

Minutes

Meeting of : Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Meeting held in : Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury

Date : Monday 26 November 2007

Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present

District Councillors:

C Spencer – Chairman

R Beattie, R Britton, E Chettleburgh, G Jeans, J King, J Launchbury, J Noeken, J Spencer, J Walsh and G Wright.

Apologies: Councillor Leo Randall

Officers:

E Teagle (Head of Forward Planning & Transportation), M Withers (CCTV Manager), B Murdoch (Forward Planning & Transportation Services manager) S Van Hagen (Development Services Manager), J Howles (Area Team Leader), C Mawson (Economic Development Manager), and P Trenell (Democratic Services Officer).

33. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

34. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were none.

35. Minutes:

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.

37. Chairman's Announcements:

The chair informed the panel that there was a possibility of December's Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel being cancelled because the November meeting had been convened in addition to previously scheduled meetings and covered the business from December's meeting. She was to monitor the situation and notify the panel accordingly.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



38. CCTV Scrutiny Review:

The panel received a presentation from the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation during which the need to upgrade Salisbury's CCTV recording equipment within the next 12 to 18 months was emphasised. The panel then considered the previously circulated report and action plan and questioned the Head of Forward Planning and Transportation and the CCTV Manager.

Recommended to Cabinet:

1) That Salisbury District Council reaffirms its commitment to the continuation of CCTV in South Wiltshire and that a similar commitment be sought urgently from Wiltshire County Council on behalf of the new unitary authority.

And subject to recommendation 1:

2) That discussions are opened with current operators and Wiltshire County Council with a view to consolidating the operation of all of Wiltshire's CCTV systems in Salisbury.

3) That the aims, objectives and performance indicators set out at paragraphs 4.9 and 4.10 be approved.

4) It is recommended that urgent clarification be sought from Wiltshire County Council about the unitary authority's requirements for office space in Salisbury and the likely future location of the CCTV control room.

5) That the current analogue recording equipment be replaced with a digital system. This has become essential if CCTV coverage is to be maintained. It is also recommended that discussions be opened with Wiltshire County Council on behalf of the new unitary authority (on which the capital cost will fall) about the upgrading and replacement of the remaining CCTV equipment.

6) That officers explore the possibility of undertaking new business activities appropriate to a surveillance/security environment. Such opportunities should either produce an income stream, or result in overall cost savings for the local authority. Explorations should include the potential use of planning gain from S106 agreements in areas covered by CCTV.

7) That discussions continue with the Police about the sharing of the costs of CCTV. It should be emphasised that we are moving towards a digital system which would contribute to the Police evidence base and without their support the project may be unachievable.

8) That discussions with Amesbury and Wilton Town Councils and, when appropriate, the proposed Salisbury City Council, be opened about sharing the costs of CCTV coverage in their areas.

9) When CCTV was introduced in Salisbury it was resolved that the revenue costs should be met from a levy on car parking charges. The income from this source has not been accounted for separately. It is recommended that this contribution, equivalent to 10 pence on every transaction within Salisbury city centre car parks, be accounted for separately and be made to the CCTV revenue account.

10) That discussions are opened with Wiltshire County Council with regard to the future management of the CCTV system. It is also recommended that a disaster recovery plan is formulated as soon as possible.

11) That the present arrangement of a directly employed manager for CCTV is maintained.

12) That the CCTV operations contract is formalised as soon as possible.

39. Performance Management Report:

The panel considered data on the Council's performance against national and local performance indicators within the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio. The indicators discussed had been selected for consideration by the Chairman of the panel in conjunction with Councillor King. The relevant officers answered members' questions on performance. During discussion of performance indicators relating to the processing of planning applications (BVPI 109 a,b,c) members expressed a wish to see a positive action plan to support Development Control staff and improve performance, and pledged to assist the Development Control Unit to this end.

40. Quarterly Economic Indicators:

The panel considered the previously circulated report of the Economic Development Manager and the Quarterly Economic Indicators report. Members commented on the utility of the data provided and expressed willing to continue receiving the Quarterly Economic Indicators report in its current format.

41. Scrutiny Update:

The panel received a verbal update on ongoing scrutiny reviews from the Scrutiny Support Officer. The City Centre Management Scrutiny Review Group had met with Mary Webb (Chairman, Salisbury Federation of Small Businesses) and Ian Hudson (President, Salisbury Chamber of Commerce & Industry) who had made a valuable contribution to the review. The review group was also to circulate an electronic 'Voice & Choice' survey relating to public perception and use of the city centre to recipients within the district. The Sustainable Rural Communities report was in writing with a target date for circulation to the Scrutiny Review Group before the end of the year.

42. Cabinet Forward Plan:

The panel considered the previously circulated Cabinet Forward Plan for December 2007 to March 2008 with a view to bringing relevant items to future meetings of the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

*The meeting closed at 8.57 pm
Public in attendance – 0*