

Minutes

Meeting of : Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel
Meeting held in : Alamein Suite, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Monday 20 August 2007
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

Present:

District Councillors

Councillor C Spencer – Chairman

Councillor L Randall – Vice Chairman

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

Councillors P Clegg and P Edge were present in their respective capacities as Portfolio Holders for Planning and Economic Development, and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting on the matter set out under minute nineteen below (Salisbury Vision - SWEPP Delegation).

Councillors I Curr and J Smale were present at the invitation of the chair.

Mr I Newman, Mrs Mary Webb and Mr P Le Count were present as representatives of the South Wiltshire Economic Partnership (SWEPP).

Apologies: Councillor J Walsh

Officers

G Gould (Head of Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism), C Mawson (Economic Development Manager), D Milton (Team Leader, Forward Planning and Conservation), N Styles (Forward Planning Officer), S Milton (Principal Democratic Services Officer) and P Trenell (Democratic Services Officer)

13. Public Questions / Statement Time:

There were none.

14. Councillor Questions / Statement Time:

Councillor King informed the panel that his review of Performance Management Reporting was going before the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 29th August. He gave notice that, if adopted, his reforms would see the appointment of Information Review Councillors with responsibility for identifying the most relevant data for the panel to discuss each quarter.



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15. Minutes:

Resolved – that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. Declarations of Interest:

Councillor R Britton declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the matter set out under minute nineteen below (Salisbury Vision – SWEP delegation), 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.

17. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman repeated her invitation for members to suggest any issues that they may wish to subject to the scrutiny process. She noted that she had received a suggestion from Councillor Randall to consider the planning procedures of the New Forest National Park Authority.

The Chairman informed the panel that Stephen Thorne (Head of Development Services) was unable to attend the meeting, as requested at the previous meeting of the panel on 18th June 2007, and that he would be invited to the next meeting of the panel on 22nd October 2007.

The Chairman reported to the panel that she and Councillor Randall had liaised with Haylea Fryer and Claire Mawson with regard to including economic development indicators in future Performance Management Reports. She confirmed that there would be a presentation on this issue at the next meeting of the panel on 22nd October 2007, and that a representative from Wiltshire County Council would be invited to talk about county-wide economic development performance indicators.

The Chairman updated the panel on September Item Three of the Cabinet Forward Plan (Wiltshire and Swindon Tourism Destination Management Organisation), noting that the item was no longer being considered by Cabinet in light of the recent decision on local government reorganisation.

The Chairman pointed out that maps of the land involved in the Salisbury Vision project owned by Salisbury District Council had been circulated to all panel members.

The Chairman informed the panel that the Vision Steering Group had taken the decision to appoint a Project Manager for the Vision project and that Graham Gould would step down from his current role as Head of Marketing, Economic Development and Tourism in order to take up this post from 1st September

18. Salisbury Vision – Receipt of a delegation from the South Wiltshire Economic Partnership:

The panel received a verbal presentation from Peter Le Count and Ian Newman on behalf of the South Wiltshire Economic Partnership (SWEP). Officers and Portfolio Holders answered questions from the SWEP delegates before a general discussion, during which the following points were raised:

- The need to act swiftly to implement the Vision in order to avoid losing out to surrounding areas
- The need to embrace financial investment from the private sector in order to fund the Vision
- The fact that the current Wiltshire County Council Action Plan gives its support to the Vision, meaning that the move to a unitary authority in Wiltshire should not hamper progress on the Vision
- The need to offer retail units with a greater amount of floor space to attract larger retailers
- The fact that Wiltshire County Council own land in Salisbury which could be developed following the shift to a Unitary authority in Wiltshire
- The need to find an appropriate site or sites for the relocation of business presently based at Churchfields
- The need to consider alternative arrangements should city centre car parking be reduced, with specific reference to better marketing of the park and ride

Resolved: That the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel support the Salisbury Vision and urge the administration to act quickly in its implementation.

19. 'Salisbury and South Wiltshire – Our Place In The Future' Consultation:

The panel considered a verbal presentation from the Team Leader for Forward Planning and Conservation in conjunction with the previously circulated report of the Forward Planning Officer. The following points were made during the ensuing discussion:

- The panel commended the consultation paper, but commented that it may have been better to incorporate the consultation paper and questionnaire in a single booklet.
- The panel requested that Parish Councils be consulted and urged to respond.

- It was felt that the organisation and publicity campaign for the public consultation event at Jubilee Hall, Downton, on 20th August 2007 was unsatisfactory. The Team Leader for Forward Planning and Conservation agreed to stage another public consultation in Downton.
- Parish Plans have recently been compiled covering similar ground to the 'Our Place in the Future' consultation. These documents should be taken into consideration.
- Some councillors felt they should have been consulted during the drafting stages of the consultation paper.
- The specific need to address traffic flow problems on the A303.

20. 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 the production of an Action Plan to accompany the CCTV review report was on hold in light of July's decision on Local Government Reorganisation. The panel expressed their will that the review be brought to completion. The report on Sustainable Rural Communities was being produced and the panel were to be notified on its completion. Basic desk research had been completed on the City Centre Management review and the Scrutiny Review Group were to meet in the near future to discuss the next steps for the review.

Resolved: that the completed CCTV scrutiny report be brought before Cabinet as soon as possible.

NB – Since the meeting the Scrutiny Review Group have convened and determined that the finalised CCTV report and Action Plan is to be brought before the Planning and Economic Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 26 November 2007 with the aim of bringing the report before Cabinet on 5 December 2007.

21. Cabinet Work Programme:

The Panel considered the Cabinet Work Programme and the report of the Scrutiny Officer (previously circulated). It was agreed that the report on September item 14 (Joint Building Control Services) would be circulated to all members for their consideration.

Resolved: That November item 2 (LDF core strategy issues and options) be brought before the panel upon publication.

*The meeting closed at 7.57 pm
Public in attendance – 0*