

# Minutes

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

**Meeting held in** : Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury

**Date** : Monday 22 October 2007

**Commencing at** : 6.00 pm

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**Present**

**District Councillors:**

Councillor C Spencer – Chairman

Councillor L Randall – Vice Chairman

Councillors R Beattie, R Britton, M Hewitt (substituting for J Noeken), C Hill (substituting for E Chettleburgh), J Holt, G Jeans, J King, J Launchbury, J Spencer and G Wright.

**Apologies:** Councillor J Walsh.

**Parish Councillors:** Charles Smith (Dinton)

**Officers:**

S Thorne (Head of Development Control), E Teagle (Head of Forward Planning), H Fryer (Performance Improvement Manager), John Makin and Susie Read (Intelligence Team, Wiltshire County Council) and P Trenell (Democratic Services Officer).

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

**24. Minutes:**

**Resolved** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**25. Declarations of Interest:**

There were none.

**26. Chairman's Announcements:**

There were none.

**27. South Wiltshire Economic Assessment 2007:**

The panel received a presentation from Susie Read and John Makin of Wiltshire County Council on the headline results from the 2007 South Wiltshire Economic Assessment.



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**28. Economic Development Performance Indicators:**

The panel considered the previously circulated report of the Performance Improvement Manager and the Economic Development Manager.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the Economic Development Manager should provide the panel with Wiltshire County Council's quarterly economic updates and the annual Economic Assessment along with appropriate interpretation of the data contained therein;
- 2) That the Head of Forward Planning consult the Economic Development Manager regarding methods of monitoring the performance of the Economic Development Unit;
- 3) That Councillor Catherine Spencer be appointed as the panel's Lead Member for performance management subject to the approval of new performance management arrangements by the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

**29. Question and Answer Session: Planning Procedure and Policy**

The panel questioned the Head of Development Control on matters including: the consistency of planning decisions; the problem of applicants misunderstanding the position of officers in pre-application discussions; officer attendance at site visits; delegation of smaller planning matters to parish councils; the possibility of updating the council's software for planning presentations; communications with parish councils; the role of Savills in the Salisbury Vision and the arrangements for planning under Wiltshire Council.

**Resolved: That:**

- 1) The Head of Development Control ensures that all communication with applicants makes clear that any advice given by officers in pre-application discussions is given without prejudice to any decision that may be taken on any subsequent application;
- 2) The Head of Development Control consult with the Vice-Chair of the panel regarding planning procedures at other Local Authorities and bring any suggestions to the meeting of Area Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs;
- 3) The Head of Development Control investigates available software which could enhance planning presentations at Area Committees;
- 4) The Head of Development Services review the Development Control Unit's procedure with regard to communication with Parish Councils.

**30. Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme:**

The panel received a verbal update on the ongoing scrutiny reviews from the Scrutiny Support Officer. They were informed that an updated report and action plan for the CCTV review would be brought before them on November 26<sup>th</sup> 2007. If approved the same report and action plan would go before Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The Rural Communities report was being written with the target date for completion being before the end of the year. The City Centre Management Scrutiny Review Group had convened several times, commissioned a 'Voice and Choice' survey and organised a meeting with representatives of the local business community for 30<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

**31. Performance Management Report:**

The Performance Improvement Manager updated the panel on the Council's performance against its key national and local performance indicators within the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio.

**32. Cabinet Forward Plan:**

The panel considered the previously circulated Cabinet Forward Plan.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That November Item 2 (LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options) be brought before the panel upon publication;
- 2) That the Portfolio Plans for the Planning and Economic Development portfolios (January Item 1) be brought before the panel upon publication.

*The meeting closed at 8.55 pm  
Public in attendance – 0*