

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (2)

Meeting: Council
Place: Civic Centre, Trowbridge
Date: Tuesday 28 February 2012
Time: 10.30 am

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 17 February 2012 and indicated that the reports detailed below would be to follow. These are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718024 or email yamina.rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

6. **Public Participation** (Pages 1 - 2)

A statement from the Chairman of the Association of Devizes Passengers is attached.

7. **Wiltshire Council's Business and Financial Plan Update 2012/13** (Pages 3 - 4)

A note on the Budget debate process is attached.

10. **Membership of Committees** (Pages 5 - 6)

Proposed draft Scheme of Committee Places is attached. A schedule of Committee members will be circulated in due course.

13. **Councillors' Questions** (Pages 7 - 10)

Details of Councillors' Questions together with responses.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 27 February 2012

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STATEMENT TO FULL COUNCIL 28th February 2012

We are dismayed to find that yet again Wiltshire's commitment to a funding stream for public transport is being challenged.

No one disputes that paying more for parking is unpopular, especially during a recession. We all need to urgently debunk the strongly held belief that poor retail performance is related to car parking charges.

The council's own evidence, drawn from experience from here and elsewhere, is very clear: this is a myth that we should not be revisiting either because the income falls short at the current time, or because it's unpopular.

We argue that it is essential to adhere to this policy for three reasons:

First: fees from unsustainable modes, such as cars, are essential to fund sustainable modes, such as public transport.

Second: the policy of charging encourages people to consider other travel options.

Finally: there is no such thing as free parking. Somebody has to subsidise it.

Rather than cutting corners, we must ensure that the principle of parking revenue for investment in buses is preserved and enhanced. This is a largely rural county and these buses and taxi buses are lifelines with potential to meet greater need.

Instead of undermining the bus network, please help us campaign to market the network sensibly, thereby making the most effective use of scarce resources. This includes publishing timetables of buses subsidised by this county!

Jasper Selwyn
Chairman
Association of Devizes Passengers



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COUNCIL – 28 FEBRUARY 2012

BUDGET DEBATE PROCESS

1. Introduction by Chairman

- To clarify process to be followed
- Remind councillors about circulated paperwork

2. Leader of the Council

- No time limit on speech
- To move the recommendations of cabinet and/or Leader's motion (set out at pages 155-6, 173, and 195 of the summons)
- No debate

3. Chair of Joint Scrutiny Committee

- To present the report of the Committee
- To highlight particular areas of discussion
- No debate

4. Other Group Leaders

(i) Other Group Leaders

- Group Leaders for Liberal Democrats, Independent, Devizes Guardians and Labour to respond to the recommendations of Cabinet/the Leader's motion
- No time limit

(The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group will give notice during his response that he wishes to move a series of amendments to the budget)

(ii) Amendments

- The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group will move a series of amendments - each amendment needs to be seconded and the seconder may reserve their speech until later in the debate
- Debate on each amendment to budget – Group Leaders to be asked to speak first on the amendment followed by any councillor - each councillor to speak once only
- the mover of the original motion (ie the Leader of the Council) has the right of reply

- Vote on amendment – if agreed this amends the original or substantive motion – if not it falls
- Proceed to next amendment and repeat process

(iii) Other Group Leaders

- Group Leaders for Independent, Devizes Guardians and Labour to move any amendments to the recommendations of Cabinet/the Leader's motion
- Debate on any amendment/opposition budget
- Vote on any amendment/opposition budget

(NB Process as in (ii) above and the mover of the original motion has the right of reply)

5. The Substantive Motion

(This could be the Leader's original motion or the motion as amended – original motions set out at pages 155-6, 173 and 195 of the summons)

- Debate on the substantive motion
- Councillors to speak only once
- Leader of the Council has right of reply
- Substantive budget put to the vote
- Budget set

COUNCIL TAX

Subject to the Council approving the budget without changes to the net revenue budget of £326.555 million:

- **Leader of the Council** to move the Council Tax resolution (pages 161-2 of the summons)
- **Group Leaders** for Liberal Democrats, Independent, Devizes Guardians and Labour to respond.
- Debate on the substantive motion
- Councillors to speak only once
- Leader of the Council has right of reply
- Council Tax Resolution put to the vote (pages 161-2 of the summons)

Agenda Item 10

PROPOSED DRAFT SCHEME OF COMMITTEE PLACES

Committee	Total Number of Places for Elected Members	Conservative Group Allocation (61 seats)	Liberal Democrat Group Allocation (23 seats)	Labour Group Allocation (2 seats)	Independent Group Allocation (8 seats)	Devizes Guardians Group Allocation (3 seats)	CLlr Peter Colmer (1 seat)
Strategic Planning	13	9	3	-	1	-	-
Area Planning Committees							
North	11	7	3	-	-	-	1
South	11	6	3	1	1	-	-
East	9	6	1	-	1	1	-
West	11	6	3	-	2	-	-
Licensing	12	8	3	-	1	-	-
Organisation and Resources Select	13	7	3	1	1	1	-
Children's Services Select	13	9	3	-	1		-
Health & Adult Social Care Select	13	8	3	-	1	1	-
Environment Select	13	7	3	1	1	1	-
Audit	13	8	3	-	1	1	-
Appeals	8	6	2	-	-	-	-
Staffing Policy	9	6	2	-	1	-	-
Officer Appointments	5	3	1	-	1	-	-
Pension Fund	5	3	2	-	-	-	-
Joint Police Appointing Committee	7	4	2	-	1	-	-
Great Western Ambulance Joint Scrutiny Committee	3 (1 vacancy)	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	169	105	40	3	14	5	1

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR

QUESTION FROM CLLR JON HUBBARD, MELKSHAM SOUTH DIVISION

TO COUNCILLOR JANE SCOTT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question 1

In the light of public and ministerial concerns that the practice of paying public sector workers through private companies “may be rife across local government” (Financial times), can she give a public reassurance that this practice has not been used by Wiltshire Council since its establishment in 2009? If it has been used, how many people listed as Council staff have been paid in this way?

Response

The council employs staff via external agencies to carry out temporary and interim roles, and this is not unusual in an organisation of this size. The council also employs consultants to carry out work that requires specific specialist knowledge and skills that are not available within the existing workforce.

A majority of consultants are employed via external agencies but in a small number of cases there are some self employed staff who work for the council in a consultancy capacity. In all cases these staff are procured via a robust business case process which considers the rationale for needing a consultant and value for money.

In all cases these staff have no access to sick pay, paid annual leave or the local government pension scheme.

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QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

**QUESTION FROM CLLR CHRIS CASWILL, CHIPPENHAM MONKTON
DIVISION**

**TO CLLR TOBY STURGIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE, PROPERTY,
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL SERVICES**

Question 1

You will be familiar with the Market Quarter area in Chippenham, given your involvement in the planning decisions there. Linden Homes have recently announced major changes to the parking arrangements there, including the putting up of warning notices which do not have the required planning permission.

- a. Given that the lives of several hundred Wiltshire residents are being adversely affected by these notices, will he ask enforcement officers to prioritise action on these notices?
- b. What were the parking provisions in the approved application, in terms of the total number of spaces and the number of visitor parking spaces?
- c. Would it be legally acceptable to leave a private site of this size without any visitor or disabled parking spaces?
- d. If the changes proposed by Linden Homes prove to be contrary to the parking provisions specified in the original, approved plans, will he also ask enforcement officers to act swiftly to get Linden Homes to restore the original space provisions?

Response

- a) & d) Any complaint regarding unauthorised signage or other development will be investigated in accordance with the general approach to enforcement set out in the Council's adopted enforcement strategy, which prioritises breaches of planning control according to their perceived seriousness, see:

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wilts_council_enf_policy_-_pdf

- b) The approved plans demonstrate a total of 322 car parking spaces, with 17 labelled as being for visitors.

- c) The 17 visitor parking spaces are protected by condition 12 of permission 06/01005/FUL, which specifies the spaces should be kept free from obstruction and only used for the parking of vehicles in connection with the development.