

# Minutes

**Meeting of** : Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
**Meeting held in** : Committee Room 1, The Council House, Bourne Hill, Salisbury  
**Date** : Tuesday 23 May 2006  
**Commencing at** : 6.00 pm

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## Present:

### District Councillors

Councillor P D Edge – Chairman

Councillor Mrs E A Chettleburgh – Vice-Chairman

Councillors A J A Brown-Hovelt, Mrs J A Green, W R Moss, A G Peach, L Randall, I R Tomes and Mrs C A Spencer

**Apologies:** Dave Neudegg (Policy Director)

### Officers

Graham Gould (Head of Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism), S Draper and L Mertens (Democratic Services)

**Also Present:** Councillor Mrs M M A Peach (Cabinet member for Planning & Economic Development)

## 185 Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

## 186 Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

Cllr Mrs Green asked whether any revisions to Planning Policy R2 were likely in the near future, as she was aware that some parishes believed it would soon be revised to include provision for church hall repairs. The Chairman reminded the Panel that the scrutiny review of Rural Sustainability which was being undertaken by a group of Panel members was taking account of Planning Policy R2 and assessing whether revisions to the policy may be necessary – this review being due for completion in September 2006. Cllr Mrs Peach also informed members that Planning Policy R4 allows for developer contributions to be taken for use inside buildings. The Panel asked for an update from Forward Planning Officers at the next meeting regarding the status of Planning Policy R2.



Awarded in:  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



**187 Minutes:**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the last meeting held on 24 April 2006 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**188 Declarations of Interest:**

There were none

**189 Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman informed the Panel that the Leader of the Council, Cllr Britton had recently assumed the lead role on the Salisbury Vision steering group, and had invited a member of the Panel to join the group, which meets every 2 months. It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Chettleburgh would join the steering group as a representative of the Panel.

**190 Update on Agreed Scrutiny Reviews for 2005/6:**

**Hotel Review** – The Chairman informed the Panel that the Hotel Review was now finalised and was on the agenda for members to consider at the meeting.

**Rural Sustainability Review** – The Scrutiny Support Officer informed the Panel that, following the resolution made at the previous Panel meeting to undertake some wider consultation on the review, a discussion paper had been drafted. A further meeting had been held with SDC Officers to discuss the preliminary findings of the review and discussions at this meeting would be used to refine the discussion paper. The paper would then be sent to parishes inviting them to participate in the consultation. Owing to the additional consultation, the likely date for completion of the review would be in early autumn.

**CCTV Review** – As lead member of the review group, the Chairman informed the Panel that meetings had been held to work through some detailed areas of the report, and that the report had been redrafted on this basis. A further meeting was necessary to finalise the report and it was agreed that the scrutiny support officer would send a copy of the redrafted report to members and arrange a date for a further meeting.

**191 Review of Hotel and Conference Facilities in the Salisbury District**

The Panel considered the previously circulated report of the Economic Development Officer. A presentation was given by the Unit Head of Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism, outlining the key findings of the report. The Officer explained that the report linked into the Salisbury Vision work and focused on the city area as opposed to the whole district.

Following this presentation, members of the Panel raised the following points:

- Hoteliers in the city have frequently objected to applications for new development in the city. It is important that hoteliers remain open to the possibility of new development in the city, as the alternative is development outside of the city, such as Solstice Park, and a high level of such development could have a detrimental effect on city trade.
- Salisbury is a unique city with many distinctive qualities and it is important that these qualities are not lost in over-development. Salisbury should be marketed for what it is, and we should not try to turn it into something different.
- There is limited development opportunity in the city of Salisbury, but this does not mean that the tourism aspirations should not be high. Salisbury is in the middle of Southern England with good transport links, and many popular spots in the south of England are no more than an hour away. Salisbury should be marketed as an excellent base for visiting this area.
- The road system in and around Salisbury is not helpful for attracting tourists who drive in to the city, and needs improvement. Perhaps hoteliers could counteract this by working with the council to make more use of park and ride sites for attracting visitors. Old Sarum Airfield could also be actively marketed as a route in for those travelling by plane or helicopter.
- It is important that this report is viewed separately from the Salisbury Vision work and that the issue of whether a larger hotel is needed in city/ rural areas is taken forward by officers and an evidence base is gained to support the perceived need.
- This report does not address the need in rural areas. There may be a very real need for conferencing and hotel facilities in a rural location. It is important that this is investigated and that the city is not promoted at the expense of the rural areas.

**Resolved** – that

- a. The review of hotel and conference facilities in the Salisbury district for the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel is now complete.
- b. The comments made by members of the P&ED Panel, as recorded in the minutes, be taken into consideration by Officers.
- c. The review of hotel and conference facilities in the Salisbury district be taken to Cabinet for their acknowledgment, with a recommendation that:
  - i) the economic development team take forward this review, as outlined in the report. This will provide evidence for, and be undertaken as part of, wider preparation work on district policies for the Economy part of the Local Development Framework, specifically looking at the district wide need for a larger hotel for groups and larger conference facilities.
  - ii) this report be passed to the consultants working on the Salisbury Vision. The consultants are being asked to review and make recommendations for the preparation of the Area Development Framework for Salisbury and this report could contribute to that process.
- d. Feedback be provided to the Panel in September as to the progress of incorporating this report into the LDF.

## **192 Cabinet Work Programme**

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

The Panel requested to consider the following items in advance of their submission to Cabinet:

- Update on Salisbury Vision Including Churchfields Industrial Estate. (The Unit Head of Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism reminded members that, as part of the Salisbury Vision work, a public consultation event was being held on 26 and 27 May at the Red Lion Hotel in order to source the issues and opportunities that need to be incorporated into the Salisbury Vision).
- Local Development Scheme
- Tourist Information Centre Policy

**Resolved** – that the Cabinet work-programme be noted and the items listed above be brought to the Panel for consideration ahead of Cabinet.

## **193 Date of Next Meeting**

**Agreed** – that subsequent meetings of the Panel be held on the following dates:

Monday 13 June 2006,  
Monday 24 July 2006,  
Monday 21 August 2006,  
Monday 25 September 2006

(Please note that it was subsequently agreed that the meeting of 13 June be deferred to 3 July and the meeting of 24 July be cancelled to avoid holding two meetings in close succession).

*The meeting closed at 7.50 pm  
Public in attendance - nil*