

## AGENDA

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**Meeting:** Environment Select Committee  
**Place:** Committee Room III, County Hall, Trowbridge  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 November 2010  
**Time:** 10.30 am

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Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Sharon Smith, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 718378 or email [sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sharonl.smith@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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### Membership:

Cllr Chuck Berry	Cllr Alan Hill
Cllr Rosemary Brown	Cllr Chris Humphries
Cllr Nigel Carter (Vice Chairman)	Cllr Tom James MBE
Cllr Peter Colmer	Cllr Ian McLennan
Cllr Peter Doyle	Cllr Stephen Oldrieve
Cllr Jose Green	Cllr Leo Randall
Cllr Mollie Groom (Chairman)	

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### Substitutes:

Cllr Jane Burton	Cllr George Jeans
Cllr Trevor Carbin	Cllr Julian Johnson
Cllr Chris Caswill	Cllr Howard Marshall
Cllr Nick Fogg	Cllr Jeffrey Ody
Cllr Russell Hawker	Cllr Anthony Trotman
Cllr Charles Howard	

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## **PART I**

### **Items to be considered while the meeting is opened to the public**

1. **Apologies and Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Doyle and Cllr Nigel Carter. Cllr Charles Howard will be substituting for Cllr Peter Doyle.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 6)*

To confirm and sign the minutes of the Environment Select Committee meeting held on 7 September 2010.

3. **Declarations of Interests**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4. **Chairman's Announcements**

5. **Public Participation**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public.

If you would like to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Up to 3 speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes each on any agenda item. The Chairman will, however, exercise his discretion in order to ensure that members of the public have the opportunity to contribute.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question should give written notice (including details of any question) to the officer named above by **12:00 noon on Friday 29 October 2010**.

6. **Future Direction of Neighbourhood and Planning**

The Corporate Director – Neighbourhood and Planning will attend the meeting to provide details on the priorities of the department.

7. **Housing PFI**

The Committee has had a long standing interest in the progression of the Wiltshire PFI Housing Project.

The last update was provided in July by Chris Trowell, Housing PFI Project Manager who confirmed that Cabinet approval to enter the agreement was granted on 17 June. Meetings had subsequently taken place in London with the Department for Communities & Local Government plus the Homes and Community Agency (HCA). These had proved positive with confirmation there was a desire to drive through the project; however this would be subject to heavier scrutiny from central government.

The committee will receive a verbal update, outlining the latest developments towards project implementation.

**Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the update and make subsequent recommendations to the Cabinet Member as it feels appropriate.

8. **Review of Local Transport Plan - Car Parking Strategy** *(Pages 7 - 22)*

The Committee considered a report in January 2010 which set out the proposed methodology and timescale for reviewing the Local Transport Plan – Parking Plan. Cllr Tonge attended the meeting and highlighted that the review would take account of new national, regional and local policies and would form part of the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) – Wiltshire Core Strategy and Wiltshire LTP3. Following debate it was resolved to receive a further update before the Plan was submitted to Cabinet for approval.

The Committee will now receive an overview of the consultation process/public feedback and have an opportunity to help the Cabinet member in finalising proposals in advance of executive approval in December 2010.

**Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the update and make subsequent recommendations to the Cabinet Member as it feels appropriate; in advance of the plan being submitted for executive approval.

9. **Leisure Facility Review** *(Pages 23 - 46)*

In January 2010 the committee considered a report from the then Corporate Director, Transport, Environment and Leisure, which provided an overview of the work undertaken to develop the Leisure Facilities Strategy as approved by Cabinet on 24 November 2009.

Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet member for Leisure, attended the meeting to present the report and to respond to any questions. The committee at the close of the meeting requested a further update in advance of approval by Cabinet.

Members will be aware that in July, Cabinet considered a report outlining a potential approach towards replacement, refurbishment and devolvement of indoor leisure facilities. Over the subsequent months a detailed public consultation exercise has taken place, which closed at the end of October; with detailed analysis of public feedback taking place over the forthcoming weeks.

The Committee will receive an overview of the consultation process and the draft proposals. Members will then have the ability to make recommendations to the Cabinet Member in advance of final Cabinet approval in December.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the update and make subsequent recommendations to the Cabinet Member as it feels appropriate; in advance of the plan being submitted for executive approval.

## 10. **Task Group/Project Board Updates**

### a) **Major Contracts Task Group**

Membership: Cllr Peter Doyle  
Cllr Peter Colmer  
Cllr Tom James  
Cllr Nigel Carter  
Cllr Mark Packard (replacing Cllr Brian Dalton who recently stood down from the Task Group).

The Task Group met on the 24 September to review the retendering of the Salisbury and Amesbury bus contract and then on the 12 October 2010 to carry out the annual review of Mouchel and Ringway. The main highlights of the discussions are below.

The next meeting of the Task Group is scheduled for the 15 November to review Hills Waste.

### **Retendering of the Salisbury and Amesbury Bus Contract**

Members of the Task Group heard that the current contract is due to expire with the new arrangement in place by June 2011. Following discussion on the provision and actions officers are taking to retender this contract, the Task Group were supportive of their plans. It was highlighted that the need for added value and benchmarking against other providers was important to gaining value for money. It was also recommended that Officers should consider the excess capacity within the service and encourage greater use, particular reference was made to the tourism use, however it was acknowledged that responsibility lies

with tourism providers to make these links.

### Annual Review of Mouchel and Ringway

The council's highways consultancy and works contracts were appointed in 2006, with responsibility for highways design falling to Mouchel and highway maintenance/improvement to Ringway.

Councillors were presented with the annual reports detailing the good performance against the contract specifications. In addition, they heard about the developments and pressures over the last twelve months, for example the particularly cold winter, the good work of Parish Stewards and an innovation forum. The Task Group highlighted that the innovation forum, which is designed to drive improvements and efficiencies, could benefit from early member involvement. It also felt that whilst last year saw an increase priority on road defects due to the harsh winter, a greater priority should be extended to footpaths in busy areas. It was also considered that although the Area Boards had helped Parish and Town Councils understand highways works, greater guidance could be given on the different work solutions and the indicative costs.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee are asked to note the update.

b) **Waste Task Group**

A report by the Corporate Director, Department of Neighbourhood & Planning was presented to Cabinet on 19 October 2010 requesting approval to implement new, harmonised waste and recycling collection services across the County. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

The Committee is asked to note that the recommendations contained within the report were approved by Cabinet.

c) **Housing Commission Board**

Status Report by:

Cllr Ian McLennan, Environment Select Committee's appointed Councillor to the Wiltshire Council Housing Commission.

This report contains extracts from the report of Graham Hogg, Director of Housing, Wiltshire Council, to the Housing Commission Board, dated 28 September.

The Commission Board improvement plan contains 108 actions, these extend far beyond the areas highlighted by the Audit Commission. Progress is monitored and signed off when agreed by Tenants. To date, 56 tasks have been signed off as completed, 11 of which were Audit Commission tasks. 7 tasks are overdue, 2 of which are Audit

Commission tasks. One failed task is Annual Staff appraisements, which will be completed during October. The other: 'Review the way in which occupational therapists (OTs) classify works in order to achieve the best system of prioritising cases', is awaiting the OTs'. They have had the draft policy for some time. This is being chased but shows how other departments can hold up Housing progress. One area to keep an eye on is the 'understaffing' highlighted by Poole Housing, who consider themselves as a best practice role model. They advised that our Housing team is under strength. Whilst the team has been bolstered by a temporary influx of internal WC support, there are currently no plans to address the final numbers, until a review much later in the process.

### **Key Progress Areas**

- a. **Voids** (Empty council properties) - Good progress with days vacant reduced to 33 days. Staff training and procedure alterations will result in a dedicated Voids team.
- b. **Status survey** - A postal survey of tenants shows an 88% satisfaction (half of tenants responded). Non respondees are being followed up by phone.
- c. **Customer satisfaction surveys** - Uniform approach to surveying all our main activities including anti social behaviour and lettings
- d. **Debt policy** - All department working together to finalise a coherent and practical policy.
- e. **IT** - Poole Housing who are members of the board, are assisting greatly in demonstrating IT needs. Wiltshire Council needs to support a swift introduction, if any lasting improvement is to be made. Environment Select Committee to endorse.
- f. **Project Team** (Internal) - This is now largely in place and requires support for its work to be meaningful.
- g. **Disabled access to premises and work place transformation**  
November - Bourne Hill with others at Churchfields Depot later. Estate offices being upgraded and ready November. Housing Reception moved to Milford Street Endless Street closed to the public.

#### 11. **Forward Work Programme** (Pages 47 - 52)

A copy of the draft Forward Work Programme is attached for consideration.

#### **Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note the Programme and comment as appropriate.

#### 12. **Date of next Meeting**

11 January 2010.

13. **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

**PART II**

**Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed**

NONE