

IMPLEMENTATION EXECUTIVE
13TH MAY 2009

Salisbury City Council Update Report

Executive Summary

This paper outlines the final areas that the Implementation Executive need to consider in relation to Salisbury City Council as we move into the final weeks prior to the elections.

The paper outlines the provision that will be made to secure interim support for Salisbury City Council at its first meeting, provides for the Leader of the Implementation Executive and Chief Executive to authorise the date and agenda of the first meeting of the City Council and updates the Implementation Executive in relation to the previously agreed property and asset transfers.

Proposals

It is proposed that the Implementation Executive:

- a. Notes the appointment of an experienced interim manager to provide initial 'senior' support to the City Council at its first meeting. The appointment is initially on a five month basis, but has a break clause which may be activated by the new City Council the day after its initial meeting.
- b. Delegates to the Leader of the Implementation Executive, in conjunction with the Chief Executive, authority to set the dates of the first meetings of the City Council, determine the agenda for them and publicise these accordingly.
- c. Notes and approves the next steps in relation to finalising the property and asset transfers to Salisbury City Council previously agreed by the Implementation Executive and delegates the necessary decisions needed to complete this process to the Leader and Chief Executive.

Reason For Proposals

The proposals above will allow for the completion of the Implementation Executives role in the creation and initial 'custodianship' of Salisbury City Council. These proposals will ensure that the first meeting of the City Council is adequately publicised, supported and communicated to new members

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Purpose of the Report

- 1 To ensure that the first meeting of Salisbury City Council is appropriately supported and publicised and that necessary work on the previously agreed property and asset transfers can continue.

Background

2 Interim Support

- 2.1 Previously, SDC were asked to support a process to identify and recruit an interim manager for Salisbury City Council, although the selected individual withdrew prior to their appointment being confirmed.
- 2.2 In order to ensure that suitably experienced senior support and advice is available to the new Salisbury City Council at its first meeting, officers of Wiltshire Council have identified and contracted with an experienced interim manager to undertake this role.
- 2.3 It is suggested that this individual will also provide the required support to Salisbury City Council as it seeks to appoint a permanent senior officer for the new council.
- 2.4 The contracted basis of the interim manager will be for an initial five months. However, the contract will contain a break clause that can be activated one day after the first meeting of the new City Council should its members wish to do so.

3 AGM of Salisbury City Council

- 3.1 Following the approval of the Implementation Executive, Salisbury City Council became an independent legal entity on 1st April 2009. However, prior to the elections, the Implementation Executive remain the senior 'decision making' body for the City Council and the final element of its involvement in the creation of the new City Council is the setting and promotion of the date and agenda of the first meeting of its members.
- 3.2 As the date of this meeting will, in part, be determined by the availability of a suitable venue and statutory requirements it is recommended that the authority to agree the final date and agenda for the meeting is delegated to the Leader of the Implementation Executive in conjunction with the Chief Executive.
- 3.3 This will ensure that the Implementation Executive is able to fulfil the requirement to set and publicise this meeting and ensure that it is confirmed to successful candidates on their election to the City Council.

- 3.4 It is suggested that the first meeting to elect the chair of the City Council is held in the Guildhall on the 8th June.
- 3.5 Whilst it is recognised that the City Council will, in due course, wish to determine its own scheme of delegation and standing orders, for the purposes of this meeting, the previous monitoring officer of the County Council and the interim senior manager for Salisbury City Council will ensure that a minimal set of standing orders and scheme of delegation are considered to ensure that the City Council can continue to function appropriately.

4 Property and Asset Transfers

- 4.1 In line with previous Implementation Executive decisions, officers have been progressing the various technical requirements relating to the transfer of property and assets to Salisbury City Council such as ensuring property registration and title deeds have been confirmed.
- 4.2 This work continues to progress well and the commercial and other business related properties that will transfer to the City Council have been prioritised and the transfer process should be able to be completed as soon the City Council are able to instruct a Lawyer to review the documentation.
- 4.3 In respect of the assets that transfer as public open space or allotments officers have proposed a very broad 'community benefit' covenant to secure the on-going use of the asset for the benefit of the local community. The precise wording will be subject to negotiation to ensure that it supports a wide range of alternative uses for the benefit of the local community (such as a allotments, youth club provision, community centre development or sports changing rooms). These areas should be in a position to transfer shortly after the City Council is able to provide direction to Lawyers regarding the exact wording of the community benefit provision.
- 4.4 It is recommended that Wiltshire Council's approval to the final wording at the point of transfer is delegated to the Leader and Chief Executive in consultation with the Councils' Monitoring Officer.
- 4.5 There remain some assets, notably those that may impact on the Salisbury Vision, that will need further discussion between the new Wiltshire Council and Salisbury City Council after the elections to ensure that their transfer occurs in an appropriate manner.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Implementation Executive are asked to note the contents of this report and approve the recommendations and proposals within it.