93 authorities in the country, and the only one in Wiltshire, to receive such an accolade?

Would the Portfolio Holder further congratulate the officers concerned on the outcome of the Sheltered Housing Performance Survey for 2006 which showed that 71% of scheme residents think that the quality of the service they receive has either improved or remained the same during the last year and that 67% felt that the service provided by the Housing Support Officers had been beneficial?"

14. Exempt Information:

In view of the confidential or sensitive nature of the matters to be considered, the Cabinet will consider excluding the press and public from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 15 on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of 'exempt information' as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A inserted into the Local Government Act 1972 by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and that the public interest against disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in favour of disclosure as explained below:

Committee	Minute No(s)	Paragraph(s)
Cabinet	023	3

David Crook
Acting Chief Executive
15 June 2007

Audit Committee meeting of 13 June 2007 - extract minutes 9 and 13:

9. Statement of Accounts 2006/07:

The Head of Financial Services introduced the report, giving a brief outline of the process for approval, explaining that under statute, the council's approval of the accounts is required by the end of June, and that the Statement of Internal Control, to be considered later on the agenda by the Committee, would be joined with the accounts in this approval process. The Head of Financial Services paid particular thanks to the council's Chief Accountant, Matthew Tiller, along with his team, for the preparation of the accounts. These sentiments were echoed by the Committee in recognition of the considerable efforts commensurate with the task.

The Committee then raised queries and comments in relation to the report, which included the following:

- The Vice Chairman thanked officers for addressing comments made in relation to the previous years' Statement of Accounts, asking for them to be made as readable as possible, particularly for the benefit of the general public. He also noted that there was no mention of void costs in relation to housing rents included within the accounts. The Head of Financial Services explained that this was not a requirement of the code and was immaterial in terms of outturn and therefore not included in the freetext foreword, but agreed to consider including this information if it would make the accounts more comprehensive.
- The Chairman questioned whether any pensions deficit was addressed in the accounts, to which the Head of Financial Services explained that the accounts were based on the latest triennial valuation of the pensions fund (2004), with the status of any pensions deficit currently under review again and officers awaiting the outcome of the review which would be published in the autumn. The Committee noted that they hoped to see this figure continue to decrease. Also in relation to the council's pension scheme assets, the Chairman noted that it was surprising to not see any figures built in to the accounts as a reflection of changes to the lump sum payment option. The Head of Financial Services explained that consideration could be given to including this information in the future.
- The Committee felt that, given the current stock market, it was surprising to see that figures in relation to equities only reflected an increase of 1.9%. Whilst the Chief Accountant explained that the county council held and managed these funds on the council's behalf - limiting the district council's control over the matter - he undertook to investigate this further. In relation to this matter, Cllr Sample also alerted the Committee to a countywide group, tasked with meeting quarterly to monitor the local authority pension funds and review assets. The Committee felt that these views should be forwarded to the district council representative on this group (who they believed to be Cllr K Wren) to raise at the next available meeting. Further to this, the Committee felt that it may be useful to invite Cllr Wren (or any replacement representative if Cllr Wren no longer held the position) to a future meeting in order to feedback on these issues, and agreed to consider this again at a later date.
- The Deputy Portfolio Holder for Resources noted that, whilst he was extremely pleased to find that officers had worked hard to ensure that the accounts were easy to comprehend, he questioned the description of the Council's financial reserves on page 26. The Chief Accountant explained that the wording used was that suggested by CIPFA, and that officers would undertake to investigate amended wording which would add further clarity to this.

Agreed – that the Statement of Accounts for 2006/07 be recommended to council for approval (with the recommendation that the final published version contain the minor amendments in wording as suggested above in order to add further clarity to the accounts).

13. Statement on Internal Control 2006/07:

Members considered the previously circulated report of the Acting Chief Executive, along with updates to Appendices A and B (circulated separately from the main report).

Resolved – that council be recommended to approve the Statement on Internal Control 2006/07.

Recommendations from Standards Committee held on Monday 18 June 2007

Revised Code of Conduct

- 4.1 Council is recommended to adopt the Revised Code attached to its Agenda incorporating the Principles attached at Appendix 2 as a Preamble. A report will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee following 12 months of the adoption of the Revised Code with a view to considering whether any local provisions should be adopted.