

Minutes

Meeting of : Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Meeting held in : Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Monday 18 June 2007
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present:

District Councillors

Councillor Mrs C Spencer – Chairman
Councillor L Randall – Vice Chairman

Councillors R Beattie, R Britton, Mrs E Chettleburgh, Mrs C Hill (substituting for G Wright), J Holt, G Jeans, J King, J Launchbury, J Spencer, and J Walsh

Councillors P Edge and P Clegg were present in their respective capacities as Portfolio Holder and Deputy Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development, and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting on various matters. Councillor I Curr was also present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting on the matter set out under minute nine below (Salisbury Vision).

Officers

G Gould (Head of Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism), D Cameron (Senior Project Officer), S Milton (Principal Democratic Services Officer) and P Trenell (Democratic Services Officer)

4. **Public Questions / Statement Time:**
There were none.

5. **Councillor Questions / Statement Time:**
There were none.

6. **Minutes:**

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2007 (previously circulated) and the minutes of the Special meeting held on 21 May 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor R Britton declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the matter set out under minute nine below (Salisbury Vision Area Development Framework), because he had served as Chairman of the Salisbury Vision steering group. Councillor Britton remained in the meeting and spoke but did not vote on the matter.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services

8. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman asked the panel to consider issues they may wish to subject to the scrutiny process and requested that they submit their suggestions to her in advance of the next meeting.

The Chairman reminded the panel that they had received substitution forms and asked them to ensure they found a substitute member if they were unable to attend future meetings of the scrutiny panel.

The Chairman informed the panel that Lindsay Mertens would be leaving Salisbury District Council on 21st June. The panel expressed their gratitude for her hard work throughout the previous eighteen months and wished her luck in the future.

9. Salisbury Vision Area Development Framework – Consultant's final report and consultation process:

The Panel considered the report of the Policy Director and Head of Marketing, Economic Development & Tourism and additional papers circulated at the meeting. The following points emerged during the discussion:

- The panel recognised the need for a long-term strategy to ensure that Salisbury remains an attractive and prosperous city.
- Redevelopment of the Churchfields industrial estate was welcomed, but members were concerned that the Vision makes no provision for the relocation of services currently based at the site.
- Concern was expressed about the impact of the Vision on areas outside its remit, such as Old Sarum and the London Road
- Members were concerned about the inclusion of buildings over 40 feet and the potential impact on views of the Cathedral spire
- The need to retain short-stay car parking space was emphasised, with particular reference to the supermarket redevelopment at Central Car Park and the existing car park at Salt Lane
- Keeping the diagonal delineation of the public right of way through the Market Square may be detrimental to the future redesign of the square
- The redevelopment of the Friary was welcomed but the panel wished to ensure that the negative impact on current residents be kept to a minimum; extra consultation with the residents is imperative.
- Officers were asked to report to the panel with information on which land included in the Vision is owned by the Council. Members recognised that council-owned land let on a long lease would not be immediately available.
- Extensive public consultation was welcomed, but the panel also recognised the need to implement the Vision quickly to combat the leakage of retail trade to other towns.
- The panel asked to view public consultation materials before they are released. This request was to be passed to the responsible officer, David Milton.
- There was a suggestion that the consultation process should include an extensive media campaign and a recommendation to buy space in the Salisbury Journal
- Members wanted a detailed record of the consultation process kept, in order to show at a later date how the public were given the opportunity to input their views.
- The panel emphasised the need to consider carefully measures to improve access to the city from the South and East.

Resolved:

- 1) That the panel note the Salisbury Vision Area Development Framework report and welcome the forthcoming public consultation process;
- 2) That the issues arising from discussion of the Vision report be forwarded to Cabinet

10. Scrutiny Reviews Update:

a) Living in the Country Review

The panel noted that the 12 week public consultation period for this review had now closed. Over 180 individual consultation responses had been received. The draft review incorporating the results of consultation would be available for consideration by the beginning of July.

Resolved:

- 1) that the Review Group be reconstituted
- 2) that Councillors Beattie, Chettleburgh, Holt, Jeans, King, Launchbury, C Spencer (Lead Member) and J Spencer be appointed to the review group to complete the review
- 3) that membership of the panel be advertised to all Councillors outside the Cabinet

b) City Centre Management Review

The Panel noted that desk research for this review was complete and interviews with the City Centre Manager had been held.

Resolved:

- 1) that the Review Group be reconstituted
- 2) that Councillors Chettleburgh, Hill, Holt (Lead Member), and C Spencer be appointed to the review group to complete the review.

c) CCTV Review

The Panel noted that the review was completed in early 2007 and scheduled to go before cabinet in September.

Resolved:

- 1) that the Review Group be reconstituted
- 2) that Councillors Holt, Jeans, C Spencer and J Spencer be appointed to the review group to complete the review.
- 3) that membership of the panel be advertised to all Councillors outside the Cabinet

11. Performance Management Report:

The Panel were updated on the performance of the Council against key national and local performance indicators within the Planning and Economic Development portfolio. It was noted that the report lacked any indicators on the council's economic performance.

Questions were raised about the planning process, with particular issues discussed being:

- The consistency of planning decisions across Area Committees with reference to the percentage of decisions overturned on appeal
- The problem of applicants misunderstanding the position of officers in pre-application discussions. Officers cannot indicate whether an application will be approved or refused prior to its determination and applicants should be made aware that there is no assurance that officers' pre-application recommendations will mean the application is ultimately approved either under delegated powers or by the responsible Area Committee
- Officer attendance at sites to discuss applications
- The ability to delegate smaller planning matters to the parishes, with the specific example of tree cutting
- The situation relating to Planning Delivery Grants

Resolved:

- 1) That the Performance Management Report be noted
- 2) The panel commends the performance of the council's Development Control Unit
- 3) The chairman and vice-chairman of the scrutiny panel are delegated to decide economic performance indicators included in future performance management reports following consultation with the Performance Improvement Manager, Haylea Fryer
- 4) That the Head of Development Services, Stephen Thorne, be invited to the next meeting of the panel on August 21st to discuss issues raised regarding planning applications

12. Cabinet Forward Plan:

The Panel considered the Cabinet Forward Plan and the report of the Scrutiny Officer (previously circulated). The panel remarked on the lack of detail in the plan. Interest was expressed in September Item 3, the Wiltshire and Swindon Tourism Destination Management Organisation, although the panel were uncertain of the extent to which the item related to the Planning and Economic Development portfolio.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Forward Plan be noted
- 2) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are delegated to liaise with Graham Gould regarding September Item 3 of the Forward Plan (the Wiltshire and Swindon Tourism Destination Management Organisation) and decide whether to bring the item to the panel's next meeting on August 20th
- 3) That Cabinet be requested to provide greater detail in future Forward Plans, specifically:
 - i) A short summary of the matter in hand
 - ii) Name and contact details of the responsible officer
 - iii) The portfolio to which the matter relates

*The meeting closed at 7.51 pm
Public in attendance –1*