

SUMMONS

Council Meeting (Budget and Council Tax Setting)
Date: 23 February 2010
Time: 10.30 am
Place: Council Chamber, County Hall, Trowbridge

**PLEASE SIGN THE ATTENDANCE
BOOK BEFORE ENTERING THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic and Members' Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718024 or email yaminarhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

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

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

PART 1

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (*Pages 1 - 18*)

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting of Council held on 1 December 2009.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

To declare any personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4. **Announcements by the Chairman**

5. **Petition - Preferred Option for Chippenham Under Wiltshire 2026 Plan**
(*Pages 19 - 22*)

'To receive a petition with 1,044 signatories opposing the preferred option for Chippenham under the Wiltshire 2026 Plan.

Details of the petition and petition speech are attached together with the response from the Service Director for Economy and Enterprise.

6. **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. Please contact the officer named above for any further clarification.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question should give written notice (including details of the question) to the officer named above (acting on behalf of the Director of Resources) by **12.00 noon on Friday 19 February 2010.**

Any questions received will be circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

BUDGET 2010/11

7. **Budget 2010/11 (Pages 23 - 24)**

To consider the recommendations of Cabinet dated 11 February 2010, details attached.

A report on the formal Council Tax resolution will be circulated as soon as possible.

A meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee will meet on 16 February to discuss the budget proposals and a report will be circulated detailing any comments or recommendations arising from this meeting.

The Leader of Council will move Cabinet's recommendations for the 2010/11 Budget.

Councillors are respectfully reminded to bring with them to the meeting the Cabinet agenda dated 11 February which contains the various reports on the Budget. These documents can also be accessed on the following link of the Council's website:

<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=249&Ver=4>

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Under its Constitution, the Council is responsible for approving the policy framework of the Council expressed in various plans and strategies

8. **Statement of Community Involvement** (*Pages 25 - 32*)

Cabinet at its meeting on 11 February 2010 considered and approved the Statement of Community Involvement with amendments for recommendation to this meeting.

The Leader of Council will present Cabinet's recommendation that Council formally adopt the Statement of Community Involvement as amended.

The report considered by Cabinet is attached as background information.

The Statement of Community Involvement document as amended by Cabinet will be circulated as soon as possible.

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

9. **Councillors' Questions** (*Pages 33 - 50*)

Please note that Councillors are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the officer named above (acting on behalf of the Director of Resources) not later than **noon Friday 19 February 2010**. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent.

Details of any questions received will be circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and made available at the meeting and on the Council's website.

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

10. **Executive Business**

- (a) The Leader and/or Cabinet Members to update Council on any major activities within their respective areas of responsibility.
- (b) The Leader to advise on any changes to the Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet members.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

11. **Overview and Scrutiny**

The Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees to update

Council on any major activities within their respective Select Committees

MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMITTEES

12. Minutes of Cabinet and Committees

- (a) The Chairman will move that Council receives and notes the minutes of Cabinet and the various Committees of the Council as listed in the Minutes Book enclosed separately.
- (b) Chairmen of Committees other than Cabinet and Scrutiny Select Committees will be given a brief opportunity to make any important announcements concerning the work of their respective committees. Cabinet and Scrutiny Select Committees are dealt with under items 10 and 11 respectively.
- (c) Councillors will be given the opportunity to raise questions on points of information or clarification.

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

To receive reports from external organisations.

Please note that under the Constitution, Councillors wishing to ask a question in relation to the reports of the Wiltshire Police Authority and the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority are required to give written notice to the officer named above (acting on behalf of the Director of Resources) no later than five clear days before the Council meeting – 15 February 2010

13. Wiltshire Police Authority

To receive and note:

- (a) **the minutes of the Wiltshire Police Authority meeting held on 3 December 2009** (*Pages 51 - 56*)
- (b) **the report of the Wiltshire Police Authority** (*Pages 57 - 60*)

14. Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority (*Pages 61 - 68*)

To receive and note the minutes of the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority meeting held on 17 December 2009

Please note the documents referred to in items 13 (a) and (b) and 14 above were previously circulated to Councillors to provide an opportunity to submit any questions within the above mentioned timescale. The documents are also circulated with this agenda for ease of reference.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

15. **Notices of Motion**

Council is asked to consider the under mentioned notices of motion on the following subjects received in accordance with paragraph 49 of Part 4 of the Constitution – Rules of Procedure Council: (details of notices of motion in full are attached):

- (a) **No. 8 - Wiltshire 2026 Plan - Chippenham - From Councillor Mark Packard and Councillor Bill Douglas** (*Pages 69 - 72*)
- (b) **No. 9 - Area Boards - From Councillor Chris Caswill and Councillor Trevor Carbin** (*Pages 73 - 74*)
- (c) **No. 10 - Naming of Area Board - From Councillor Peter Colmer and Councillor Bill Douglas** (*Pages 75 - 76*)

16. **Membership of Committees**

To determine any requests from Group Leaders for changes to committee membership in accordance with the allocation of seats to political groups previously approved by Council.

17. **Council - Dates of Meetings**

Recommendation:

That Council approve the following dates for meetings of the Council:

18 May 2010 (Annual Council)

13 July 2010

9 November 2010

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COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE
ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2009

PRESENT: Cllr R Hall (Chairman), Cllr D Allen, Cllr RA Beattie, Cllr R Berry, Cllr J Brady, Cllr R Britton, Cllr PA Brown, Cllr R Brown, Cllr A Bucknell, Cllr J Burton, Cllr T Carbin, Cllr N Carter, Cllr CJ Caswill, Cllr E Clark, Cllr LM Conley, Cllr M Connolly, Cllr C Crisp, Cllr M Cuthbert-Murray, Cllr BE Dalton, Cllr PR Darby, Cllr A Davis, Cllr P Davis, Cllr MF De Rhé-Philipe, Cllr T Deane, Cllr C Devine, Cllr M Douglas, Cllr WJ Douglas, Cllr PA Dow, Cllr P Doyle, Cllr R Eaton, Cllr N Fogg, Cllr P Fuller, Cllr R Gamble, Cllr J Green, Cllr LH Grundy, Cllr R Hawker, Cllr A Hill, Cllr TCF Howard, Cllr J Hubbard, Cllr C Humphries, Cllr KM Humphries, Cllr P Hutton, Cllr TR James, Cllr G Jeans, Cllr D Jenkins, Cllr JP Johnson, Cllr S Killane, Cllr J Knight, Cllr J Kunkler, Cllr J Lay, Cllr A Macrae, Cllr H Marshall, Cllr L Mayes, Cllr I McLennan, Cllr JM Milton, Cllr F Morland, Cllr W Moss, Cllr C Newbury, Cllr J Noeken, Cllr JG Ody, Cllr S Oldrieve, Cllr J Osborn, Cllr H Osborn, Cllr M Packard, Cllr S Parker, Cllr GD Payne, Cllr S Petty, Cllr N Phillips, Cllr L Randall, Cllr P Ridout, Cllr W Roberts, Cllr JH Rooke, Cllr PWL Sample, Cllr JA Scott, Cllr CJ Seed, Cllr C Soden, Cllr T Sturgis, Cllr JPSS Thomson, Cllr R Tonge, Cllr AJ Trotman, Cllr B Wayman, Cllr IC West, Cllr F Westmoreland, Cllr S Wheeler, Cllr R While, Cllr C Williams, Cllr G Wright.

'Home or Homeless'

This meeting was preceded by the showing of a DVD on homelessness – 'Home or Homeless' introduced by Richard White from Wiltshire College.

70. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Richard Clewer, Peter Colmer, Mark Griffiths, Mollie Groom, Mike Hewitt, Ricky Rogers and John Smale.

71. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Payne and Cllr Jerry Kunkler declared personal interests in respect of the Statement of Licensing Policy item as referred to in minute no.76.

Cllrs Ernie Clark, Trevor Carbin, Simon Killane and John Hubbard declared personal interests on the item Parish Election Costs by virtue of their membership of parish councils as referred to in minute no. 81.

Cllr Simon Killane declared a personal interest in the notice of motion on Fair Trade by virtue of his membership of the Malmesbury Fair Trade Steering Committee as referred to in minute no. 84.

Cllr Steve Oldrieve declared a personal interest on the notice of motion on Fair Trade by virtue of his membership of the Trowbridge Fair Trade Steering Committee as referred to in minute no. 84

72. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 15 September 2009 and extraordinary meeting held on 10 November 2009 were presented.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 15 September 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

That the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 10 November 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:

- **List of attendees – ‘Cllr J Jeans’ be replaced with ‘Cllr G Jeans’**
- **Minute No. 64 – South Wiltshire Core Strategy Submission Document**

Tenth paragraph, second line – after the words ‘Old Sarum’ insert ‘airfield’ and delete the words ‘land at the airfield in’

73. Chairman’s Announcements

(a) Wiltshire and Swindon Team Success

The Chairman reported that a team of six individuals comprising three Wiltshire Council representatives, Swindon Borough Council, Wiltshire NHS and Wiltshire Police were recently entered for an Office for Public Management challenge event in London.

The Wiltshire Council representatives were Matti Raudsepp, Policy Officer; Lynn Gaskin, Service Director for Community Safety and Sarah Thomas, Project Manager on the Family Intervention Project. The Chairman congratulated the team on being placed runners up and achieving the Silver award with excellent feedback.

(b) Wiltshire Council Civic Carol Service

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the Council's Civic Carol Service which would be held on 16 December 2009 at St James' Parish Church, Trowbridge at 7.00pm and would be conducted by the Bishop of Ramsbury.

Councillors were also welcome to join the annual staff Carol Service which would be held in the Council Chamber at 1.00pm that day. Musicians from the Wiltshire Rural Music School would be providing the musical accompaniment for that celebration.

(c) Dr Keith Robinson

The Chairman explained that this would be the last meeting attended by the Chief Executive, Dr Keith Robinson before he leaves the authority in February 2010. The Chairman referred to Dr Robinson's distinguished career in local government. He was appointed Chief Education Officer in Wiltshire in 1993 where he demonstrated a passion for education and providing the best possible services for Children in the County. Dr Robinson was then appointed Chief Executive in 1996 during which his management of the Council had been significant. Wiltshire's standing nationally had been recognised through many initiatives he had introduced. The Chairman also referred to Dr Robinson's pleasant, relaxed style, coupled with his wisdom and guidance which had been valued by Councillors and Officers and would be greatly missed. On behalf of Councillors and officers, the Chairman thanked Dr Robinson for all he had done for Wiltshire and wished him and his family the Council's best wishes for the future.

The Leader paid tribute to the exemplary work of Dr Robinson and said that it had been a pleasure and great privilege to work with him and that he was a man of tremendous academic ability and great integrity. He had led on many changes with his greatest achievement being his handling of the transition to One Council and would be missed by Councillors, staff and stakeholders.

Other group leaders or their representatives joined in paying tribute to the work of Dr Robinson and in wishing him well for the future.

Dr Robinson thanked everyone for their kind words and commented that he had been very lucky with the people he had worked with in Wiltshire which included Councillors, Directors, staff and voluntary and statutory stakeholders. He also thanked his PA, Mrs Jean Potter and her team.

74. Petitions

No petitions had been received.

75. Public Participation

The Chairman reported that the under mentioned speakers had indicated they wished to address the meeting on the following items with both choosing to speak immediately before the respective item:

Mr Tom Hill - Notice of Motion on Fair trade – as referred to in minute no. 84.
Mr Mike Prior - Adoption of County Flag – as referred to in minute no. 85.

Mr Bill Bailey from Limpley Stoke Parish Council addressed the meeting on the subject of concerns regarding traffic calming measures in Limpley Stoke previously raised at the Bradford on Avon Area Board on 8 July 2009. Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport responded.

76. Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy

Declarations of interest

During discussion of this item, the following interests were declared:

Cllr Graham Payne – Personal interest - in so far as the Policy related to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 where they related to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

Cllr Jerry Kunkler – Personal interest – by virtue of him being a licensee.

Cllr Bill Moss, Chairman of the Licensing Committee presented the recommendation of the Licensing Committee dated 5 November 2009 in respect of adoption of a Statement of Licensing Policy. The report considered by the Licensing Committee in arriving at its recommendation was presented for Council's information together with the recommended Policy.

Cllr Keith Humphries, Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing explained the background to the drawing up of the Policy and the inherent safeguards and explained that a briefing note would be circulated to Councillors.

During discussion of this item, an amendment was moved that the Policy be in force for one year only after which a review of the Policy be undertaken; to ask the relevant Select Committee to consider late night issues which could give rise to anti-social behaviour and being proactive on preventative actions, comparing with policies of other authorities and lobbying the Government to develop a national policy. On being put the vote, the amendment was LOST.

The Leader explained that the report presented included a proposal to consult responsible authorities and interested parties on how the Policy was working after twelve months and she would be prepared to make this more explicit by proposing that the Policy be reviewed after one year. She also commented that Select Committees were able to scrutinise any function.

Resolved:

That Council approves the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 as presented and that it be reviewed after one year of operation.

77. Licensing Functions – Amendments to the Constitution

Cllr Bill Moss, Chairman of the Licensing Committee presented a report which detailed the recommendations of the Licensing Committee dated 5 November 2009 concerning amendments to the constitution in respect of the licensing functions.

It had been considered that some miscellaneous licensing functions were not adequately covered in the constitution and the amendments recommended would provide greater clarity.

Resolved:

- (a) That Council approves the amendments to the constitution with respect to the licensing functions as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report presented.**
- (b) That the terms of reference of the Licensing Committee be revised as follows:**

‘To deal with all of the Council’s responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005, and all other licensing functions carried out by the Public Protection Service that naturally fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee where legislation permits’

78. Councillors’ Questions

The Chairman reported receipt of questions from Cllr Ian West and Cllr Chris Caswill, details of which together with responses from the relevant Cabinet members were tabled.

Supplementary questions were made by Cllr Chris Caswill summarised as follows:

Question to Cllr Sturgis in respect of signing up to the 10:10 climate change Campaign – on improving data on energy consumption. Cllr Sturgis replied that following the transition to One Council there was a lot of data to capture but that early savings would be made.

Question to Cllr Sturgis in respect of the administration’s plans for household collection being made known before the General Election. Cllr Sturgis replied that he did not propose to give a view before the public consultation exercise on the various options being considered.

Question to Cllr Noeken in respect of the number of unfilled vacancies asking if it was sustainable to not know the number of unfilled vacancies. Cllr Noeken confirmed that the number of unfilled vacancies currently stood at just 1% although this figure fluctuated frequently.

79. Executive Business

The Leader confirmed that there were no reports from Cabinet members other than what appeared on the agenda for this meeting. The Cabinet Forward Workplan for the period December 2009 to March 2010 was presented for Council's information.

The Chairman presented the minutes of the following meetings which were received and noted.

80. Minutes of Meetings

(a) The Chairman moved that Council receives and notes the minutes of the following meetings and this was seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

Cabinet	- 22/09/09, 20/10/09 & 24/11/09
Overview and Scrutiny Management and Resources Select Committee	- 24/09/09
Health and Social Care Select Committee	- 17/09/09
Environment Select Committee	- 11/09/09, 03/11/09
Children's Services Select Committee	- 29/09/09
Eastern Area Planning Committee	- 15/10/09
Northern Area Planning Committee	- 02/09/09, 23/09/09, 14/10/09 and 04/11/09
Southern Area Planning Committee	- 17/09/09, 08/10/09 & 29/10/09
Western Area Planning Committee	- 26/08/09, 16/09/09, 01/10/09, 07/10/09 & 28/10/09
Licensing Committee	- 05/11/09
Audit Committee	- 30/09/09
Officer Appointments Committee	- 04/09/09 & 03-04/11/09
Staffing Policy Committee	- 09/09/09 & 11/11/09

Standards Committee	- 09/09/09 & 11/11/09
Strategic Planning Committee	- 22/09/09, 07/10/09 & 04/11/09
Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee	- 03/09/09 & 19/11/09

Resolved:

That the above mentioned minutes be received and noted.

- (b) The Chairman invited questions from Councillors on points of information or clarification on the above mentioned minutes and gave Chairmen of those meetings the opportunity to make any important announcements on the work of their respective meetings.

(i) Minutes of Area Board – General Point

A Councillor questioned why the minutes of Area Boards were not also presented to Council. A discussion ensued on whether or not they should be presented and it was

Resolved:

That Group Leaders be asked to consider the issue of whether or not minutes of Area Board meetings should also be presented to Council and agree a way forward.

(ii) Cabinet 20/10/09 - Minute No. 64 – Review of Senior Management Structure

Councillor Jeff Osborn asked whether the redundancy procedure would be changed as for 1C4W.

The Leader explained that a report on severance arrangements and a report on honoraria would be considered by the Audit Committee and that it was necessary to review such policies to ensure they were both fair and robust.

(ii) Strategic Planning Committee

Councillor Andrew Davis, Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee confirmed that the planning application in respect of the Visitors' Centre, Stonehenge would not be ready for consideration by the Committee on 16 December. However, that meeting would still go ahead to consider other business. The Stonehenge application was anticipated to be considered by the Committee in January 2010 and that meeting would be arranged in Amesbury.

81. Parish Election Costs

Declarations of Interests

The following Councillors declared a personal interest by virtue of their membership of the under mentioned parish councils:

Councillor Ernie Clark	-	Hilperton Parish Council
Councillor Trevor Carbin	-	Hilperton Parish Council
Councillor Simon Killane	-	Malmesbury Town Council
Councillor John Hubbard	-	Melksham Town Council

The Leader of Council presented the recommendation of Cabinet dated 24 November 2009 concerning the apportionment of costs in respect of parish council elections.

The costs of the Returning Officer in respect of parish elections fall to the Council to pay, although legislation gave the Council discretion to recover those costs from the parishes involved. The report considered by Cabinet was also presented as background information which detailed the various options considered together with their financial implications.

Resolved:

That the Council absorbs the cost of all parish elections including uncontested vacancies (ie where filled by co-option or an uncontested poll) but not polls consequent on parish meetings, subject to any hire costs incurred by this Council for the use of parish council property being waived.

82. Wiltshire Police Authority

The minutes of the Wiltshire Police Authority meeting held on 10 September 2009 and the Report of the Wiltshire Police Authority were received and noted. No questions had been raised by Councillors.

83. Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority

The minutes of the Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority meeting held on 23 September 2009 were received and noted. No questions had been raised by Members.

84. Notice of Motion No. 7 Fair Trade – submitted by Councillor Steve Oldrieve

Public Participation: Mr Tom Hill, representing the Wiltshire Fair Trade Coalition, addressed Council in support of the following motion.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Killane declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of his membership of the Malmesbury Fair Trade Steering Committee.

Cllr Steve Oldrieve declared a personal interest by virtue of his membership of the Trowbridge Fair Trade Committee.

Council considered the following motion moved by Cllr Oldrieve and seconded by Cllr John Noeken:

'This Council resolves to:-

Include in the current review of the Corporate Plan, Procurement & Commissioning policies to ensure that we recognise the impacts associated with our own purchasing activities as well as those of its vendors. The Council is committed to addressing these impacts and integrating environmental, social and economic considerations into every stage of its procurement and commissioning processes and by specifying where appropriate, fair trade products .

- **As a minimum, comply with all relevant environmental and social legislation, UK and EC procurement regulations, including guidance, codes of practice and voluntary arrangements;**
- **To research and promote best practice in environmental and social procurement and commissioning;**
- **To consider environmental and social issues during vendor qualification and appraisal and where fair trade products are specified the internationally agreed definition of fair trade will apply. This defines fair trade as a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers – especially in the south.**
- **To promote & support development of awareness of environmental and social procurement issues. This includes a commitment to work with vendors, members, council staff, the public, partners and other stakeholders to promote the concept and practice of fair trade across Wiltshire.**
- **Work with SME's, BME and local businesses to ensure they are able to compete for Council contracts and to strengthen the local economy'.**

Cllr Oldrieve explained the principles of fair trade and thanked Cllr John Noeken, Mike Swabey and Hannah Reid for their support in putting together a workable motion.

A discussion ensued on the issue of fair trade as opposed to 'fairtrade' and the appropriateness of the Council adopting such a motion. On being put to the vote, it was

Resolved:

That the above motion be ADOPTED.

85. Adoption of a County Flag for Wiltshire

Public Participation: Mr Prior, designer of one of the flags

Council considered a report regarding the formal adoption and registration of a County Flag for Wiltshire.

It was noted that in 2006 the Council had been approached by Mr Prior who was promoting the concept of a County Flag for Wiltshire with a view to the Council flying the flag at County Hall. This was supported at that time by the County Council and the Lord Lieutenant and following the securing of the relevant planning permission, the flag was raised on the County Hall flagpole in June 2007. This flag had never been registered with The Flag Institute as until recently, copyright had been retained by Mr Prior. The matter had now been raised again with a view to formal adoption and registration of a County Flag.

Within the last few months, a second design had been submitted by Mr Fear. Council was therefore asked to consider whether or not there should be a County Flag for Wiltshire and if so, whether it should be the flag previously supported by the County Council designed by Mr Prior or the alternative provided by Mr Fear. Swindon Borough Council would also be approached to see if it wished to support this Council's decision.

Details of both designs were presented for Council's consideration. Council noted that both Mr Prior and Mr Fear had been given the opportunity to provide supporting background information for their design and to address the meeting.

Resolved:

That Council adopts the design submitted by Mr Prior and that Swindon Borough Council be approached to seek its support with a view to adoption and formal registration with the Flag Institute as the County Flag for Wiltshire.

Appendix – Councillors' questions and responses

(11.00 am – 1.45 pm)

The officer who has produced these minutes is Yamina Rhouati, Democratic and Members' Services, direct line 01225 718024,
e-mail yamina.rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115.

1 DECEMBER 2009

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS CASWILL
CHIPPENHAM MONKTON DIVISION

TO COUNCILLOR TOBY STURGIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE,
PROPERTY AND ENVIRONMENT

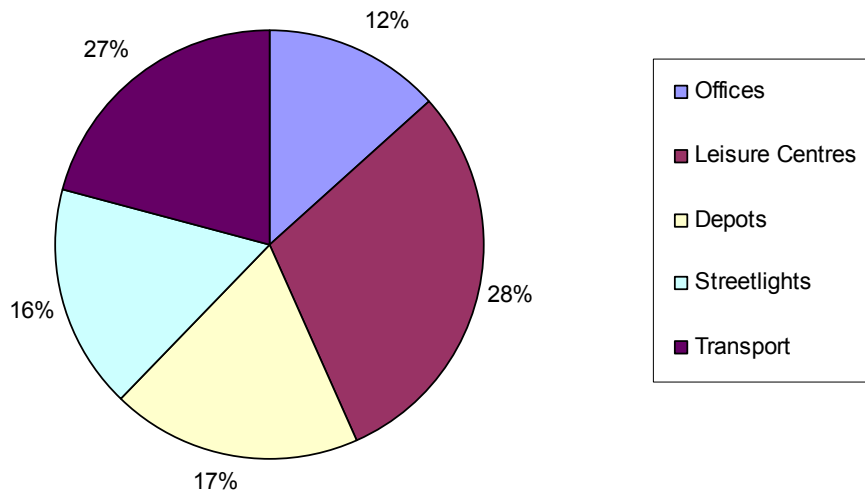
Question 1

On behalf of my Liberal Democrat colleagues, I congratulate him on his signature of the 10 : 10 commitments. Will he now take the chance to spell out the five key areas in which he is looking to reduce the Council's carbon emissions, and the main steps which will be taken in each case in the coming year?

Response

- Under the 10:10 campaign, we have pledged to reduce our 2009/10 emissions excluding schools and outsourced services by 10% between April 2010 and March 2011.
- In 2008/2009 the five Wiltshire councils spent around £8.3 million on energy and emitted approximately 60,000 tonnes of CO₂. Once schools emissions and outsourced services are excluded, total emissions came to around 40,000 tonnes of CO₂. The relative sources of emissions covered by the 10:10 campaign are summarised in the pie chart below. **The chart shows that the five key areas where we will need to cut emissions are: leisure centres; transport (staff travel and fleet); depots; streetlights; and offices.** Data for 2009/10 will be available in July 2010.

**Wiltshire councils - emissions by source 2008-09
(excluding schools and outsourced services)**



- The climate change team is working with the Carbon Trust on the production of a 5 year Carbon Management Plan. This plan will identify specific projects which will reduce both the Council's carbon footprint and energy bills in the five areas above. The plan is due to be approved by the council's Climate Change Board by end of March 2010.
- The plan will focus on four main types of carbon reduction activity:
 - Staff behaviour change
 - eg Switching off equipment, smarter driving
 - Energy efficiency measures
 - eg Insulation of buildings, installation of efficient lighting
 - Service transformation
 - eg Workplace transformation, rationalisation of servers
 - Energy generation
 - eg Combined heat and power, renewable energy/ low carbon energy
- Within each area of activity there are numerous potential projects. These will be prioritised and implemented according to their cost-effectiveness and the level of capital investment available.
- A report will be provided to the Environment Select Committee in March 2010 updating on progress in quantifying carbon reduction projects and the development of our 5 year carbon reduction plan.
- Another key area of work for 2010/11 is to improve our data on energy consumption, which will help us target carbon reduction measures more

effectively and improve our performance under the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

Question 2

Do you expect to inform the residents of Wiltshire about this administration's plans for household waste collection before the upcoming General Election?

Response

As I am sure Councillor Caswill and his colleagues are aware the next phase in developing the Waste Transformation is the consultation on the costed options. The consultation was agreed by Cabinet last week(24th.November) and is likely to commence at the end of January 2010 and to include all the Area Boards and the earliest closing date would be the end of March 2010.

Once the responses have been considered the next phase will be to report to Cabinet having considered the necessary contract changes and any need for planning permission. The first possible Cabinet meeting where this report could be considered is May 25th 2010.

TO COUNCILLOR JOHN NOEKEN, CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Question 1

As of 27 November 2009, what were the numbers of unfilled staff vacancies on the Council's payroll , and the percentages of total complement:

- a. for the Council as whole, and
- b. in each of the Council's Corporate Departments, and particularly
- c. in the directorate of Business transformation and ICT

Secondly, within each of those totals, how many of those posts were being actively filled as of 27 November?

Thirdly, are there any staff of the former District Councils who have not yet been given established posts, and how many in the case of each of the four former Districts?

Response

Unfortunately we cannot say how many unfilled vacancies there are as this information is not yet available in SAP. The new organisational structures are still being built within the system, and historical data relating to posts in the old

County and District Councils remain in the system as well. As a result we cannot differentiate between those posts that should have been deleted, and those that are new or still applicable in the new structures. This information though will be available in the future. Because of this we can only say the extent to which the actual establishment of the Council has reduced since 1st April, and how many vacancies we are actively trying to fill at the present time. All of this information is in the table below.

In answer to point c there are currently 20 people left in the redeployment pool broken down as follows:-

WC	5
SDC	6
KDC	2
NWDC	4
WWDC	3

Headcount (HC) change 01/04/09 - 27/11/09						
Directorate	01/04/2009 HC	27/11/2009 HC	Difference	%	Current advertised vacancies	Vacancies as a % of HC
Chief Executive	22	17	-5	-22.7%	0	0.00%
Children	1440	1458	18	1.3%	8	0.55%
Community	1229	1182	-47	-3.8%	6	0.51%
Econ Devt, Planning, Housing	572	564	-8	-1.4%	19	3.37%
Policy and Communications	63	55	-8	-12.7%	0	0.00%
Resources	1028	963	-65	-6.3%	18	1.87%
Transport Envnt and Leisure	1410	1372	-38	-2.7%	5	0.36%
Wiltshire Council	5764	5611	-153	-2.7%	56	1.00%
Business Transformation + ICT	125	106	-19	-15.2%	5	4.72%

The table, above, shows the change in headcount from the 1st of April 2009 to the 27th of November 2009.

Wiltshire Council has seen a reduction in headcount by 2.7% with each directorate seeing a reduction except for the Department of Children and Education which has grown by 1.3%.

Wiltshire Council is currently advertising 56 vacancies which accounts for 1% of the 27/11/09 headcount.

We cannot tell if there are any other vacancies not being advertised or predict how many employees will leave (i.e. voluntarily, or as a result of their employment ending for other reasons). Therefore it is unlikely to be the case that the headcount will increase by a further 56 because this is the level of vacancies being advertised. For example the latest turnover figures (May-July 2009) indicate that 58 (38 voluntarily) employees leave Wiltshire Council every month with 21 (13 to replace employees still in post) of the current advertised vacancies being a direct consequence of this turnover.

What must be borne in mind is that this is live data, and the figures will change on a daily basis.

COUNCIL
1 DECEMBER 2009

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WEST
TILL AND WYLYE VALLEY DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR LIONEL GRUNDY, CABINET MEMBER FOR
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Question

Since the closure of the former Wilton Middle School in August 2005 could the cabinet member tell me what is the total cost spent on this site?

Response

As Cllr West is aware parts of the site are still being used as a base by the Local Education Team and during parts of the period his question refers to there was some use of the site by community groups and the Youth Development Service. This Council is not the sole owner of the site as Salisbury Diocese own part of it.

The net costs of maintaining and securing the site for each year have been:

2005/6-£26,282
2006/7-£48,932
2007/8--£56,699
2008/9-£25,747
2009/10-£23,688

Officers are continuing to look for opportunities to redevelop or dispose of the site and are liaising with the local Councillor and community groups on this matter.

TO COUNCILLOR DICK TONGE
CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Question

Since the new junction layout was introduced at Newcutt Crossroads on the A360 how many injury accidents have been recorded.

Response

The following table lists the collisions involving personal injury since the changes to the junction layout. Please note the 2009 data includes incidents up to 31/09/2009 only.

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1	4	3	3	2

The accident rate at the junction continues to give concern. It is intended to carry out a feasibility study into further changes to the layout to improve safety by the end of the current financial year.

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010**

The following petition will be presented:

**Petition against the Preferred Option for Chippenham under the Wiltshire
2026 Plan**

We, the undersigned, wish to express our opposition to the above plan. Our objections are based on:

- 1. The effect on the flora and fauna of Birds Marsh and the Avon and Marden valleys.
- 2. The detrimental impact on Chippenham of 3,450 new homes, over 15,000 extra people.
- 3. The increased risk of flooding due to paving over the land that is slowing down the rate of run-off of water into the river at the moment.
- 4. The capital and on-going maintenance cost of the new link road that will include new rail and river bridges.

Signed.....
.....

The petition speech is also attached.

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

23 FEBRUARY 2010

**Petition against the Preferred Option for Chippenham under the Wiltshire
2026 Plan - Petition Speech**

'We wish to protest against the proposal to build a huge housing estate on the farming land to the north-east of Chippenham. Two working farms will be destroyed, one of which dates back to the Middle Ages (Hardens Farm). Fuel prices will escalate over the next sixteen years as oil runs out and the price of imported food will rocket. We will then need every acre of farm land to produce the food we require. We can ill afford to pave over this valuable resource with housing estates.

The need for all these new houses in Chippenham, 3,450 in total, possibly 15,000 extra people, is not driven by local need but by central government. Apart from the strain on our local infrastructure, the increased cost of energy as we approach 2026 could well cause a net outflow of migrants and all these extra houses will no longer be required.

Birds Marsh and the Avon and Marden river valleys are home to herons, kingfishers, swans, ducks, water voles, buzzards, badgers, foxes, etc. The pollution and disturbance caused by this vast new housing estate will destroy their habitat and drive them away.

The land to the east of the flood plain acts as a huge sponge slowing down the run off of water into the Avon. Building on this land will speed up this run off and increase the risk of flooding in the town centre.

The new link road will restrict the access to Birds Marsh wood for both walkers and animals. The traffic pollution will ruin the environment and result in this amenity being severely damaged. The capital and maintenance cost of this road together with the necessary bridges will be a drain on our resources.

The Council should reconsider their preferred option and if they insist on building all these unwanted houses then build to the south of Chippenham where the road infrastructure already exists and the environmental impact will be lessened.'

John Palmer (Hardens Mead and Long Close Residents Association)

Peter Humphrey (Friends of Birds Marsh Committee)

Kim Stuckey (Tytherton Lucas Group)

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010

BUDGET 2010/11

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET DATED 11 FEBRUARY 2010

To consider the following recommendations of Cabinet dated 11 February 2010. Councillors are reminded to bring with them to the Council meeting, the Cabinet agenda for 11 February 2010 which includes the various budget reports. The page numbers referred to in these recommendations refer to the pages of the Cabinet agenda.

(1) Revenue Budget Proposals for 2010/11

- a. approval of the proposed budget detailed in Appendix 2 (pages 34 – 35 of Cabinet agenda), including the growth items Appendix 4 (page 38) and unavoidable commitments in Appendix 5 (pages 39 – 41), efficiency measures in Appendix 6 (pages 42 – 45) and Fees and Charges Income in Appendix 7 (pages 46 – 47).
- b. proposals for the use of the £212,000 headroom. (proposals on how to use this headroom would be presented to Council).
- c. approval of the proposed Council Tax increase of 2.3% (average) with a Band D equivalent of £1,222.43.

(2) Capital Programme Proposals 2010/11 to 2012/13

- a. approve the proposals for the Wiltshire Council Capital Programme for 2010-11 to 2012-13 as shown in Appendix B (page 62) .
- b. approve the use of additional borrowing of £20.617 million in 2010-11 and £53.164 million over the three years.

(3) Fees and Charges

To approve the fees and charges as included in the revenue budget proposals for 2010/11 (pages 72 – 73).

(4) Treasury Management Strategy

- a. adopt the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services;
- b. adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators (Appendix A – pages 82 – 87)
- c. adopt the Annual Investment Strategy (Appendix B – pages 88 – 93);
- d. delegate to the Chief Finance Officer the authority to vary the amount of borrowing and other long term liabilities within both the Treasury Indicators for the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary;
- e. authorise the Chief Finance Officer to agree the restructuring of existing long-term loans where savings are achievable or to enhance the long term portfolio;
- f. agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans and deposits; and
- g. agree that any long term surplus cash balances not required to cover borrowing are placed in authorised money-market funds, particularly where this is more cost effective than short term deposits and delegate to the Chief Finance Officer the authority to select such funds.

(5) Housing Revenue Account Budget and Rent Setting 2010/11

- a. The HRA Budget for revised 2009/2010 (revised) and 2010/2011 (original) be approved.
- b. Councillors approve the increase for dwelling rents in accordance with rent restructuring.
- c. Councillors approve the level of increase for garage rents at zero percent.
- d. Councillors approve the level of increase for service charges at a maximum of RPI and utility recharges as a maximum £1 per week.

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

11 February 2010

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Cabinet member: Councillor John Brady

Executive Summary

The Wiltshire Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a statutory document that sets out how the Council will involve the community when preparing planning policy and determining planning applications in Wiltshire. The SCI has been prepared in accordance with Regulations and national planning policy, and has been informed by a pre-draft consultation with statutory consultees.

This report informs the Cabinet of the Statement of Community Involvement, and recommends that it be approved and referred to Full Council for adoption.

Proposal

That the Cabinet:

- (i) Approves the content of the Wiltshire Council Statement of Community Involvement;
- (ii) Authorises the Service Director for Economy and Enterprise, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Planning and Housing, to make any incidental corrections to the document; and
- (iii) Recommends to Full Council on 23 February 2010 that the SCI should be formally adopted by the Council.

Reason for Proposal

To ensure that Wiltshire Council has a Statement of Community Involvement in place in order to provide a clear set of consultation procedures for Local Development Documents and planning applications across the county.

ALISTAIR CUNNINGHAM

Service Director, Economy and Enterprise

CABINET

11 February 2010

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the Wiltshire Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Background

2. The SCI describes how the Council will involve the community in planning for the future use of land in their area and how planning can achieve local, open, honest decision making in Wiltshire. It explains who Wiltshire Council will consult on planning matters, and how and when the community can become involved in the preparation of planning policy documents and the determination of planning applications. Once adopted, the procedures contained within the SCI must be followed for consultation on all Local Development Documents (LDDs) and all planning applications within Wiltshire.
3. The Local Government Transitional Regulations has allowed Wiltshire Council, as a new unitary authority, to operate without an SCI while a new one is prepared. This is to prevent confusion arising from different consultation criteria applying in different parts of Wiltshire. The SCIs which were adopted by the former district and county councils are therefore no longer in formal use.
4. The SCI is a statutory document, which the Council is required to prepare under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. As part of the process, Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended in 2008 and 2009) requires that Wiltshire Council should consult with certain bodies before preparing an SCI.
5. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) for Wiltshire, approved by the Implementation Executive in December 2008, sets out the timetable and documents that will be produced by Wiltshire Council to update planning policy within the county. The LDS includes a timetable for the preparation of a new SCI for Wiltshire, with a target date for finalising the SCI by June 2009. This timetable has since been amended on the Council's website, with a new target date for adoption of the SCI by the end of February 2010. It is necessary that a new SCI for Wiltshire is adopted as soon as possible, in order to provide a clear set of consultation procedures to be used across the county.

Main Considerations for the Council

6. The main considerations for the Council are to understand how the SCI has been prepared including details of the pre-draft consultation and the proposed content of the SCI. These are discussed below.
7. The content of the SCI has been prepared to reflect government guidance in Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12), which states the following:

An SCI should:

- *Explain clearly the process and methods for community involvement for different types of local development documents and for the different stages of plan preparation. This needs to include details of how the diverse sections of the community are engaged, in particular those groups which have been underrepresented in previous consultation exercises.*
 - *Identify which umbrella organisations and community groups need be involved at different stages of the planning process, with special consideration given to those groups not normally involved.*
 - *Explain the process and appropriate methods for effective community involvement in the determination of planning applications and where appropriate refer to Planning Performance Agreements.*
 - *Include details of the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) approach to pre-application discussions.*
 - *Include the LPAs approach to community involvement in planning obligations (S106 agreements).*
 - *Include information on how the SCI will be monitored, evaluated and scrutinised at the local level.*
 - *Include details of where community groups can get more information on the planning process, for example, from Planning Aid and other voluntary organisations.*
 - *Identify how landowner and developer interests will be engaged.*
- (p.12, PPS12, 2008)

8. The proposed SCI is attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. The SCI has been prepared in accordance with Regulations, which require that the Council carries out a pre-draft consultation to inform the content of the SCI. Details of the pre-draft consultation, which was undertaken between June and July 2009 are provided below in paragraphs 11 - 16.
9. In addition to the pre-draft consultation, the SCI has been informed by internal consultation with other Council directorates, in particular Development Services and Community Leadership and Governance, and has been approved by the LDF Board. This has provided an opportunity for other Wiltshire Council departments to contribute to the SCI, leading to a more corporate document reflecting the Wiltshire Council priority of 'open honest dialogue with the community'.

10. The SCI has also been informed by the Wiltshire 2026 consultation, which ran between 30 October and 31 December 2009. The response to the Wiltshire 2026 consultation will help inform the development of a Core Strategy for Wiltshire.

Pre-draft consultation

11. The aim of the pre-draft consultation was to collect views from statutory consultation bodies, as to the form and content of the new Wiltshire Council SCI. At this stage, since the former district and county SCIs had already been the subject of consultation exercises, it was not considered appropriate to undertake wider public consultation. Instead, a review of the former district and county SCIs was carried out to identify best practice and inform the development of the new Wiltshire Council SCI.
12. As part of the pre-draft consultation, a letter was sent to all statutory consultees, explaining that Wiltshire Council was intending to prepare a new SCI. This invited comment as to what the new SCI should contain with responses requested by 19 June 2009. A number of consultees sought further information and an extension of the consultation period. In response to this request, a second letter was circulated. This second letter included a link to the former district and county SCIs, to give an indication as to what an SCI might include and inform consultees of an extended deadline for responses of 3 July. The consultation therefore ran for a total of 5 weeks. However, responses received after the extended deadline have also been taken into account.
13. In line with the list of statutory consultees for the pre-draft consultation on the SCI, as set out in Regulation 26, the following bodies were contacted as part of the consultation:
 - Town and parish councils within or adjacent to Wiltshire.
 - Neighbouring local planning authorities and county councils.
 - Police authorities operating within or adjacent to Wiltshire.
 - The regional planning body for the South West.
14. A total of 68 responses were received, including responses from 46 town and parish councils, from Wiltshire Police Authority, and from two neighbouring county councils (some of these bodies responded more than once). A number of responses were received from other groups and individuals. These included five responses from community area partnerships (or similar bodies), a response from the umbrella organisation for community area partnerships in Wiltshire (WFCAP), and seven responses from other groups or individuals. All of the comments received have been taken into account during the preparation of the Wiltshire Council SCI.
15. Key points from the consultation responses included that the SCI should be written in plain English, and that it should include details about what happens to consultation responses and how these are used when

making decisions. It was stated that the SCI should include information about community area boards and community area partnerships. The consultation also highlighted the fact that town and parish councils wish to remain involved in planning processes despite the current focus on area boards. Comments were received which related to the methods of community involvement to be used, and appropriate timescales for consultation. In addition, a number of comments related specifically to the procedures for consultation on planning applications.

16. Further details of the pre-draft consultation, including a schedule of each of the comments received and the Council's response to these, is provided in the 'Pre-draft consultation report' which is attached as **Appendix 2**. Due to the length of this document, Appendix 2 is available from the Council's website http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire_statement_of_community_involvement_pre-draft_consultation_report_january_2010.pdf or on request from Democratic Services on 01225 713018 or committee@wiltshire.gov.uk

Content of the SCI

17. The SCI explains in detail the Council's policy for engaging the community in the preparation of the Wiltshire Local Development Framework (LDF) and in the consideration of planning applications. The principles in the SCI will also guide consultation on the Local Transport Plan (LTP), although the processes for consultation on the LTP are different to those for the LDF. In drafting the SCI, which is a statutory document, Officers have sought to balance the need for clarity in order to make it accessible to the community and meet the requirements of the Regulations.

18. The content of the SCI can be summarised as follows:

Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the SCI and the planning system, and explains the way in which planning is delivered in Wiltshire through the spatial planning and development services.

Chapter 2 contains details of the Wiltshire community to identify who Wiltshire Council will consult on planning matters. This includes lists of specific consultation bodies, and the groups which form the local and extended communities. This chapter explains how Wiltshire Council will seek to involve groups which have traditionally been under-represented in the planning process. The approach to be taken to engage with landowners, infrastructure providers and developers is set out. Links with existing community initiatives and the LTP are also explained.

Chapter 3 introduces the methods of consultation which Wiltshire Council will use and how these will be resourced. This includes an introduction to the Limehouse software for electronic consultation.

Details of the consultation methods to be used are presented in appendix 1.

Chapter 4 explains how and when the community can become involved in the production of planning policy documents in Wiltshire. It explains the minimum legal requirements for consultation, and the steps that the Council will take to meet and exceed these requirements. This chapter includes details of the consultation to be undertaken during the preparation of Development Plan Documents (DPDs), Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA). A commitment is made that consultation periods for DPDs will follow the guidelines set out in the Wiltshire Compact where practicable. Information is also included about other supplementary documents, such as village design statements, town and parish plans, and conservation area appraisals and management plans, and how these can be incorporated within the LDF.

Chapter 5 explains how and when the community can become involved in the determination of planning applications in Wiltshire. This includes information about the public involvement to be undertaken on major development applications, and the Council's approach to pre-application discussions and planning obligations.

Chapter 6 outlines how Wiltshire Council will monitor the success of consultation initiatives, and sets out how and when the Council will review the SCI.

In addition to the above, the SCI includes a glossary of terms and contact details for further information about the Wiltshire LDF and planning applications within the county.

19. The content of the SCI is considered to fulfil the requirements of PPS12, as set out in paragraph 7 above. The SCI also responds to the issues raised during the pre-draft consultation exercise, and reflects the outcomes of internal consultation. Furthermore, it integrates Wiltshire Council's community governance arrangements into the planning policy preparation process.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

20. There are no environmental implications for the Council involved in adopting the SCI.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

21. The aim of the SCI is to allow opportunities for involvement in the planning process by all sections of the community. The SCI includes details as to how the Council will seek to engage with 'hard to reach'

groups which have traditionally been under-represented in the planning process.

Risk Assessment and Options Considered

22. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare an SCI. The original target date for adoption of the SCI has passed. If the Council decides not to adopt the SCI there will be further delay to the production of a set of clear consultation procedures to be used across Wiltshire.

Financial Implications

23. The cost of preparing the SCI has been met through existing budgets. There will be financial implications associated with the delivery of community involvement activities and consultation as set out in the SCI. These costs will need to be met from existing and future budgets. Care has been taken to ensure that the level of consultation proposed in the SCI is proportionate to the document to be consulted on and that the Council does not incur unreasonable costs in the process.

Legal Implications

24. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare an SCI under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
25. There are statutory requirements for consultation on LDDs and planning applications which the Council has to meet. However, the SCI goes beyond these minimum requirements, and includes a commitment that the spatial planning and development services will endeavour to comply with the consultation guidelines set out by the Wiltshire Compact where practicable. The Secretary of State has various broad powers of intervention where local authorities do not comply with their duties related to the LDF process.

Conclusion

26. The Wiltshire Council SCI has been prepared in accordance with the regulations and reflects policy contained within PPS12. Internal consultation has been undertaken during the process of preparing the SCI. A pre-draft consultation has been undertaken with statutory consultees, and the issues raised in this consultation have been taken into account in the preparation of the SCI. The SCI has also been informed by the methods used for the Wiltshire 2026 consultation, which ran between 30 October and 31 December 2009.
27. Wiltshire Council does not currently have an SCI in place. The former district and county council SCIs are no longer being used for the

preparation of LDDs or during the determination of planning applications by Wiltshire Council. The Council has a statutory duty to prepare an SCI, and the LDS target date for adoption of an SCI has passed. There is therefore a need for a new Wiltshire Council SCI to provide a clear set of consultation procedures to be used across the county.

28. It is recommended that the Cabinet approves the content of the proposed SCI and agrees to refer the SCI to Full Council on 23 February 2010, with a recommendation that the Council adopts the document. Once adopted, the procedures in the SCI must be followed for consultation on all LDDs and all planning applications within Wiltshire.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed SCI (attached)

Appendix 2 – Consultation responses

(available from the Council's website

http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire_statement_of_community_involvement_pre-draft_consultation_report_january_2010.pdf or on request from Democratic Services on 01225 713018 or committee@wiltshire.gov.uk

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN OSBORN
TROWBRIDGE LAMBROK DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR TOBY STURGIS,
CABINET MEMBER FOR WASTE, PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT**

Question 1

May I please be informed as to Wiltshire Council's intention for the use of the old Innox Hall site, off Innox Road, Trowbridge? This site is in the ownership of Wiltshire Council and is zoned for community use.

Until recently it was expected that this would be the location for the successful Trowbridge Playbuilder bid. However I now understand that this is to take up green space in the adjacent Stallard Park.

A full update would be appreciated.

**TO COUNCILLOR LIONEL GRUNDY,
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Question 2

Trowbridge Town Council has asked me to raise a question concerning Wiltshire Council Members' Briefing No. 23.

Why were Trowbridge Town Council and Trowbridge Youth Council not consulted on this matter?

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF OSBORN
TROWBRIDGE GROVE DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR JANE SCOTT
LEADER OF COUNCIL**

Question 1

Please may the constitutional significance and implications of Members' Briefings be explained to the Council?

Can Members' Briefings be used as an instrument of decision making?

There is a particular concern that Members' Briefings, unlike Cabinet decisions and decisions delegated to Cabinet Members, do not allow for the possibility of Call In.

By what criteria is it determined that a Members Briefing is used, as opposed to a Cabinet decision or a Cabinet Member delegated decision, to inform councillors of decision making?

In the interests of clarity and transparency please may this whole matter be considered by the Standards Committee and a report brought back to Full Council on 18th May 2010?

Question 2

I refer to Councillors' Briefing Note No. 23, which concerns a proposed reallocation of Youth Service staffing.

In the fourth paragraph on page 2 of this briefing, members are informed that these considerations will be discussed at Community Area Boards.

In the event that an Area Board rejects these proposals, what would be the constitutional implication?

When an executive decision is finally made regarding the reallocation of staffing, can this Council be assured that the said decision will be issued in an accountable and transparent manner? That is, in the form of a Cabinet decision or a delegated decision by a Cabinet member.

Consequently the decision will constitutionally be subject to the due process of Scrutiny.

TO COUNCILLOR LIONEL GRUNDY
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Question 3

I refer to Members' Briefing No. 23 and the table on page 3 outlining Youth Work Staffing Allocations for Community Areas 2010/2011.

In order that members have a better understanding of the extent and location of the changes involved please can the Council be informed as to the Youth Work Staffing Allocations per Community Area for the current financial year – 2009/2010?

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR ERNIE CLARK
HILPERTON DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR JOHN BRADY
CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND
HOUSING**

Question 1

The only area of Wiltshire Council to still have council housing is Salisbury. However, I now understand that Wiltshire Council intends to embark on a small-scale council house building project in the Trowbridge area. What is the logic behind this bearing in mind:

- a) the houses will be nowhere near existing stock,
- b) the Trowbridge area is already well served by several RSLs, and
- c) the recent Comprehensive Area Assessment found that the WC council house service is not being operated in a cost-effective manner? Would time not be better spent getting our house in order, if you'll excuse the pun?

Question 2

In the first consultation document for the Local Development Framework, Hilpertont seems to have been 'de-listed' as a large village. How many other villages in Wiltshire have also been deemed to no longer exist by this document?

Question 3

With the advent of one council and SAP, the public were constantly promised that substantial savings would result. However, the proposed WC council tax increase is on a par with many other councils. What has happened to these much-vaunted savings?

Question 4

A constituent has an interest in the WC proposal to upgrade its benefit database as he assists one of his relatives who is a Trowbridge resident in sheltered accommodation and receiving both housing and council tax benefit.

He asks: What measures are being taken to ensure that WC does not end up with an overpriced and unworkable system, like so many modern database systems seem to end up? Is WC proposing to buy a system that has already been purchased by other councils and demonstrated to work properly or is it looking for a brand new development which is certain to have inbuilt and hitherto undiscovered risks? My constituent is rightly concerned that vulnerable people do not end up carrying the can for slack Council IT policy.

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR TREVOR CARBIN
HOLT AND STAVERTON DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR JANE SCOTT
LEADER OF COUNCIL**

Question 1

What is the projected annual cost of the production (including officer time), printing and distribution of 'Your Wiltshire Magazine'?

Is there a policy on acceptance and cost of advertising which takes into account the need to protect local newspapers from unfair competition?

What proportion of recycled paper is used in the production of the magazine?

Question 2

Under the European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive large public buildings have to display energy efficiency certificates. In the initial assessment (Oct 2008) no Wiltshire Council buildings scored the top 'A' grade and the distribution was skewed towards the bad end of the spectrum. The legislation requires the publication of annual updates.

Is more recent data on the performance of Wiltshire Council buildings available?

Will the leader undertake to publish energy efficiency ratings on the council's website so the public can see if energy and money are being wasted or conserved?

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COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR STEVE OLDRIEVE
TROWBRIDGE PAXCROFT DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR LIONEL GRUNDY
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Question 1

Can you confirm that WC have received a request from Bellefield School, Trowbridge to be exempted from the tendering process for Childs Centre provision.

If so how will this be dealt with by the Council.(who makes a decision on this?).

Question 2

In previous discussions with Officers I was given an assurance that school's wishing to take part in the tendering process would be given support to make applications. I am not sure this is happening, could you please confirm in detail, what arrangements are in place to assist governing bodies to undertake this exercise.

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PACKARD
CHIPPENHAM PEWSHAM DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR FLEUR DE RHE PHILIPPE
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND RISK**

Question 1

What will be the annual cost to the revenue budget of the proposed £45 million of borrowing for Workplace Transformation ?

Question 2

How much borrowing is planned to meet the £24 million Workplace Transformation expenditure scheduled for 2010-11 and what is the impact of the latter on the revenue budget ?

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

23 FEBRUARY 2010

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS CASWILL
CHIPPENHAM MONKTON DIVISION

TO COUNCILLOR JANE SCOTT
LEADER OF COUNCIL

Question 1

What was the rationale for locating Community Safety in the Department of Health and Wellbeing, rather than in Neighbourhoods and Planning?

TO COUNCILLOR KEITH HUMPHRIES
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Question 2

- (a) How many professionally trained environmental health officers were employed by the four Wiltshire District Councils at the end of 2009, prior to the change to a unitary council?
- (b) How many professionally trained environmental health officer posts will be on the Wiltshire Council 2010-11 complement, after the cutting of three posts which is planned in this year's budget proposals (page 44)?

TO COUNCILLOR JOHN NOEKEN
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Question 3

- (a) How many posts are to be cut from the Council's Democratic Services complement in the £46000 a year reduction being planned in this year's budget proposals (p.45)?
- (b) Will this involve the loss of a post or posts which are currently filled?
- (c) Does this involve any reduction at all in the support for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny work?
- (d) What services to backbench members are to be reduced, or removed?

TO COUNCILLOR DICK TONGE
CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Question 4

- (a) What has been the cost of introducing the recent parking restrictions in Ivy Road in Chippenham?
- (b) What led him and the Council's officers to think that these changes were needed?
- (c) How many residents made representations to the Council that additional parking restrictions were needed, before the initial recommendations were published?
- (d) Does he accept that the real cost of these changes is now being borne by the majority of residents, who have lost parking spaces for no apparent benefit?

Question 5

- (a) When the parking restrictions were introduced in Esmead in Monkton Park in Chippenham, concerns were expressed about the likely displacement of parking by users of the train station into Cocklebury Road, one of the busiest roads in the area. Is he aware that this displacement is occurring daily, causing considerable difficulties to the residents of Cocklebury Road?
- (b) Will he take this chance to restate the commitments made at that time to an early review of these knock-on effects, and give a timetable for that review?
- (c) Given the continuing parking problems in Chippenham, will he agree to start the much needed process of an overall review of parking options, including a fresh look at residents' parking schemes?

Question 6

- (a) Is he aware that in vetoing any further work on engineering solutions for the anti-social behaviour problems in the Bath Road car park in Chippenham, he is blocking the investigation of solutions requested by a large majority of members of the Chippenham and Villages Area Board?
- (b) What evidence did he consider in coming to the conclusions that the situation here is "comparable to many other car parks in Wiltshire", and not a high priority?
- (c) Which car parks did he use to make this comparison?
- (d) Why did he overlook the commitment made at the Area Board to involve local residents in a working group which would take forward possible solutions?

TO COUNCILLOR JOHN THOMSON
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Question 7

Where in the Area Board Handbook or other published guidelines does it specify that Area Board requests for action by officers must be referred to a Cabinet member to establish that the action can be taken?

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010**

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR BRIAN DALTON
SALISBURY HARNHAM DIVISION**

**TO COUNCILLOR DICK TONGE
CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

Question 1

How much has parking charges in the former Salisbury District Council (SDC) area generated for Wiltshire council (WC) since April 1st 2009? Broken down into on-street and off-street income?

Question 2

How much money has been raised in parking fines in the Salisbury City (boundary area) since April 1st 2009? Broken down into fines from each car park?

Question 3

How much has been raised from yellow lines/obstruction fines, which are more serious and the fine is more severe; again within the City boundary?

Question 4

The same question as 2 & 3 above, but outside the City Boundary and within the former SDC area.

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WILTSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING held at POLICE HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, DEVIZES on THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2009

PRESENT: Mr C Hoare (Chairman), Mr R Bluh, Mr R Britton, Mr C Caswill, Mr R Fisher, Mr B Fishlock, Mr B Ford, Ms J Hillyer, Mr C Humphries, Mr A Johns, Mr A Macpherson, Mrs G Mortimer, Mr R Rogers, Mr P Sample, Mrs C Soden, Mrs G Stafford, Ms G Tawiah

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Constable B Moore, DCC D Ainsworth, A/ACC M Veale, Mr M Milton, Mr K Kilgallen, Mr M Prince and Miss S Kyte

1. **Membership** The Chief Executive reported the Membership as follows:

Local Authority Members

Conservative

Mr R Bluh

Mr R Britton

Mr R Fisher

Mr B Ford

Mr C Humphries

Mrs C Soden

Labour

Mr R Rogers

Liberal Democrat

Mr C Caswill

Mr P Sample

Independent Members

Mr B Fishlock

Mr C Hoare

Ms J Hillyer

Mr A Johns

Mr A Macpherson

Mrs G Mortimer

Mrs G Stafford

Ms G Tawiah

2. **Apologies** There were no apologies for absence.

3. **Public Questions** There were none.

4. **Declarations of Interest** There was none.

5. **Chairman's Announcements**

Appointment of New Independent Member

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Mortimer to her first full Authority meeting as a Member since her appointment began on 15th October 2009.

Appointment of Acting Assistant Chief Constable and other Police Appointments

The Chairman congratulated Acting Assistant Chief Constable Mike Veale on his appointment to the role and welcomed him to the meeting. Chief Superintendent Julian Kirby had been successful in the recent Police National Assessment Centre (PNAC) course and would now go forward to the Strategic Command Course.

As a result, Temporary Chief Superintendent Steven Hedley had been appointed as Divisional Commander for County Division, Chief Superintendent James Vaughan had moved to Head of Protective Services, and Paul Williams had been appointed as Temporary Chief Superintendent for Citizen Focus. On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman congratulated those Officers concerned and wished them well in their new roles.

Deaths in Service

The Chairman reported the deaths in service of Pc Bill Brown who was attached to the Roads Policing Unit, and police staff member Geoff Large, who was a member of the IT Department.

170th Anniversary Service

The recently held service at Salisbury Cathedral to celebrate 170 years of the Wiltshire Police service had been a major success for which the Force were to be congratulated.

6. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting (10th September 2009)**

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note that Mrs Stafford was due to attend the Flu Pandemic Exercise on 16th September 2009.*
 - 2) *With the above amendment, the minutes were approved and it was agreed that the Chairman may sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2009.*

7. **WPA Risk Register** A report by the Chief Executive had been circulated.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To approve the proposals in terms of the management of risks as set out in Paragraph 2 of the report.*
 - 2) *To ask the Audit and Risk Committee to consider further the adoption of the scoring mechanism used by the Force for its risk register.*
 - 3) *To consider the risks owned by the full Authority at its meeting in February.*

8. **Conferences and Meetings Attended by Members since the Previous Meeting, and Future Conferences / Seminars**

Mr Ford reported that he had attended a Neighbourhood Policing Workshop (11th November 2009) run by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the Association of Police Authorities (APA). A report on this event had been circulated.

Mrs Stafford stated that she had attended Operation Coldplay (16th September 2009) which was a partner agency event (Fire, Primary Care Trust, and Local Authorities were also in attendance) which reviewed the way the Force and others would maintain business continuity should the number of swine flu cases continue to rise. Mrs Stafford had also attended a 'Countering the Crooks' conference (9th October 2009) which focussed on the vulnerable members of the community and how they became victims of crime. Partner agencies were also in attendance and looked at what could be done through partnership working to prevent these incidents from occurring.

Ms Tawiah had recently attended the NPIA / APA Equality Conference (1st October 2009) which was a useful event providing a number of areas for consideration in Ms Tawiah's lead member role for Inclusivity. The APA had hosted a useful event on Human Rights (10th November 2009) which looked at how guidance produced by the APA could be implemented.

Mr Macpherson reported that he and Mr Britton had recently attended a conference on Tackling Crime (20th October 2009) the content of which proved to be disappointing. Mr Macpherson had also recently met with Dr Andrew Murrison MP, Anne Snelgrove MP, and Michael Wills MP, to discuss force performance. The one overwhelming theme which had arisen from these meetings was that neighbourhood policing appeared to be working.

The Chairman attended the national APA Conference (26th November 2009) whose speakers included Chris Grayling MP (Shadow Home Secretary), David Hanson MP (Policing Minister), Chris Huhne MP (Liberal Democrat Home Affairs Spokesman), Denis O'Connor (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies), and Sir Hugh Orde (ACPO President). The main focus of the speeches centred around Police Authorities, and the role and the make up of them.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the content of the report by Mr Ford.*
 - 2) *To note the updates provided by Mrs Stafford, Ms Tawiah, Mr Macpherson, and the Chairman.*

9. **Minutes of Meetings** The minutes of the following meetings were circulated:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date (2008)</u>
Audit and Risk	21 st September 12 th October
Resources	23 rd September 4 th November
Standards	29 th September
Consultation and Public Focus	12 th October
Performance	4 th November
Human Resources and Professional Standards (HRPS)	5 th November

As the Chairman of the HRPS Committee, Ms Hillyer reported that at the last meeting, HRPS Members had agreed that the business of how the Committee was managed should be discussed at the December Strategy, Direction and Progress meeting. In order so that the issue were not delayed further, Ms Hillyer and Mr Johns had met with the Chairman and the Chief Executive to discuss this matter. The outcome was a proposal to split the Committee and to have a Human Resources Committee and a new Professional Standards Committee. Proposed terms of reference for the Professional Standards Committee had been circulated to Members.

- Resolved:
- 1) *To note the above minutes.*
 - 2) *To note that the next neighbourhood policing assessment would be conducted in the New Year.*
 - 3) *That the proposed Terms of Reference for the Professional Standards Committee would be distributed to the Force for comment and discussed further at the Strategy, Direction and Progress meeting on 10th December 2009.*

10. **Chief Constable's Performance Report 2009-10** A report by the Chief Constable covering the period 1st April to 31st October 2009 had been circulated.

The Chief Constable reported that:

- Of the 20 performance targets included in the Policing Plan, 15 were meeting or exceeding target, 4 were not achieving target, and 1 target was failing.
- Of those areas meeting or exceeding target:
 - Serious acquisitive crime – performance against Most Similar Forces (MSF) was good;
 - Satisfaction (overall satisfaction, satisfaction with follow up, and BME : White satisfaction gap) – all forces are looking to improve in this area hence performance across this area was improving across the whole of the MSF. Wiltshire were currently 4-5% points behind first position;
 - Confidence target – during the first quarter the Force was positioned first in its MSF;
 - Sickness absence – a lot of work has been put into improving performance in this area. The Force was confident that the year end target would be achieved.
- Of those areas not achieving target:
 - Violent crime – currently below target but still highly positioned in MSF at a time when most areas are facing an increase in violent crime;
 - Contacting Neighbourhood Policing Team – currently below the target of 55%. Police Authority Members are engaged in this process via the PACT (Police and Communities Together) process.
- The one area where the Force were failing to meet target was collaboration and percentage of identified efficiencies released. The Chief Constable reported that he and the Chairman were significantly engaged in the collaboration debate with regional forces and authorities.

The Chief Constable also spoke about the following:

- Death of Adrian Cooksey
Two men were charged with the murder of Mr Cooksey and acquitted. Acting Assistant Chief Constable Veale had asked for Wiltshire's investigation into this to be reviewed by an outside Force to ensure that everything that could have been done had been done. This would be managed by Avon and Somerset Constabulary.
- Kate Walsh Inquest
Vulnerable young adult found deceased in 2004 whose death was believed to have been from a heroin overdose. The inquest referred to weaknesses within the public sector to share information and that there was little communication between those local agencies which had contact with Ms Walsh.
- Murder of Antonietta Guarino
One man has been found guilty of murder and obstructing the coroner and sentenced to 21 years, and another man found guilty of obstructing the coroner and sentenced to 6 years in a young offenders' institute.
- Michael Spencer Inquest
The inquest commenced on 1st December 2009. Those members of staff involved in the incident had already been disciplined.

- Deaths in Service

The Chief Constable reported that the families of Pc Brown and Mr Large had both received reassurance from the support provided to them by the Force and the Authority.

- 170th Celebrations

The final part of the 170th celebrations would be the unveiling of a number of stained glass windows in the Bay Window. Funds had been raised by the Force and retired officers. The stained glass windows were being installed in memory of those Wiltshire officers who had died whilst on duty. There would be a small ceremony to commemorate this.

Members were then invited by the Chairman to comment or ask questions of the Chief Constable on his report.

- Mr Bluh asked that the data provided for the Force as a whole in the attachment to the report, could be reproduced based on the two divisions. He also stated that representations had recently been made to him about areas of Swindon that were felt to be 'unsafe' due to drunkenness and loutish behaviour and asked whether enough was being done through the licensing laws. The Deputy Chief Constable reported that the breakdown of information for the two Divisions is provided to an internal Force meeting on a regular basis and that he would discuss this further with Mr Bluh outside of the meeting. The Chief Constable stated that the Force was becoming aware of the evening economy spreading throughout the day. The Force would be re-establishing a Violence Management Board to consider these types of issue and to also be mindful of, and prepare for, the football World Cup to be held in June and July 2010.

Mr Macpherson responded to the Chief Constable's Performance report as follows:

- That some of the targets have been reviewed and raised, for example Satisfaction with Follow-Up was raised by 3% points to 71%;
- The Force and Authority will shortly be writing the Policing Plan 2010 and will need to ensure that it properly reflects those areas that are most important to the public.

Resolved: 1) *To note the content of the Chief Constable's report.*

2) *For the Deputy Chief Constable to discuss the breakdown of information per Division with Mr Bluh outside of the meeting.*

3) *To note the comments by Mr Macpherson.*

11. **Interim Treasury Management Report** A report by the Treasurer covering the period 1st April to 30th September 2009 had been circulated.

Resolved: 1) *To note the half year return from Investec is 0.96%.*

2) *To note the expected total return for 2009-10 of £0.300m.*

12. **Wiltshire Police Authority Inspection** The Chairman stated that the draft report is due to be sent to the Authority on 22nd December 2009 with the final report being published on 4th February 2010.

Resolved: *To note the update provided by the Chairman.*

13. **Comprehensive Area Assessments** The Chairman reported that embargoed copies of the Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAAs) for Wiltshire and Swindon had been received and that these would be discussed further at the forthcoming Audit and Risk meeting on 7th December 2009.

Resolved: *To note the update provided by the Chairman.*

14. **Vision Wiltshire** The Chief Constable reminded Members that this was a strategy for securing at least £5.6m in savings over the next three financial years. Senior management and Staff Associations were engaged with this with Swindon Borough Council providing assistance and advice to the Force over the shaping of the strategy. Chief Officer Roadshows would commence in January 2010 which would provide an opportunity to inform and communicate this strategy to all staff.

A Regional Chiefs and Chairs meeting would be taking place later in the month, the outcome of which would provide a more informed picture with regard to those within the region who would sign up to a Joint Committee.

Resolved: *To note the update provided.*

15. **Local Resolution of Crime** A report by the Chief Executive, incorporating the findings of the Authority's review panel, had been circulated.

Resolved: *For the matter to be discussed further with the Force, once they had had an opportunity to consider the findings, and to discuss how the matter is progressed along with the involvement of partner agencies.*

16. **Police Authority Joint Committee** As discussed at Agenda Item 14.

17. **Dates of Police Authority Meetings in 2009 and 2010**

2010	2011
11 th February	10 th February
10 th June	16 th June
16 th September	22 nd September
2 nd December	8 th December

18. **Urgent Items** There were no urgent items.

19. **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved: *In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in Item 20 below because it is likely that if a member of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.*

20. **Confidential Minutes of Meetings** The confidential minutes of the following meetings were circulated:

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date (2009)</u>
Resources	23 rd September

Resolved: *To note the above minutes.*

(Duration of Meeting: 10.30am to 12.55pm)

WILTSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

REPORT BY CAROLE SODEN

Wiltshire Police Performance – County Division

Wiltshire County Division has maintained good performance in reducing crime and securing detections. It is in top quartile position for key crime categories in comparison to its most similar policing divisions. Latest iQuanta comparative positions and differences for key crime types in the last twelve months, January to December 2009, are given below.

The Division is achieving top quartile position for the majority of crime categories over the last year. Good performance includes a 3% reduction in violent crime and 1st place position for violent crime detections, a 10% reduction in serious acquisitive crime (1st place), within which vehicle crime has fallen by 17% (1st place), and 7% reduction in criminal damage.

There are some areas where performance can be improved and where the County Division is giving priority. These include some crime detection rates which are in part influenced by seasonal detection trends. A higher volume of domestic burglaries this year is attributable to increases seen during quarter three. Final quarter activity is underway to ensure year end targets are achieved in these areas and this will be monitored closely by the Police Authority.

<u>Priority Crime Types</u>	MSBCU Rank (out of 15)*	Comparison to Jan – Dec 2008
Violent Crime	2 nd (2 nd)	-3% (134 fewer crimes)
Violent Crime Detections	1 st (1 st)	-5% (147 fewer detections)
Serious Acquisitive Crime	1 st	-10% (329 fewer crimes)
Serious Acquisitive Crime Detections	3 rd	-12% (61 fewer detections)
- Vehicle Crime	1 st (2 nd)	-17% (389 fewer crimes)
- Vehicle Crime Detections	3 rd (1 st)	-31% (99 fewer detections)
- Domestic Burglary	4 th (2 nd)	+7% (63 more crimes)
- Domestic Burglary Detections	3 rd (7 th)	+27% (43 more detections)
- Robbery	2 nd	-3% (3 fewer crimes)
- Robbery Detections	5 th	-16% (5 fewer detections)
Criminal Damage	3 rd	-7% (435 fewer crimes)

All Crime	2 nd (1 st)	-3% (732 fewer crimes)
Overall Sanction Detections	2 nd (1 st)	+1% (65 more detections)

*iQuanta position in December 2008 shown in brackets where available

User Satisfaction (Victims of Crime)

Comparison with Most Similar BCU's – 12 months ending 30th Sept 2009			
Measure	Wiltshire % Satisfied	MSBCU Av. % Satisfied.	Wiltshire County BCU Position (Out of 15)
KDI 1a Ease of Contacting the Police	91.0%	93.6%	13th - no change
KDI 1b Actions taken by the Police	81.5%	82.7%	10th - down from 9th
KDI 1c Follow up / Keeping victim Informed (Target 71%)	72.8%	73.7%	8th - up from 9th
KDI 1d Treatment by the Police	91.9%	94.0%	15th - down from 14th
SPI 1.1 Overall experience of the Police (Target 83%)	84.6%	85.2%	9th - up from 11th

Latest Wiltshire County Performance Oct – Dec 2009 (BCU Comparison N/A)	
Measure	Wiltshire % Satisfied
KDI 1a Ease of Contacting the Police	95.3%
KDI 1b Actions taken by the Police	80.1%
KDI 1c Follow up / Keeping victim Informed (Target 71%)	70.7%
KDI 1d Treatment by the Police	92.2%
SPI 1.1 Overall experience of the Police (Target 83%)	84.8%

Key
Achieving/Beating Our Target or MSBCU Average
Close To Our Target or MSBCU Average
Under Our Target or MSBCU Average

NPT Abstraction Rates

The Policing Pledge sets a target of a minimum of **80%** for the time spent by NPT staff on their respective areas. County Division has consistently achieved this target since April 2009 and the figures for December meet the target once again:

- **Community Beat Managers – 87.4%** (Ave monthly performance April - Dec 85%)
- **PCSO's – 92%** (Ave monthly performance April - Dec 92%)

OTHER WPA NEWS

Assessment of Neighbourhood Engagement by Neighbourhood Policing Teams

WPA will this month be contacting community leaders, including all Councillors, with regard to the assessment of neighbourhood policing in community areas. The assessment will be conducted via a questionnaire to which community leaders will be invited to respond. If Councillors have any queries on the assessment or questionnaire, they are asked to contact the Secretariat on 01308 734022, or via email (police.authority@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk).

Budget 2010

WPA will be considering the budget for 2010-11 at its meeting on 11th February 2010. The Chief Constable is recommending a budget of £108.398m which represents a precept increase of 3.4% (£157.77 for Band D properties). The relevant papers are available on the public meetings section of the Authority's website (www.wiltshire-pa.gov.uk).

PCSO Powers

At a recent meeting WPA Members considered on Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Powers. A copy of the paper can be found on the public meetings section of the Authority's website. The paper lists the current powers that are delegated to Wiltshire PCSOs which include:

- Power to issue Fixed Penalty Notice for littering, cycling on a footpath and offences under dog control orders.
- Power to issue Penalty Notices for Disorder for specified offences. (Excluding S.5 Power Of Arrest, Drunk in Highway, Drunk & Disorderly)
- Powers of a constable relating to alcohol consumption in public places
- Powers of a constable relating to the confiscation of alcohol
- Power to seize anything that a constable in uniform has a duty to seize under the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (seizure of tobacco etc. from young persons), and to dispose of same
- Power to seize drugs and require name and address for possession of drugs under Police Reform Act 2002
- Power to remove abandoned vehicles
- Power to disperse groups and remove young persons to place of residence

Councillors may find this informative.

Police Authority Meetings

11th February 2010

10th June 2010

16th September 2010

2nd December 2010

Carole Soden, Vice-Chairman, Wiltshire Police Authority

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**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2009**

Present : Councillors Brigadier R Hall (Chairman), M Bawden, P A Brown (until the end of the business in minute no.54), P Davis, C Devine, Mrs M Groom, D Montaut, J Osborn, G Payne, D Wren.

41 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2009 were confirmed and signed.

42 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H R Marshall, N Martin and C Newbury.

43 Members' Interests

Councillors Brigadier Hall and Wren each declared a personal interest in the business discussed under minute nos.49 & 58 by reason of their positions as Alternate Director and Director respectively of South West Fire Control Limited. The Clerk to the Authority also declared an interest in the same items of business because of his position as Company Secretary of the Company.

44 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Assistant Chief Fire Officer Chris Hartrick who was attending his first Fire Authority meeting.

The Chairman informed members of appointments made by the Local Government Association which reflected this Authority's influence within the Association. Councillor Newbury had been appointed a Deputy Chairman of the Fire Services Management Committee, which had in turn appointed him as its representative on the Fire Services College Strategic Stakeholder Board and the CLP Sub-Group for Fire. Councillor Bawden had been appointed to the Fire Forum; and the Chairman himself had been asked to serve on the Centre for Leadership Stakeholder Panel/Programme Board.

The Chairman reported that Wiltshire FRS had played a leading role as a pilot service in developing the new Equality and Diversity Framework, which had been developed in partnership with the Improvement & Development Agency and launched nationally on 7 December.

The Chairman informed members that four retained firefighters based at Mere had received commendations from the Chief Executive of the Great Western Ambulance for their efforts as co-responders in trying to save a man's life, and said that the Ambulance Service was very appreciative of the level of assistance provided by retained firefighters in the rural communities in Wiltshire and Swindon.

The Chairman mentioned the efforts of two firefighters, Stuart Hillier and Dan Cooke, who had assisted in the international emergency response following the earthquake in Indonesia, the former as part of the search and rescue organisation RAPID UK in Indonesia and the latter in the operations room of the UK headquarters.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the recently-appointed Secretary of the local branch of the FBU introduced himself and the Branch Chairman who were attending the meeting as members of the public.

Finally, the Chairman informed members that Mrs Marian Wheeler would be retiring at the end of January. Mrs Wheeler had been the minute-taker at Authority meetings for nine years. The Chairman thanked her for her service and wished her well.

45 Audit Commission CAA Report

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, and the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment for the Authority,

Resolved :

- (a) *To note with pleasure the outcome of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, i.e. that the Authority 'performs well';*
- (b) *To thank officers and staff for their work in achieving this result;*
- (c) *To ask officers to draw up an action plan for the Programme & Scrutiny Board to consider areas highlighted in the Comprehensive Area Assessment as needing improvement.*

46 Programme & Scrutiny Board

A report of the meeting of the Programme & Scrutiny Board held on 19 November 2009 was received.

On considering the recommendations of the Board contained in the report,

Resolved :

- (a) *To appoint the following additional deputy members of workstreams :*
 - Communities : Cllr Mrs M Groom*
 - Finance & Resources : Cllr M Bawden*
 - People : Cllr C Newbury*
- (b) *To note that members would be invited to an Equality & Diversity Seminar focusing on issues relevant to the Fire & Rescue Service, to be held on 1 March;*
- (c) *To note that a Budget Seminar for members had been arranged for 26 January.*

47 Finance Review Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Review Committee held on 22 September 2009 were received.

48 Members' Allowances

On considering a paper by the Clerk,

Resolved :

To amend the Scheme of Members' Allowances as follows :

- (a) Paragraph 15 (6) to read : 'attendance at outside conferences, courses, seminars and like meetings where a member's attendance has been properly authorised in accordance with the Authority's approved procedure for such authorisations;'
- (b) Paragraph 16 to read : 'The amounts of [travelling and subsistence] allowances paid by the Authority are set out in the Schedule [of the Scheme]. The amounts of subsistence allowances are maxima within which the actual expenditure will be reimbursed.'
- (c) Paragraph 19 to read : 'The rates of travelling and subsistence allowances shall be the same as those to which employees of the Authority are entitled and shall be adjusted and take effect in line with alterations made from time to time to the latter.'

49 Regional Control Centre Funding

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive,

Resolved :

To ask the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman to make a submission to the Select Committee inquiry into the FireControl programme, to reflect the views expressed by members in the discussion on the paper.

50 Revised Capital Programme 2009/10

On considering a paper by the Finance Director,

Resolved :

- (a) To approve the revised Capital Programme for 2009/10 of £3.253m as shown in Appendix A to the report presented;
- (b) To approve the revised prudential indicators, as a result of the change in the capital programme 2009/10, as shown in Appendix B to the report presented.

51 Health & Safety Annual Statement

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive,

Resolved :

To note the report and to endorse the annual Policy Statement.

52 Staffing Committee

A summary of the minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 12 November 2009 was received.

53 New Dimensions Long Term Capability Management

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive,

Resolved :

- (a) *To note the report;*
- (b) *To note that the CLG will be transferring ownership of its New Dimension equipment to individual Fire Authorities with effect from 1 February 2010*
- (c) *To authorise Agreements being entered into for the transfer and maintenance of the equipment as referred to in the report, subject to confirmation from the Authority's legal advisor as to the Agreement's terms.*

54 Protection, Prevention and Intervention

A short visual presentation was made.

55 Standards Committee

- (1) The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 29 October 2009 were received.
- (2) The annual report of the Standards Committee for 2008/09 was received.

56 Review of Finance Review Committee's Terms of Reference

On considering a paper by the Clerk to the Authority, the Finance Director and the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, and the recommendations of the Working Group set up at the last meeting of the Authority,

Resolved :

- (a) *To rename the Committee the Finance Review & Audit Committee;*
- (b) *To approve the powers and duties of the Committee as set out in Appendix A to these minutes.*

57 Regional Management Board (RMB)

The minutes of the meetings of the Regional Management Board held on 30 September and 9 November 2009 were received.

58 South West Fire Control Limited

- (1) Summaries of the discussion and decisions at the meetings of the Board of Directors held on 2 October and 9 November 2009 were received.
- (2) The minutes of the AGM of the Company held on 9 November 2009 were received.

59 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved :

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the public from the business specified in minute no.60 below because it is likely that if

members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

60 Fire Authority Structures

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive,

Resolved :

- (a) *To ask the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive to look further into the possibilities of more joint working with partner organisations particularly in respect of back office functions;*
- (b) *To decline the specific approaches for structural re-organisation received from other authorities on the grounds that in the Authority's view such re-organisation would not be in the best interests of the communities served by this Authority.*

(Duration of meeting 15.05pm to 16.45pm)

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FINANCE REVIEW & AUDIT COMMITTEE

- 1 The power to consider and take decisions on any matter to do with the corporate financial governance of the Authority in relation to accounts and audit, including any duty or function placed upon the Authority by virtue of regulations made under the Audit Commission Act 1998. Within this power are included the duties :
- ◆ To consider the head of internal audit's annual report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed) and the level of assurance it can give over the Authority's corporate governance arrangements
 - ◆ To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested
 - ◆ To consider reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of internal audit services
 - ◆ To consider a report from internal audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale
 - ◆ To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance
 - ◆ To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor
 - ◆ To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money
 - ◆ To liaise with the Audit Commission over the appointment of the Authority's external auditor
 - ◆ To commission work from internal and external audit
 - ◆ To oversee the production of the Authority's Statement on Internal Control and to recommend its adoption
 - ◆ To consider the Authority's arrangements for corporate financial governance and agree necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice
 - ◆ To consider the Authority's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls of financial governance.
 - ◆ To receive, review and approve the annual Statement of Accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council
 - ◆ To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts

- ◆ To be responsible for the review and approval of the System of Internal Control
 - ◆ To deliver the core functions of an audit committee as identified in CIPFA guidance
- 2 The power to approve the Authority's 'Treasury Management Policy Statement and Practices' and the Authority's Annual Investment Strategy.
 - 3 The power to review the process by which the Authority's annual budget is formulated with a view to assessing its robustness. For the avoidance of doubt, the Committee has no role in the formulation of the estimates which comprise the budget and has no power to amend the estimates.
 - 4 The power to undertake regular monitoring of the Authority's Revenue and Capital budgets. In exercising this power, the Committee:
 - will have regard to any views of the appropriate workstreams, and
 - will draw the attention of the Programme & Scrutiny Board and, where appropriate, the Authority to any significant variation which in the Committee's opinion needs to be addressed, but will not commission investigations on its own account.
 - 5 The power to approve the Authority's Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders.
 - 6 The power to review financial management arrangements generally to ensure they are 'fit for purpose'.
 - 7 The power to consider any matter not reserved to the full Authority where in the opinion of the Clerk or Treasurer it would be appropriate for the Committee to do so.

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 8 - WILTSHIRE 2026 PLAN - CHIPPENHAM –
FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PACKARD AND
COUNCILLOR BILL DOUGLAS

To consider the following motion:

“This Council notes the consultation which has taken place on the 2026 Core Strategy for Chippenham and that these plans are currently in the process of further review. As the success of the Core Strategy depends on the integration of the increased population and the funding of the road infrastructures, this Council requests the Executive rescind the preferred option status which proposes the housing development to the North and East of Chippenham, on the grounds that:

- 1) The costing and sourcing of funding for the road infrastructure need further investigation.
- 2) The Green-belt land and valleys to the East and North of Chippenham will be devastated and access to the Birds marsh area will be cut off to the townspeople.
- 3) Chippenham Vision, an independent organisation established by the Council, have also voiced their serious concerns with regard to this preferred option.
- 4) There are other options in the consultation document which have not been sufficiently considered.
- 5) No consideration has been given to a geographically distributed option which would enable a gradual development and integration of the increased population over a period of time.
- 6) Sustaining the preferred option gives one set of developers an unfair prejudicial advantage.

Council is requested to rescind the preferred option until sufficient evidence has been gathered to make a considered decision”.

A response from Councillor Brady, Cabinet member for Economic Development, Planning and Housing is attached.

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**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 8 - WILTSHIRE 2026 PLAN – CHIPPENHAM
FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PACKARD AND COUNCILLOR BILL DOUGLAS**

**RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR BRADY, CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND HOUSING**

We are at an early stage in dealing with the responses to the consultation which finished on 31 December 2009, in fact receiving responses well after the end of the consultation period. We are still in the process of collating and recording these due to the very large number and it would be wrong to take Chippenham in isolation.

The preferred options were presented for public consultation and detailed consideration because based on the information then available to the Council, they appeared to represent the best option. The consultation was careful to point out that the preferred options did not represent Council policy and specifically invited comments on whether it was reasonable or an alternative option should be pursued. It is important to recognise that Wiltshire 2026 is a consultation document informing the preparation of the Wiltshire Core Strategy. The response to the consultation is helping the Council develop its evidence base to underpin the preparation of the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy, which is being undertaken during 2010.

In response to each of the specific points raised:

1. A thorough analysis of the evidence including the consultation response will need to be undertaken before a recommendation can be made to Council regarding which strategic site allocations should be included within the draft Core Strategy for Wiltshire. We are aware that this analysis will also need to include additional information on the delivery of sites (whether it is the preferred option or an alternative) including their economic viability. As such, costing and funding of transportation infrastructure including roads will need to be considered. This process should not be halted prematurely.
2. There is a commitment in the consultation document to preserve Birds Marsh Wood and it was never intended that this would be developed. It is acknowledged that the consultation has already raised the issue about whether the surrounding fields should also be protected, which will need to be considered alongside other comments made. Accessibility between the Birds Marsh wood and the town will need to be given full consideration if option 1 forms part of the draft Core Strategy.
3. The views of the Chippenham Vision Board along with others will need to be taken into consideration when finalising our proposals. We will continue to work closely with the Vision Board in preparing the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy.
4. Full consideration of the consultation response and the evidence they contain may indicate the need to re-examine alternative options and it is too early to make such a finding now.

5. This is a 20 year plan and is for development up to the year 2026. As the draft Core Strategy is developed appropriate phasing will need to be considered in order to ensure that any growth takes place in a sustainable manner with the right infrastructure, at the right time. Large strategic sites can be planned to allow for gradual growth over a period of time.
6. The preferred options are not Council policy and it is not considered that they would give developers an unfair prejudicial advantage. In considering any proposals that come forward in advance of an adopted Core Strategy the Council would need to consider what weight would need to be given to the policy on the basis of the stage it has reached at the time and in the context of existing policy and all other material considerations, including the possibility that an application may prejudice the outcome of the Core Strategy. At an early stage in the process, where consultation has not been taken into account, generally very limited weight should be given to developing policy.

I fully recognise and acknowledge that there is the need to develop further evidence to make a considered decision on whether option 1 should form part of the draft Core Strategy. Indeed, officers are currently working on this and will continue to do so.

I can assure you that the consultation process is a meaningful, important and necessary one and we will be looking at all the responses regarding Chippenham. To make a decision prematurely based on only part of the response would be regarded as flawed, and unlawful. This could lead to abortive work due to any potential finding against the Council including following consideration of the draft Wiltshire Core Strategy by the Government Inspector in due course. I therefore can not recommend to the Council that we comply with this request to rescind the preferred option at this stage.

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010

NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 9 – AREA BOARDS – FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS CASWILL AND COUNCILLOR TREVOR CARBIN

To consider the following motion:

'The Wiltshire Area Boards initiative has great potential but six months on there are lessons to be learned and improvements to be made to local delegation. Members should have the chance to debate and recommend improvements, and not be limited to responding to a questionnaire. In that spirit, we propose that Council:

- 1) agrees that the Area Board initiative should be continued.
- 2) recognises that several aspects of Area Board work have already proved successful, for example the regular attendance and positive attitudes of the Council's partners. Board meetings have sometimes been successful in attracting high levels of public participation.
- 3) recognises however that there is some way to go to achieve the stated goal "*to provide a focus for community leadership, local influence and delegated decision making*" (p. 27 of the Area Board handbook). The public will rightly be looking for evidence of actions flowing from Board decisions. Without this there is a serious risk that Boards will lose public interest and support.
- 4) expresses a number of specific concerns, based on experience to date:
 - a) that Board agendas are too tightly managed, which has led to elected members have too little influence over agendas, and Boards sometimes failing to address major local issues.
 - b) that issues have ended up on long lists at Board meetings, often without discussion, and then on a web site which too often simply disposes of issues once officers have had a look at them, without resolution and without the involvement of ward councillors.
 - c) that there is still a lack of clarity about the budgets which are allocated to Boards, and the extent to which they are earmarked for community grants, and for allocations to Area Partnerships.
 - d) that the budgets are in any case too small to allow Boards to address community needs.

- e) that there is a similar lack of clarity about the role of Area Boards in the Council's various consultation processes.
 - f) that the chairing of Area Boards by Cabinet members and Portfolio holders may inhibit open discussion, and may constitute a conflict of interest.
- 5) Notes the ambitions in the Area Board handbook that.....
"(Area Boards) must be provided with the power to influence local services and respond effectively to local views" (Area Board handbook, p.31), and
"Area Boards will help councillors develop a meaningful community leadership role" (Area Board handbook, p.29)
and recommends to the Cabinet that:
- i. Board budgets are at least doubled in the forthcoming budget process, not by increasing the overall budget but by releasing funds from central departments.
 - ii. the necessary constitutional and other amendments are made to specify delegations to Boards for decisions on the delivery of local services.
 - iii. financial guidelines are produced to make clear that each Board has control over its own budget.
 - iv. guidelines are produced to make clear that Boards have control over their own agendas and all elected members can help set those agendas.
 - v. ward councillor budgets are introduced on an experimental basis, subject to annual reports to the Boards, and accompanied by clear rules An initial annual allocation of £5000 per councillor is proposed, to be found from within current central allocations.
 - vi. Cabinet members and portfolio holders should not chair Area Boards.
 - vii. the handling of the 'issues' process and the involvement of Area Boards in council consultations be referred to Overview and Scrutiny, for their recommendations for improvement'.

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL
23 FEBRUARY 2010**

**NOTICE OF MOTION NO. 10 – NAMING OF AREA BOARD – FROM
COUNCILLOR PETER COLMER AND COUNCILLOR BILL DOUGLAS**

To consider the following motion:

'As a result of an issue raised by the Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Community, after consultation with stakeholders by the Northern Community Area Partnership, it is recommended to Wiltshire Council that the name of the area board is changed to the Northern Area Board'.

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