

IMPLEMENTATION EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the Special Meeting Held on 30 March 2009

In Attendance

Wiltshire County Council

Mrs Jane Scott – Leader – in the Chair
Mr John Thomson – Deputy Leader
Mr Mark Baker
Mrs NS Bryant
Miss Fleur de Rhé Philipe
Mrs Mary Douglas
Mr John Noeken
Mr Toby Sturgis

Kennet District Council

Mr Lionel Grundy – Leader

North Wiltshire District Council

Mr Richard Tonge – Leader
Mrs Allison Bucknell – Deputy Leader

West Wiltshire District Council

Mr Tony Phillips – Deputy Leader

Salisbury District Council

Mr Paul Sample – Leader
Mr Steven Fear – Deputy Leader

Also in attendance: Mrs E Chettleburgh, Mr P Clegg, Mr B Dalton, Mr M Hewitt, Mr W R Moss, Mr A Roberts

243. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Eaton.

244. Members' Interests

None

245. Public Participation

Mrs J Davies attended in respect of Minute No. 246 below. Mrs Davies delivered a statement on behalf of a number of local residents. She expressed concerns regarding the plans to sell the old swimming pool site at Wyndham Park to fund the Bourne Hill Office extension. Mrs Davies opposed the new office plans and urged the Implementation Executive to reconsider the project.

The Leader thanked Mrs Davies for her contribution and assured her that the Implementation Executive would take her points into account.

246. Bourne Hill Office Programme

The Implementation Executive considered the joint report of the Corporate Director, Resources and the Corporate Director, Transport, Environment and Leisure. The report detailed the projected costs of the Bourne Hill project, which had increased considerably.

The Leader reported that a joint project team was established in January and since then a full project audit had been completed which indicated that projected costs had increased to £2.395m over budget. The overspend had been made worse in the current economic climate, which has had an impact on the valuation of assets. The Council will therefore have to borrow money to pay for the increased costs of the project and whilst this will not affect services, it will affect borrowing for other projects.

The Leader noted that a further report detailing funding proposals would be produced and discussed in May.

Some members of the Implementation Executive expressed concern that Salisbury District Council had maintained that the budget was under control and asked whether further problems were likely to arise. They also expressed concern at the levels of contingency funding included within the original budget.

Mr Roberts, portfolio holder for Finance, Salisbury District Council, and Mr Sample pointed out that a lot of major construction work had now been undertaken and therefore they believed that the risks of further budget increases and delays were reduced. They also felt that the increased costs projected by the County Council included a very high level of contingency funding and reflected decisions made by the County Council.

Mrs Chettleburgh reported that Wiltshire County Council owned a large area of land opposite the swimming pool site that extends through to Salt Lane that needed to be developed.

The Implementation Executive then considered a confidential Appendix, with the public excluded, which contained possible values for sites that had been earmarked for disposal to fund this project. Clarification was sought around the potential disposal of sites in Milford and Bedwyn Streets. The Implementation Executive agreed that it needed to revisit all the sites/premises identified for disposal within the city, including all assets owned by the District Council.

Resolved:

To note the report and to request a further paper detailing the funding proposals in May.

Reason for Proposal

The Implementation Executive must be aware of the project overspends and their causes.

247. Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

To agree that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Minute No. 248 below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

248. Appointment of Interim Chief Operating Officer – Salisbury Parish Council

The Implementation Executive received the confidential report of the Chief Executive which set out the proposed duties and terms of the appointment of the interim manager of the parish of the City of Salisbury.

The Leader began by informing members that, since the report was distributed, Ms Gill had withdrawn her application to be appointed as the Interim Chief Operating Officer for Salisbury Parish Council.

The Chief Executive recommended that the Implementation Executive should not make a permanent appointment until after the elections in June. The Chief Executive also recommended that the Implementation Executive instruct the Panel to re-run the appointments process for an interim Chief Operating Officer, to fill the post as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Chief Executive, supported by officers from the Wiltshire County Council and Salisbury District Council, would fulfil the role.

Mr Fear agreed that this was the best option but was concerned about what would happen on Day 1. The Leader agreed that a briefing paper for Day 1 was required and that an interim appointment should be made until the new council was in place.

In response to a question from Mrs Bucknell, it was confirmed that the normal procurement process would be followed in terms of identifying potential candidates for the Appointments Panel.

Resolved:

- a. To request a briefing for all Implementation Executive members on the preparedness for the first day of the Salisbury Parish Council.**
- b. To restart the appointments process for an interim Chief Operating Officer, to fill the post as soon as possible until the new city council was in place, and to invite applications through the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).**

- c. To appoint a five member Appointments Panel, consisting of the three existing members (Mr Sample, Mr Fear and Mr Baker) and two additional members; Mrs Bucknell and Mr Phillips.**
- d. To postpone negotiations on the transfer of assets to the new city council until the interim officer is in place, or if possible, until the new city council had been elected.**

The meeting closed at 5.50pm