

# Minutes

**Meeting of:** Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Meeting held in:** Committee Room 1, The Council House, Bourne Hill, Salisbury.

**Date:** 30 November 2005

**Commencing at:** 6.00pm

---

**Present:**

**District Councillors**

Councillor P D Edge – Chairman

Mrs E A Chettleburgh – Vice-Chairman

Councillors Mrs J A Green, A Peach, I Tomes and C Vincent

Apologies: Councillors J Rodell and Mrs C A Spencer.

**Officers**

E Teagle (Forward Planning and Transportation), David Crook (Policy Director), and S Draper (Democratic Services).

**144. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

There were none.

**145. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

There were none.

**146. Minutes:**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2005 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**147. Declarations of Interest:**

There were none



Awarded in:  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



**148. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman informed members that the work of the review group examining CCTV in the District was progressing and was concluding all of its interviews within the next week. It was hoped that a first draft would be available to members at the next Panel meeting.

Councillor Peach also informed members that the work of the hotel review group was progressing and that several meetings with officers, local hoteliers and members of the Salisbury Tourism Partnership had been held. He informed members that the review group had asked officers to undertake an evaluation of all existing facilities as part of the review and that the initial findings would be published around March 2006.

The Officer informed members that the work of the Sustainable Rural Communities review group had begun and the review group would be holding interview sessions with parish councils before Christmas to ascertain which rural facilities were considered the most valuable.

**149. Statement of Community Involvement - Part of the Local Development Framework**

The Panel considered the previously circulated Statement of Community Involvement together with the report of the Principal Planning Officer (Forward Planning).

The Head of Forward Planning and Transportation informed members that the actions suggested by consultees had all been undertaken with the exception of improving the readability of the document. However, he informed members that this would be done before the document was finally submitted on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005

A member raised the issue that ward members should be informed when a planning application, which had been recommended for refusal, was subsequently approved, as amended plans had been received. The officer informed members that he would pass this information on and officers would take this on board.

**Resolved –**

1. That the issues raised in the public consultation period as summarised in Appendix 1 in the previously circulated document be noted, and
2. That it be recommended to the Cabinet that:
  - a) The content of the document (subject to the completion of further work identified in recommendation b)) as set out in Appendix 2 be approved for
    - i) submission to the Secretary of State and;
    - ii) a 6 week period of Public Consultation commencing on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2006
  - b) That the approval of work to improve the visual presentation of the document be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Economic Development.

**150. Draft Development Brief for Salisbury District Hospital**

The Panel considered the report of the Principal Planning Officer, Forward Planning (previously circulated).

The members commented that parking at the hospital is a major issue as they are constantly hearing from people who have missed appointments or been late because parking has not been available.

The Head of Forward Planning and Transportation informed members that this was an issue which officers have been aware of for some time and several meetings have been held with senior officials to try and find a solution. He explained that parking at the hospital should be adequate without being too great as the hospital, like any other major employer, should be concerned with encouraging green travel. However, he noted that hospitals are a special case, particularly regional hospitals such as Salisbury where patients often need to travel some distance by car.

**Resolved** - That the draft development brief be noted.

**151. Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Panel received a presentation from the Policy Director on the medium term financial strategy.

The Policy Director informed those present of the following:

- The medium term financial strategy is a document that is produced annually and always covers three years ahead.
- The average funding gap over the last few years has been £350,000 per annum and in previous years this has been funded through efficiencies and fairly minor changes to services.
- Over the next few years the funding gap will increase and the options for making the savings are tougher than previously.

- The reasons for this increase in the funding gap include the increased costs of bringing Five Rivers back in-house (£300,000 approximately) and reduced income from land charges as a result of the housing market slowing down (£100,000 approximately).
- The Council is looking at many possible ways of achieving the levels of savings required.
- Options for one off savings include delayed opening of the London Road Park and Ride site and delayed growth for recycling.
- Options for internal efficiencies include reduced agency staff and a review of premium payments.
- Options for new sources of income include the introduction of 24/7 car parking charges in Salisbury City and introducing car parking charges outside Salisbury.
- Options for saving money by reducing services.
- Outsourcing services such as the Community Alarm Service and CCTV are also included.
- It was noted that the total savings proposed equal far more than the amount that needs to be saved so there are genuine options within the strategy.

**Resolved** - That Cabinet be informed that the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommend:

1. That any increase in income from the Building Control service be pursued.
2. That the CCTV Service and the Community Alarm Service be co-located (to be covered in more detail in the scrutiny review of the CCTV service).
3. That all options for procurement of shared services be investigated.
4. That the Cabinet investigate the possibility of reducing the numbers of buses operating the Park and Ride routes by holding buses at strategic points.
5. That the plans to transfer staff parking permits to park and ride sites to free up spaces in the City should be pursued.
6. Although the following matters were not directly related to the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio, the Panel commented that:
  - a) Car parking charges in Salisbury should be implemented seven days a week but during the same hours as operated presently.
  - b) That the introduction of car parking charges outside Salisbury not be pursued.
  - c) The Panel are in favour of a review of arts grants.
  - d) No other cuts in service should be pursued.

Councillor Mrs Chettleburgh requested that her dissent from recommendations 6a and 6b above be recorded.

## 152. Cabinet Monitoring

The Panel considered the Cabinet work-programme items relating to the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

**Resolved** – That the following reports be submitted to the Panel ahead of Cabinet consideration:

- 1) Creating Places – Supplementary Planning Guidance
- 2) Consultation on Draft Regional Spatial Strategy
- 3) Wiltshire and Swindon Tourism Destination Management Organisation

## 153 Date of Next Meeting

**Agreed** – that the next meeting of the Panel be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm in Committee Room 2.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm