

COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2012 AT THE CIVIC CENTRE, TROWBRIDGE.

Present:

Cllr Desna Allen, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr John Brady, Cllr Richard Britton, Cllr Rosemary Brown, Cllr Liz Bryant, Cllr Allison Bucknell, Cllr Jane Burton, Cllr Trevor Carbin, Cllr Nigel Carter, Cllr Chris Caswill, Cllr Ernie Clark, Cllr Richard Clewer, Cllr Christopher Cochrane, Cllr Peter Colmer, Cllr Linda Conley, Cllr Mark Connolly, Cllr Christine Crisp (Vice-Chair), Cllr Michael Cuthbert-Murray, Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Peter Davis, Cllr Tony Deane, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr Bill Douglas, Cllr Mary Douglas, Cllr Peggy Dow, Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr Rod Eaton, Cllr Nick Fogg, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Mark Griffiths, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Brigadier Robert Hall (Chairman), Cllr Russell Hawker, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Charles Howard, Cllr Jon Hubbard, Cllr Chris Humphries, Cllr Keith Humphries, Cllr Peter Hutton, Cllr Tom James MBE, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr David Jenkins, Cllr Julian Johnson, Cllr John Knight, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Francis Morland, Cllr Bill Moss, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr John Noeken, Cllr Jeffrey Ody, Cllr Stephen Oldrieve, Cllr Helen Osborn, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Mark Packard, Cllr Sheila Parker, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Stephen Petty, Cllr Nina Phillips, Cllr Leo Randall, Cllr Fleur de Rhe-Philipe, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Bill Roberts, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Judy Rooke, Cllr Paul Sample, Cllr Jane Scott OBE, Cllr Jonathon Seed, Cllr John Smale, Cllr Carole Soden, Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cllr John Thomson, Cllr Dick Tonge, Cllr Anthony Trotman, Cllr Ian West, Cllr Fred Westmoreland, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Roy While, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

10. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richard Beattie, Paul Darby, Lionel Grundy, Malcolm Hewson, Alan Hill, Jemima Milton, Julie Swabey and Bridget Wayman.

11. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 November 2011 and 7 February 2012 were presented.

Resolved:

- (1) That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 November 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**
- (2) That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 February 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:**

Minute No. 9 – Pre-submission Draft Wiltshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document – under Councillors’ Questions at the end of the 11th paragraph insert the words “Councillor Fleur de Rhe Philipe, confirmed that no strategic site had been identified in Melksham.”

12. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brian Dalton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the housing revenue account in relation to the setting of garage rents as he held a garage tenancy.

13. Announcements by the Chairman

(a) Certificate and Award in Management

The Chairman announced that Councillors Allison Bucknell, Jane Burton, Howard Marshall, Helen Osborn and Sheila Parker had successfully completed the Certificate in Leadership and Management. Councillors Jacqui Lay, Peter Hutton and Chris Cochrane had successfully completed the Award in Leadership and Management. The qualifications were nationally recognised at foundation degree level and the Chairman congratulated the councillors concerned on their achievement.

(b) Carbon Trust Competition

The Chairman announced that Pewsey Primary School had been announced the winner of the Carbon Trust’s “Cut Carbon, Cut Costs” schools’ competition. Around 43 local authorities had participated in this national project. Rowdeford School was also in the top ten and would be awarded with a highly commended certificate.

(c) Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area Partnership

Richard Benyan, MP for Newbury had launched the Marlborough Downs Nature Improvement Area Partnership. This was made up of 40 farmers, the Game and Conservation Trust and Wiltshire Council. It was one of the 12 successful bids from 76 and aimed to restore habitats and encourage local communities to get involved with nature.

(d) Former Councillor Pat Sears

The Chairman announced with sadness the death of former Councillor Pat Sears. Mrs Sears was a member of North Wiltshire District Council for 20 years, representing the Minety Ward. She was also a founder member of the innovative "life-line" system that provided security for elderly and vulnerable people in their own homes.

Councillors paid tribute to Mrs Sears and stood in a moment of silence as a mark of respect.

14. Petitions Update

A report by the Head of Democratic Services was presented which gave Council details of the six petitions received for the period since the last ordinary Council meeting.

Councillor Hubbard requested that local councillors be informed of petitions received which related to issues within their particular division.

Resolved:

That Council note the report, the petitions received and the actions being taken, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

15. Public Participation

A question was received from Mr Phil Matthews of the Wiltshire Involvement Network regarding the fairness of the government funding received by Wiltshire. A copy of the question and response is attached as Appendix 1.

A statement was received from the Association of Devises Passengers stressing the importance of public transport and raising concern about any proposals to reduce car parking charges. Cllr Gamble welcomed the support of the Passengers' Association and confirmed that he shared their views. Cllr Gamble stated that he would send a written response. A copy of the statement is attached as Appendix 2.

16. Wiltshire Council's Business and Financial Plan Update and Budget 2012/13

Cllr Dalton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item regarding the setting of garage rents as referred to in the proposals concerning the Housing Revenue Account as he held a garage tenancy.

The Chairman explained how he intended to manage the debate on the budget as summarised in the previously circulated paper regarding the budget process.

The Chairman drew Councillors' attention to the various budget papers which had been previously circulated as follows:

- Budget report
- Report from the joint meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee held on 9 February 2012
- Extract from the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 February 2012
- Proposed Council Tax resolution
- Report on Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13
- Report on revision to Treasury Management Strategy 2011/12
- Revised Financial Plan
- Liberal Democrat Group's response to the Business and Financial Plan
- Budget Debate Process

The Chairman invited Cllr Jane Scott, Leader of the Council, to present her budget speech which was circulated at the meeting and is attached as Appendix 3.

The Leader explained that the priorities for Wiltshire Council were to deliver what was best for the people of Wiltshire, to look after the growing aging population and vulnerable children, to manage the challenging economic situation and to keep council tax at a zero percent increase for the third year running.

The Council was currently undergoing transformation and looking at new ways of providing key services including waste and recycling collections, leisure, libraries and older people's accommodation. The number of offices was being reduced and the Council was moving towards a new community campus model. There were plans to invest almost £350 million into key services over the next three years while continuing to change and to keep looking at the way services were delivered and working closely with communities.

The Leader also thanked the new leadership team, extended leadership team and all the Council's staff for their hard work, commitment and outstanding delivery this year, particularly in such challenging and demanding times.

The Leader moved the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 15 February 2012 regarding the Financial Plan, Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13 and amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy 2011/12. She also explained that £290k from existing base budgets would be used to pump prime 2012 celebratory events this year. Where possible the expenditure would be offset by income generated from businesses participating and/or sponsoring the events. The money would come from holding vacancies in corporate

services that have not already been deleted as part of the saving proposals. This was seconded by Cllr John Thomson the Deputy Leader.

At the Chairman's invitation, Cllr Nigel Carter presented the report of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee meeting held on 9 February 2012. The Select Committee was pleased to see a balanced budget this year. The Committee felt that the Financial Plan could be improved by putting more emphasis on good news stories, ensuring the narrative highlights and explains big changes to service budgets and making sure that the public understand that the Council is doing more for less by freezing council tax and spending more on frontline services to meet higher levels of demand.

The Joint Committee had noted that there were a large number of spreadsheets supporting the figures and the Scrutiny members would like to look at the detail throughout the coming year.

Group Leaders were then invited to respond to the Leader's motion or move an amendment to the motion.

Cllr Jon Hubbard, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, responded to the Leader's motion and congratulated her and the officers on producing a balanced budget following a challenging year. The Liberal Democrat Group had this year produced a response to the budget rather than an alternative budget. Cllr Hubbard explained that the Liberal Democrats had listened to the public and had put forward some amendments. Any spend identified in the budget response were met by corresponding savings commitments. Cllr Hubbard stated that he wished to move a number of amendments to the motion later in the meeting.

Cllr Christopher Newbury, Leader of the Independent Group, spoke positively of the changes to the waste and recycling service, superfast broadband project and improvements in GCSE results. He pointed out that while the bottom line was still the same, within particular areas there were some large movements within the overall budget.

Cllr Nigel Carter, Leader of the Devizes Guardians, stated that highways maintenance and attracting high quality companies to Wiltshire should be high priorities. He also congratulated the administration on achieving a balanced budget.

Cllr Ricky Rogers, Leader of the Labour Group, expressed concerns about reductions in services, staff redundancies and adverse changes to staff terms and conditions. He also spoke against the 6.4% increase in council house rents.

AMENDMENTS

Cllr Jon Hubbard then moved the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Howard Marshall:

Amendment 1

“To introduce one hour’s free parking across all Wiltshire Council controlled car parks, with all remaining charges remaining at current levels:

To be paid for by:

- reducing spending on Communications Dept - £750,000
- Additional Senior Management savings from reduction in Service Directors and Heads of Service - £150,000
- Remove proposed Administration investment in Big Society - £200,000
- Reduce growth in Transformation base budget - £200,000
- Defer capital borrowing costs - £230,000

1,530,000”

Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, responded to the amendment stating that car parking charges had been frozen for at least two years. He also pointed out that some on street parking charges were excluded from the amendment which would lead to inequalities across the County. There was also a high risk of losing revenue which could potentially cost £1.7m more if people did not stay for more than an hour.

The Chairman gave other Group Leaders the opportunity of responding to the amendment before opening the debate to other members of the Council.

On being put to the vote, amendment no. 1 was LOST and, a recorded vote having been requested by the requisite number of Councillors, the voting was as follows:

For amendment no. 1 (23)

Cllrs Desna Allen, Rosemary Brown, Jane Burton, Trevor Carbin, Chris Caswill, Michael Cuthbert-Murray, Brian Dalton, Bill Douglas, Peggy Dow, Russell Hawker, Jon Hubbard, David Jenkins, John Knight, Howard Marshall, Steve Oldrieve, Helen Osborn, Jeff Osborn, Mark Packard, Stephen Petty, Ricky Rogers, Judy Rooke, Paul Sample and Ian West

Against amendment no. 1 (54)

Cllrs Chuck Berry, John Brady, Richard Britton, Liz Bryant, Allison Bucknell, Richard Clewer, Chris Cochrane, Linda Conley, Mark Connolly, Christine Crisp, Andrew Davis, Peter Davis, Fleur de Rhe Philipe, Tony Deane, Christopher Devine, Mary Douglas, Peter Doyle, Rod Eaton, Nick Fogg, Peter Fuller, Richard Gamble, Jose Green, Howard Greenman, Mark Griffiths, Mollie Groom, Robert Hall, Mike Hewitt, Charles Howard, Chris Humphries, Keith Humphries, Peter Hutton, Julian Johnson, Jerry Kunkler, Jacqui Lay, Alan Macrae, Laura Mayes, Bill Moss, John Noeken, Sheila Parker, Leo Randall, Pip Ridout, Bill

Roberts, Jane Scott, Jonathon Seed, John Smale, Carole Soden, Toby Sturgis, John Thomson, Dick Tonge, Tony Trotman, Fred Westmoreland, Stuart Wheeler, Roy While and Chris Williams

Abstentions amendment no. 1 (9)

Cllrs Nigel Carter, Peter Colmer, Tom James, George Jeans, Ian McLennan, Christopher Newbury, Jeff Ody, Graham Payne and Graham Wright

Amendment 2

Cllr Jon Hubbard then moved the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Chris Caswill:

“Changes in government policy have seen an ever increasing number of schools choosing to become Academies.

We congratulate the administration for continuing to provide services to schools and for the initiatives in trading with the newly formed academies. However, we believe there is a real opportunity to increase income to the council by increasing trading with other out-of-county schools.

We propose investing £0.250m in increasing the services offered by Wiltshire Council to neighbouring authorities. We believe this would result in additional income of £0.300m, thus contributing £50,000 towards the cost of running Wiltshire.”

Cllr Jane Scott, Leader of the Council, responded to the amendment stating that she agreed with this principle but not with the proposed timing. Some work was currently being undertaken with neighbouring authorities and the outcome was still awaited. For this reason she would ask for a Scrutiny Task Group to be set up to look into the findings from the south west work and how this proposal sat with that and to make recommendations to the Cabinet.

The Chairman gave other Group Leaders the opportunity of responding to the amendment before opening the debate to other members of the Council.

Cllr Hubbard welcomed the setting up of a Task Group and with the consent of the seconder and the meeting agreed to WITHDRAW this amendment.

Resolved: That amendment 2 be withdrawn.

Amendment 3

Cllr Jon Hubbard then moved the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Chris Caswill:

“To re-introduce free swimming for under-16s and over-60s; As part of the Olympic preparations, and to meet Wiltshire Area Board commitments in the 2014 Leading by Example initiative. This investment emphasises the importance of health in a good quality of life in Wiltshire.

The total cost of this proposal is £505,000 and will be funded by savings from the Communications budget.”

Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet member for Campus Development and Culture, responded stating that it was important to spend responsibly. The proposals being put forward by the Leader would aim to encourage those children who did not regularly take part in physical activity to do so. Research had shown that when free swimming was provided for the over 60s 83% of those who made use of this facility would go swimming anyway.

The Chairman gave other Group Leaders the opportunity of responding to the amendment before opening the debate to other members of the Council.

On being put to the vote, Amendment no. 3 was LOST and, a recorded vote having been requested by the requisite number of councillors, the voting was as follows:

For amendment no. 3 (23)

Cllrs Desna Allen, Rosemary Brown, Trevor Carbin, Chris Caswill, Ernie Clark, Brian Dalton, Bill Douglas, Peggy Dow, Russell Hawker, Jon Hubbard, George Jeans, David Jenkins, John Knight, Howard Marshall, Ian McLennan, Steve Oldrieve, Helen Osborn, Jeff Osborn, Mark Packard, Ricky Rogers, Judy Rooke, Ian West and Graham Wright

Against amendment no. 3 (57)

Cllrs Chuck Berry, John Brady, Richard Britton, Liz Bryant, Allison Bucknell, Jane Burton, Nigel Carter, Richard Clewer, Chris Cochrane, Peter Colmer, Linda Conley, Mark Connolly, Christine Crisp, Mike Cuthbert-Murray, Andrew

Davis, Peter Davis, Fleur De Rhe Philipe, Tony Deane, Mary Douglas, Peter Doyle, Peter Fuller, Richard Gamble, Jose Green, Howard Greenman, Mark Griffiths, Mollie Groom, Robert Hall, Mike Hewitt, Charles Howard, Chris Humphries, Keith Humphries, Peter Hutton, Julian Johnson, Jerry Kunkler, Jacqui Lay, Alan Macrae, Laura Mayes, Bill Moss, John Noeken, Jeff Ody, Sheila Parker, Graham Payne, Leo Randall, Pip Ridout, Bill Roberts, Jane Scott, Jonathon Seed, John Smale, Carole Soden, Toby Sturgis, John Thomson, Dick Tonge, Tony Trotman, Fred Westmoreland, Stuart Wheeler, Roy While and Chris Williams

There were no abstentions.

Suspension of Council Procedure Rule 136

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 155 (suspension), Cllr Chris Humphries moved that Council Procedure Rule 136 (Recorded Vote) be suspended for the duration of this meeting. This motion was seconded by Cllr John Smale.

The Liberal Democrat Group expressed concern regarding this motion stating that they considered it to be undemocratic and detrimental to the rights of a minority political group.

A recorded vote having been requested by the requisite number of councillors the voting was as follows:

For the motion (51)

Cllrs John Brady, Richard Britton, Liz Bryant, Allison Bucknell, Jane Burton, Nigel Carter, Chris Cochrane, Linda Conley, Mark Connolly, Christine Crisp, Andrew Davis, Peter Davis, Fleur de Rhe Philipe, Tony Deane, Peter Doyle, Peter Fuller, Richard Gamble, Jose Green, Howard Greenman, Mark Griffiths, Mollie Groom, Robert Hall, Mike Hewitt, Charles Howard, Chris Humphries, Keith Humphries, Peter Hutton, Julian Johnson, Jerry Kunkler, Jacqui Lay, Alan Macrae, Bill Moss, John Noeken, Jeff Ody, Sheila Parker, Graham Payne, Leo Randall, Pip Ridout, Bill Roberts, Jane Scott, Jonathon Seed, John Smale, Carole Soden, Toby Sturgis, John Thomson, Dick Tonge, Tony Trotman, Fred Westmoreland, Stuart Wheeler, Roy While and Chris Williams

Against the motion (25)

Cllrs Desna Allen, Chuck Berry, Rosemary Brown, Trevor Carbin, Chris Caswill, Richard Clewer, Brian Dalton, Mary Douglas, Bill Douglas, Peggy Dow, Jon Hubbard, George Jeans, David Jenkins, John Knight, Howard Marshall, Laura Mayes Ian McLennan, Steve Oldrieve, Helen Osborn, Jeff Osborn, Mark Packard, Ricky Rogers, Judy Rooke, Ian West and Graham Wright

Abstentions (2)

Cllrs Ernie Clark and Peter Colmer

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 155, Council Procedure Rule 136 (Recorded Vote) be suspended for the remainder of the meeting.

Amendment 4

Cllr Jon Hubbard proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Chris Caswill:

“Re-introduce bank holiday opening for Leisure Centres. This investment ensures all people in Wiltshire have access to the facilities that allow them to stay healthy.

Total cost of this proposal is £115,000 and will be funded by savings on Senior Management posts.”

Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet member for Campus Development and Culture, responded stating that leisure centres had to be run as a business and that the use had decreased on bank holidays by 50%. It had therefore been necessary to shut on those days. He felt that it would not be justifiable or advisable to re-introduce bank holiday opening as funding would then have to be taken from other services.

The Chairman gave other Group Leaders the opportunity of responding to the amendment before opening the debate to other members of the Council.

On being put to the vote amendment 4 was LOST.

Amendment No. 5

Cllr John Hubbard proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Howard Marshall:

“Tripling the cash available to Community Area Transport Groups is a revenue neutral proposal. The money will be move from Wiltshire Council’s strategic transport funds, and out to local communities.

Where local communities wish, they can remain in a County-wide strategic fund where the additional funding instead contributes to major infrastructure projects decided by County Hall.

Communities in the central fund would need to remain in the fund for a minimum of three years.”

Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport, responded stating that delegating more funding to the Area Boards would lead to less funding being available at the centre for strategic projects such as road safety schemes, transport strategy, freight issues and traffic studies. As well as the funding that had been delegated to the Area Boards there was an additional £100k available for larger projects which the Area Boards could bid for.

The Chairman gave other Group Leaders the opportunity of responding to the amendment before opening the debate to other members of the Council.

On being put to the vote the amendment was LOST.

Amendment No. 6

Cllr Jon Hubbard proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Brian Dalton:

“£0.25m capital investment gives capacity for £2.8m of borrowing, allowing a programme of replacing inefficient, dull street lights with brighter, safer Light

Emitting Diode streetlights. Investment is matched by at least £0.25m savings on reduced energy costs.”

Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport, responded stating that he supported the principle of reducing energy costs where possible and that approximately 1,300 street lights had already been turned off following discussions with local communities. However a formal assessment would have to take place to ensure the best return on investment. He would therefore ask officers to prepare a report for Cabinet to look at ways to reduce lighting costs to include different options and investment proposals.

Cllr Hubbard welcomed the proposed report to Cabinet and, provided it was brought forward in a timely fashion, agreed to WITHDRAW the amendment with the agreement of the seconder and the meeting.

Resolved: That amendment 6 be withdrawn.

The amendments from the Liberal Democrat Group having been either LOST or WITHDRAWN, the Chairman invited members to debate the Leader’s motion and/or to propose any further amendments.

Following debate, the Leader of the Council responded to the points raised. The Leader’s motion was then put to the vote and was CARRIED by a show of hands. It was therefore:

Resolved:

Business Plan and Financial Plan

(1) To endorse the update of the 2012-15 Business and Financial Plan.

(2) To agree that the savings and investment proposals summarised at Sections 9 and 7 respectively of the Chief Finance Officer’s report and Sections 4 and 5 of Cabinet’s proposed Financial Plan at Appendix 1 of the report, provides a net revenue budget for 2012/13 of £326.655 million.

(3) To agree to:

(a) Freeze Wiltshire Council’s element of the Band D council tax for 2012/13 £1,222.43, as calculated in accordance with statute, as set out in Section 10 of the Chief Finance Officer’s report.

(b) Set the Council’s total net expenditure budget for 2012/13 at £326.655 million.

(c) Adopt the changes introduced by Government and move from the current subsidy funding system to one of self-financing when local

authorities take on responsibility for the current debt and repayment.

- (d) Set a 6.4% increase for dwelling rents in accordance with rent restructuring.**
- (e) Set the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2012/13 (original) as set out at Appendix F of Cabinet's proposed Financial Plan at Appendix 1 of the report.**
- (f) Freeze all other rent or service charges related to the Housing Revenue Account at 2011/12 levels.**
- (g) Approve the Capital programme proposed at Appendix E of Cabinet's proposed Financial Plan, attached to the report at Appendix 1.**
- (h) Set the changes in fees and charges set out in detail at Section 6 of Cabinet's proposed Financial Plan at Appendix 1 of the report.**
- (i) Provide £145,000 to offer free swimming for under 16 year olds during the Easter and summer holidays.**

Treasury Management Strategy 2012/13

To agree to:

- (1) adopt the Prudential and Treasury Indicators (Appendix A of the Chief Finance Officer's report).**
- (2) adopt the Annual Investment Strategy and approve the changes in the Strategy, resulting from the replacement of Fitch Ratings individual credit ratings with new bank viability ratings (Appendix B of the report paragraph 22) and the updated guidance on the determination of the maturity of LOBO loans (a detailed explanation is shown in paragraphs 21 to 24 of the report).**
- (3) 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.**
- (4) 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.**

- (5) agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans and deposits.**
- (6) 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.**

Treasury Management Strategy 2011/12 – Revision January 2012

To agree to:

- (1) Adopt the revised Prudential and Treasury Indicators (Appendix A of the Chief Finance Officer's report).**
- (2) adopt the revised Annual Investment Strategy (Appendix B of the report).**
- (3) 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.**
- (4) 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.**
- (5) agree that short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans and deposits.**
- (6) 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.**

The Leader then moved the Council Tax resolution which was seconded by Cllr John Thomson.

Resolved:

Council Tax

- (1) It be noted that on 13 December 2011 the Council calculated:**

- (a) the Council Tax Base 2012/13 for the whole Council area as 181,007.02 [Item T in the formula in Section 31B(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and,
- (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in Appendix 4 to these minutes.

(2) Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2012/13 (excluding Parish precepts) is £221.270m.

(3) That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2012/13 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- (a) **£919,345,080.00** (Gross Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils).
- (b) **£579,536,000.00** (Revenue Income) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) **£339,809,080.00** (Net Revenue Expenditure including parish precepts) being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31A(4) of the Act).
- (d) **£1,295.10** (Wiltshire Council Band D tax plus average Town & Parish Councils Band D Council Tax) being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts), as shown below:

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
863.40	1,007.30	1,151.20	1,295.10	1,582.90	1,870.70	2,158.50	2,590.20

17. **Pay Policy Statement and Publication of Senior Staff Pay**

Cllr John Noeken, Cabinet member for Resources, presented a report regarding the Pay Policy Statement and publication of senior staff pay.

Resolved:

In order to comply with the Council's responsibility, to approve:

(1) The pay policy statement, as set out in appendix 1 to the report, subject to the following amendments:-

(a) To include an explanation of Soulbury staff (as referred to in para 4) in the Definitions section towards the end of the draft Pay Policy Statement.

(b) Para 33 to read as follows:-

It is the Council's policy that Hay graded employees are subject to a performance appraisal each year. If the performance is measured as satisfactory, an increment may be awarded (subject to *point 30.* above). If the performance does not meet the required standard an increment may be withheld.

(c) Para 34 to read as follows:-

For GLPC graded employees, increments are awarded automatically to the maximum of the grade (subject to *point 31.* above) unless formal proceedings are taking place under the Improving Work Performance Policy.

(d) Para 35 to read as follows:-

The Council does not offer a bonus *or honorarium scheme to any employee.*

(e) Para 45 to read as follows:-

All employees with a contract of employment of 3 months or more are entitled to join the *Local Government Pension Scheme.*

(2) Publication of senior staff salaries with a threshold of £58,200, along with job descriptions, budget responsibilities and numbers of staff, it being noted that individual members of staff would be asked to consent for their names to be included.

18. **Changes to the Constitution**

(a) **Part 4 - Cllrs' Questions and Motions on Notice**

Cllr John Noeken presented a report setting out proposals following a review of this aspect of the Constitution by the Constitution Focus Group and the Standards Committee. A query was raised regarding the form of response to a Councillor's question and it was agreed that the Monitoring Officer would send a written response.

Resolved:

- (1) not to limit the number of questions or motions a member may submit.**
- (2) not to change the deadline for submission of questions or motions on notice at this stage but to keep the position under review and bring this back to the Focus Group for further consideration in due course.**

In the meantime to encourage Councillors to submit questions in particular, in advance of the deadline as far as possible to maximise the time available to prepare responses and in the case of motions, to prepare reports to assist Council in its consideration of them where appropriate.

- (3) not to introduce a time limit for questions and motions;**
- (4) not to differentiate between operational and non-operational questions.**
- (5) to require motions on notice to contain a clear separation between the preamble setting out background information to the motion and the action being sought; and to ask officers to prepare background reports for motions on notice where possible and guidance to assist members in drafting motions.**
- (6) to note that the Chairman in keeping with his role to manage the efficient transaction of business at meetings, had agreed to place questions and notices of motion further down the agenda, after substantive business, in particular items on the budget and policy framework and having regard to the agenda as a whole.**

(b) **Procurement and Contract Rules (Contract Regulations)**

Cllr John Noeken presented a report which proposed various amendments to Part 11 of the Constitution. The changes had been considered and recommended by the Standards Committee. The

Council thanked the Parish and Independent members of the Standards Committee for all the contribution they have made to the work of the Committee over the last few years.

Resolved:

- (1) To approve the changes to Part 11 of the Council's Constitution, as incorporated at Appendix A to the report.**
- (2) To adopt Part 11 of the Council's Constitution as amended with effect from 1 April 2012.**

19. **Membership of Committees**

Following the resignation of Councillor Colmer as a member of the Liberal Democrat Group, a request had been received for a formal review of the allocation of seats on committees to political groups in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Resolved:

- (1) To note the report and the legal requirements.**
- (2) To confirm the total aggregate number as 169 and the scheme of committee places available to councillors as attached as Appendix 5 to these minutes.**
- (3) To approve the following changes to the appointment of councillors to committees to serve until the next occasion membership is reviewed under the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which will be undertaken at the annual meeting of the Council in May.**

Area Planning Committee – East

Councillor Howard Marshall – appointed as substitute member

Area Planning Committee – North

Councillor Mark Packard – appointed as full member

Councillor Paul Darby – appointed as substitute member

Organisation and Resources Select Committee

Councillor Trevor Carbin – appointed as full member

Councillor Rosemary Brown – appointed as substitute member

Health and Social Care Select Committee

Councillor Jon Hubbard – appointed as full member

Councillor Peggy Dow – appointed as substitute member

Audit Committee

Councillor Desna Allen – appointed as substitute member

Appeals Committee

Councillor Paul Darby – removed as substitute member

Councillor Chris Caswill – removed as substitute member

Councillor Bill Douglas – changed from full member to substitute member

Councillor Peggy Dow – appointed as substitute member

Area Planning Committee – South

Councillor John Smale – changed from substitute member to full member

Councillor Mary Douglas – appointed as substitute member

Councillor John Noeken – removed as full member

Great Western Ambulance Joint Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Peter Colmer – appointed as full member

20. Dates of Meetings 2012

The Council considered its future meeting dates.

Resolved:

That Council meetings take place on the following dates for the remainder of 2012:

15 May (Annual meeting)

26 June (Extraordinary meeting re Wiltshire Core Strategy)

10 July

13 November

21. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

22. Councillors' Questions

The Chairman reported receipt of questions from Councillors Ernie Clark, Jon Hubbard and Chris Caswill, details of which were circulated and attached as a Appendix 6 to these minutes together with the responses given.

Questioners agreed to take their questions as read and were given an opportunity to ask a relevant supplementary question to which the relevant Cabinet member responded. Supplementary questions are summarised as follows and should be read in conjunction with the questions and responses:

Cllr Ernie Clark – Recovery of “non pensionable honoraria” payments – Cllr Clark asked what timescale the Council’s legal team was working to to recover these payments. Cllr Jane Scott asked the Monitoring Officer to send a written response to Cllr Clark on this matter.

Cllr Jon Hubbard – Payment of public sector workers through private companies – Cllr Hubbard asked how many people listed as Wiltshire Council staff had been paid in this way. Cllr Jane Scott explained that no public sector workers in Wiltshire had been paid in this way but some consultants had been.

Cllr Chris Caswill – Health and Wellbeing Board – Cllr Caswill asked whether the Administration was fully supportive of the Health and Wellbeing Board initiative. Cllr Jane Scott explained that Wiltshire would have to be ready for the Boards if this was approved by Government and that it was important to provide a joined up service for the people of Wiltshire. Cllr Caswill also noted that there could be the possibility of allowing cross party representation on the Board and asked whether this was an opportunity that Wiltshire intended to pursue. Cllr Scott stated that the outcome of the Bill was still awaited but this could be a possibility.

Cllr Chris Caswill – Changes to the Licensing system – Cllr Caswill asked for assurance that if changes occur in a piecemeal fashion then the review would happen as and when these were received. Cllr Seed, Chairman of the Licensing Committee, confirmed that discussions would take place as changes came in and that Councillors would be involved.

Cllr Chris Caswill – Parking arrangements in the Market Quarter area of Chippenham - Cllr Caswill asked whether this was an opportunity to ensure that enforcement action would be taken as a priority relating to parking notices in the Market Quarter area of Chippenham. Cllr Sturgis stated that it was for the local member to work with residents to take this up with the developers.

Cllr Chris Caswill – Parking provision in the Market Quarter area of Chippenham – Cllr Caswill asked what scope there was for urgent action regarding parking in this area as about 50-100 cars had been displaced. Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport stated that the parking policy had been agreed and the only exception to this was where parking prevented access for emergency vehicles. Any concerns should be pursued using the current procedure.

Cllr Chris Caswill – Community Area Transport Groups (CATGs) – Will the Cabinet member encourage all Community Area Transport Groups to hold their meetings in public? Cllr Tonge, Cabinet member for Highways and Transport, stated that it was up to the individual Area Boards if they wished to make their CATG meetings open to the press and public.

Cllr Chris Caswill – Core Strategy – Junction 17 of M4 – The exclusion of reference to Junction 17 of the M4 in the Core Strategy document was

inconsistent with the strategy for transport. What are the views of the Cabinet member? Cllr de Rhe Philipe, Cabinet member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning stated that she would like to see opportunities developed for Chippenham and did not wish to exclude Junction 17.

23. **Minutes of Cabinet and Committees**

The Chairman moved that Council receive and note the following minutes as listed in the separate Minutes Book and this was duly seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>
Cabinet	15 November and 13 December 2011 17 January, 30 January and 15 February 2012
Cabinet Capital Assets Committee	15 November 2011 and 18 January 2012
Overview and Scrutiny Organisation and Resources Select Committee	17 November 2011 and 18 January and 30 January 2012
Children's Services Select Committee	24 November 2011 and 26 January 2012
Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee	10 November 2011 and 12 January 2012
Environment Select Committee	1 November 2011 and 10 January 2012
Licensing Committee	6 February 2012
Northern Area Planning Committee	2 November, 23 November and 14 December 2011
Eastern Area Planning Committee	3 November, 24 November and 15 December 2011 and 2 February 2012
Southern Area Planning Committee	5 January 2012 and 26 January 2012
Western Area Planning Committee	9 November and 30 November 2011, 4 January and 15 February 2012
Strategic Planning Committee	16 November 2011 and 15 February 2012

Standards Committee	23 November 2011 and 25 January 2012
Audit Committee	14 December 2011
Staffing Policy Committee	23 November 2011 and 11 January 2012
Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee	1 December 2011

The Chairman then invited questions from councillors on points of information or clarification on the above minutes and gave the Chairmen of those meetings the opportunity to make any important announcements on the work of their respective Committees.

Resolved:

That the above mentioned minutes be received and noted.

24. **Wiltshire Police Authority**

The report and minutes of the Wiltshire Police Authority meetings held on 3 November and 8 December 2011 were received and noted. No questions from Councillors had been received on these documents. Cllr Carole Soden reported that the Police Authority budget had been set with no increase in precept. The Chief Constable, Brian Moore had now left Wiltshire Police but had achieved his ambition to make Wiltshire the safest County in England.

25. **Wiltshire and Swindon Fire Authority**

The minutes of the Wiltshire Fire Authority meetings held on 15 December 2011 were received and noted. Cllr Nigel Carter had submitted a question relating to the Fire Authority and a written response was set out in Appendix 7 to these minutes.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 5.05 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Marie Todd, of Democratic Services,
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Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Public Question and Response – Mr Phil Matthews
- Appendix 2 – Public Statement – Association of Devizes Passengers
- Appendix 3 – Leader’s Budget Speech
- Appendix 4 – List of Parish Precepts
- Appendix 5 – Scheme of Committee Places
- Appendix 6 – Councillors’ Questions and Responses
- Appendix 7 – Question and Response – Cllr Nigel Carter re Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – ITEM 7

QUESTION FROM PHIL MATTHEWS, CHAIR, WILTSHIRE INVOLVEMENT NETWORK

**TO CLLR JANE SCOTT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Question 1

Referring to the Financial Plan 2012 to 2013, page 14, 3.2 states Wiltshire receives an average of £228.44 in government grant per head of population, £95.97 less than the English rural average of £324.41!

- a) Is this fair bearing in mind that Wiltshire is a rural county and should not be treated differently from other rural Shire Counties?
- b) Could I ask that Wiltshire Council protests in the strongest terms to the Government and seeks the support of the Members of Parliament for Wiltshire to redress this situation, bearing in mind that Wiltshire has a very high ageing population therefore Wiltshire should at least be getting the rural average

Response

Fairness is something that the Chancellor and Secretary of State have said that they want to underpin their aims with a new local government funding system. We are engaged in inputting to that new system and will continue to lobby to ensure that it takes account of our current position.

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STATEMENT TO FULL COUNCIL
28th February 2012

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jasper Selwyn
Chairman
Association of Devizes Passengers



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Leader's speech – Budget – 29 February 2012

Delivering what's best for the people of Wiltshire – a budget that makes a difference...

Our priority at Wiltshire Council has always been to deliver what's best for the people of Wiltshire; to look after our growing ageing population, our vulnerable children, to manage the challenging economic situation and to keep council tax at a zero per cent increase for the third year running.

To achieve this we are taking a radical and innovative approach.

We will continue to work locally to inspire and encourage our communities to participate in what we do and to make sure that with our support they are able to deliver more in their local areas.

We have a clear vision - to create stronger and more resilient communities - and our goals; to provide high quality, low cost customer focused services, to prioritise local issues, to be open and honest in our decision making, and to work with our partners to support Wiltshire's communities - remain at the forefront of everything that we do.

Last year we translated our vision into a four-year business plan. The plan set out our key priorities, which are to invest in our front line services; protect the most vulnerable people in our communities; and to make the savings and efficiencies so that we can do this.

We took a long term, pragmatic view and recognised that we could take advantage of being a relatively new unitary authority. We are an ambitious and visionary organisation – and we knew that we had to do things differently, if we were to deliver what's best for Wiltshire.

We are transforming our organisation and how we provide our key services including waste and recycling collections, leisure, libraries and older people's accommodation; and we are radically reducing the number of offices and

buildings we occupy and we are moving towards a new community campus model – *‘for the community, in the community, by the community’*.

Last year, the first year of our four-year business plan, we focused on delivery and on tangible outcomes that would impact positively on our communities.

We successfully realigned £36 million of efficiency savings into our front line services and as a result we improved key services that we know matter to Wiltshire people, and we protected the most vulnerable in our communities.

We know that maintaining our roads remains a priority for local people. Our recent “what matters to you” survey and public budget consultation forums highlighted that this area continues to be a priority.

I am pleased to announce that last year we maintained an additional 290 kilometres of roads and we filled 1,200 more potholes than the previous year, and I will announce shortly the additional investment we propose to make this year.

Work is also well underway to roll out our new weekly waste and recycling service. This will have an impact on the amount we recycle and it is vital that this figure continues to rise. Currently, we are recycling around forty per cent of our waste. This figure must increase if we are to avoid the ever increasing land fill tax that is imposed on us.

I am confident that the new collection services will enable us to hit our targets by 2014, and improve on our current recycling rate of forty three per cent to more than fifty, and to reduce the amount of waste that we currently take to landfill sites. Following the adoption of the ECO Strategy, £180,000 has been saved in CRC costs for street lights. Working with the Carbon Trust we have launched the Low Carbon Schools Programme which has identified further savings.

In the current economic climate, we have recognised the need to assist and support our local Wiltshire economy. In the last twelve months we have secured major inward investment of over £150 million which has resulted in 632 new jobs being created in Wiltshire, with another 1,000 jobs in the pipeline.

We have worked with 623 businesses and safeguarded 2,719 jobs and a new three year business support service established by us, working with the Wessex Association of Chambers of Commerce, will replace the services lost by business link and the Regional Development Agency. This new service will be the point of contact for business support, start up and growth services.

Last year we submitted expressions of interest to the government to secure European Regional Development funding for new incubation centre environments at Castledown near Tidworth, Royal Wootton Bassett, Trowbridge and Salisbury. We agreed to provide £375,000 of capital and up to £400,000 of revenue funding to support this initiative over the next four years.

So far we have secured £130,000 in funding to deliver the Castledown project, and it is anticipated that an announcement on further funding of £600,000 will be made on the 28th March.

We were extremely pleased to be chosen as a government pilot area for superfast broadband. We know how critical this will be to boosting and sustaining our economy. We were allocated £4.5 million of government funding to support the £16 million investment that we allocated in our four year financial plan.

On a national basis, youth unemployment is a growing concern and this has been highlighted a great deal in the media.

Young people aged between 18-24 account for 32 per cent of all the job seeker allowance claimants. The youth unemployment level in Wiltshire is currently at 5.9 per cent which is well below the national average of 8.1.

Nevertheless, addressing youth unemployment and supporting young people to obtain and sustain their first employment continues to be a key priority for us.

Improving job prospects for young people and developing their employability and providing new routes to work has been a key focus for us. Together with partners, through our Action for Wiltshire programme, we have worked hard to keep youth unemployment as low as possible in our county.

As you will probably recall we were particularly successful with the Future Jobs Fund programme and secured £3.2 million which allowed us to create 495 new jobs for long term unemployed 18-24 year olds.

For many these jobs offered a first break into employment. Working with the Employment & Skills Board we are delivering a number of projects and initiatives to continue to assist young people to acquire the appropriate competencies, functional skills and experience of the work environment.

These include our in-council apprenticeship programme where last year seven people started their advanced apprenticeship. And, working with Wiltshire College and other locally based training organisations, we want employers to create 1,000 new apprenticeship opportunities across Wiltshire by July 2013.

We are also supporting Job Centre Plus with sourcing high quality, structured work experience with local employers for unemployed young people. Over the next twelve months, it is anticipated that work experience placements will be created for up to 300 young unemployed people.

These plus many other projects are placing young people in work and as a major employer in Wiltshire we will also be doing all that we can.

Young people remain a priority and by working with the area boards we have made a commitment to retain open access youth provision in all community areas and we will not close any youth centres.

As schools will now be responsible for providing universal information, advice and guidance on careers, to avoid any duplication we will now target our resources to the most vulnerable young people; those with disabilities and those who are not in employment, training, and education.

We have also continued to work very closely with Wiltshire Parent Carer Council to deliver and develop our short break programme. We have invested in key services including leisure centres, libraries, playgrounds and youth clubs to make these facilities more accessible and welcoming to disabled children and young people.

With more funding being diverted to the Local Offer payment this year - £600 per eligible child - more families are benefitting as a result of the improved access to these services. Our approach has received positive feedback from families who appreciate the lack of bureaucracy and assessment. We have continued to enable and empower over 900 families to make real choices about the way they use their short break provision. Over 95 per cent of families reported that the short break their child accessed using the Local Offer was good or excellent.

Last year, as part of our nationally acclaimed military integration programme, the MoD supported our children's services department to provide the excellent Wellington Academy delivering top quality education and sports facilities for children and young people in the Tidworth area.

And, I am also pleased to announce that our GCSE results across Wiltshire have improved by 4.5 per cent.

We also opened two new family resource centres in Trowbridge and Devizes providing quality support for our most vulnerable families. A new centre will open in Salisbury in March.

We have also undertaken work to commission a new family and parenting support service from Action for Children. From 1 April, this service will provide support for families where there is domestic violence, parental mental health difficulties and substance misuse, or where a parent is involved with the criminal justice system. The service will provide longer term support for families with these difficulties where there are concerns about children's development and well-being, but where the family does not meet the social care thresholds. This was identified as a 'gap' in our service leading to increased referrals to children's social care. The new service provides an opportunity for earlier intervention for families, in line with the Munro Review.

We have been absolutely clear that our key focus is to protect the most vulnerable in our communities. Last year the investment we made in this area meant we were able to look after 349 more adults.

We also launched a visionary and innovative scheme to deliver much needed extra care homes. This is a long term project that invests £200 million over the next 10 years and will go some way to addressing the housing needs of Wiltshire's growing older population. We opened a new state of the art extra care home - Florence Court in Trowbridge, that has enabled approximately forty older people to leave residential care and live independently for longer. This is a model that will be rolled out across all our community areas.

And, we opened a new library in Pewsey, which has seen the number of visitors increase by almost 70 per cent, and, work is well underway on the

new library for Trowbridge which will open in its new location in County Hall in September.

On the matter of libraries, unlike many other councils, we have kept all our libraries, including mobile units, open; and, with the help of over 600 volunteers, some of these are being kept open for longer hours.

We have always known that there is an appetite for volunteering in our county and this example, along with other volunteers who are helping with digital inclusion has highlighted that with our support and encouragement they can use this opportunity to do more to help strengthen their local communities.

We will continue to work closely with the voluntary sector recognising that we must continue to invest at the same level to support the essential work that the third sector provides in the county.

As I said at the start we knew we could take advantage of being a new unitary authority and we are nearing completion on the consolidation of 98 offices and buildings into 4 high quality hubs, and we are working on the new campus model.

We recently decided to reduce to go one step further and reduce from four to three hubs and close the offices at Browfort in Devizes. We recognised that since we published our business plan last year, we have reduced the number of posts in our staffing structure by approximately 440, which means we need less office space.

The consolidation of over 280 operational buildings, including other public sector assets, into approximately 35 community based facilities, including the new campus programme, which will deliver £85 million of savings over the next 10 years, which can be reinvested into vital services.

We have shared our asset portfolio with our public sector partners and have started to co-locate services at a local area level delivering a one-stop service for our customers. The recent move to collocate Police into our Monkton Park offices is an example of this. We are also developing discussions with a number of private and third sector organisations to deliver a shared approach to campus facilities.

Our customer access strategy will take services to the customer and focus on outcomes rather than outputs and managers are being encouraged to liberate staff from a 'behind the desk approach to work' and go to a location that suits the customer.

This will mean the need for less office space and the reduction in our property portfolio will deliver £17 million of sales and net cashable savings of £4.5 million per year by 2014/15. It will also reduce our liability for the new levy under the government's Carbon Reduction Commitment.

Local community areas are determining the specification and scope of their tailored campus model, which is a major part of our approach to delivering the localism agenda.

The campus model is a development that is community based, and for the benefit of the community, bringing the services it needs together and these will all be different as we know that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work for a county full of such eclectic and unique communities.

Our communities are doing more for themselves - with some support and facilitation they are delivering sustainable outcomes and real results in their local areas. We have many examples of where communities are taking responsibility and making decisions on budgets that affect the services they receive.

We will continue to strengthen our work with communities and by using social media we will encourage further debate and through interactive online communities get them more involved in making decisions in their local areas.

We are developing a culture where we are always willing to help and we adopt a can-do approach in everything that we do.

On this basis, we refrained from taking a blanket or salami slicing approach to making efficiencies last year. Instead, we managed the cut in government funding and the impact of this by looking at how, and where, savings could be delivered by working differently.

Through service reviews – where customers are at the centre of the design of services - wasteful processes are being removed and a leaner, more focused organisation, but one capable of adapting to new or unforeseen challenges in the future, is being delivered.

We are in a strong position and can do the best for the people of Wiltshire. Through realigning resources where they are most needed we can continue to invest in key services and protect and support our local communities.

And, I am really pleased to announce that our recent “what matters to you” household survey showed an increase in customer satisfaction levels of 16 per cent. The Place Survey in 2009, showed a satisfaction level of 40 per cent. In these difficult times for local government this new figure of 56 per cent is reassuring and gives us confidence that we are doing what’s best for local people.

In February 2011, we reported that we expected a £13.3 million decrease in government funding. However, the actual decrease is £3.2 million, which is £10.1million better than we originally forecast.

This is due to new government grants; a one off £5.5 million council tax freeze grant and as we have built more homes in Wiltshire it means we have received a £2.9 million new homes bonus, plus the additional council tax; and our council tax collection rate is high despite the current economic climate.

However, the financial challenge we face is made unfairly tougher as we do have some exceptional problems in Wiltshire. We receive an average of £228 in government grant per head of population, which is £96 less than the English rural average of £324.

Also, the population of Wiltshire aged 65 plus is 14 per cent higher than the national average and it is due to rise to 18 per cent by 2015. This is predicted to grow faster than most other authorities. The population of aged 85 plus is 16 per cent higher than the national average and this will rise to 20 per cent by 2015.

This means there is a need to invest £7.1 million in older people and mental health services for vulnerable adults next year.

We also continue to have a growing need for support for other vulnerable adults, including those with a learning disability, physical impairment or mental health needs, including care packages passed to the authority by the Ministry of Justice. The result is a need to invest a further £2.5 million next year.

Our level of support for vulnerable families and individuals has increased due to factors such as the recent economic downturn. Resulting in a need to invest £3.85 million more next year

The rate of inflation that drives our prices is based on the position at September last year which was around 5.6 per cent, resulting in unfunded price pressures, which were unexpected when the business plan was published last year.

At the same time we have been identifying ways to reprioritise and align funding into our key services. To do this, we had to find £32.6 million of savings. As a result of better than forecast grants income this is £3.6 million less than we forecast last February.

To help find the £29.4 million we needed to look at our cash flow for the investments we proposed in our four-year plan. We can make efficiencies by changing these investments for 2013/14. These include less money required for staff redundancy payments and rescheduling of broadband digital inclusion as the government funding will be allocated for this major project earlier than we expected.

I have to say that my cabinet and I did not take on this leadership role to cut services and, we have not been afraid to make tough decisions to do what we believe is right for the people of Wiltshire.

We have focused on removing waste and inefficiencies in all service areas and we will continue to improve how we purchase goods and services.

Our plan focuses on investment in Wiltshire, which is good for business and jobs. In line with our priorities we are investing in infrastructure, in particular in areas that the residents and businesses have told us were most important to them. This includes more affordable homes, roads maintenance and repairs and high-speed broadband.

In the next 3 years we will invest over £273 million in our capital programme. We are also working to ensure that this spend, wherever possible, is retained in the county with local businesses delivering the work creating more jobs for local people and boosting the local economy as contractors spend more in local shops.

£41.3 million will be allocated to build new affordable homes and improve the council's social housing. Our predicted 10 year need for affordable social

housing is over 3,800 homes. House prices in Wiltshire are on average 12.6 per cent above the national average.

£35.7 million will be allocated to deliver three new community campus models in Corsham, Melksham and Salisbury - and, we will continue to invest by increasing the amount of funding to £18.7 million for improvements to our roads and highways.

The Community Area Transport Groups have been a huge success making decisions based on the priorities of their local communities. We want to devolve more decisions to these groups and we propose to increase this funding by 40 per cent.

This will mean an allocation of £350,000. Plus, we will carry forward any under spend from last year which will result in a total budget of just over £500,000 this year.

As a result of sound financial planning we are proposing freezing Council Tax for 2012/13 at the same level as 2010/11 and freezing most of our fees and charges.

Since 2009, the average increase in Council Tax for Wiltshire is 4.5 per cent, whereas the average national Retail Price Index of inflation for the same period is nearly 14 per cent. This means a saving to individual residents of Wiltshire of £110 a year.

We have worked extremely hard to manage within our means and to deliver a balanced budget. We have re-directed funding to the areas of greatest need; investing more to provide for vulnerable children and adults, and to help communities do more to help themselves.

We have developed saving proposals in cross cutting themes rather than silo areas, and we are challenging all our budgets, carrying out due diligence on our assumptions and plans for the future.

We are, therefore, in a position to make these proposals, at a time of continuing economic uncertainty, as we have made some tough decisions. At a time when other local authorities are making cuts, we are improving and making investment in our services and increasing our support for local communities.

Last year we reduced our management team by 220 managers and saved over £8 million.

The decision to save more money by further reduction of our senior team was not taken easily or without a great deal of thought and debate. Removing the post of chief executive was radical by a large and relatively new unitary council, but, we remain confident that we were ready for this decision and that it was the right one for Wiltshire.

We are extremely fortunate that we have an active, positive and constructive working relationship with the unions and we have a common aim of ensuring the council is efficient and effective for the benefit of the public it serves.

We have jointly agreed redundancy and appointments procedures to assist with making these staff reductions and last year we successfully negotiated substantial changes to staff terms and conditions which resulted in significant budgetary savings of £8m being made over the next three years. Had our relationships not been so productive, these discussions could have resulted in major industrial relations problems and costs.

Our new leadership team model, of three corporate directors, supported by the service directors, is working extremely well. In their first 90 days they have delivered the projected gap in last year's budget, and as a result, we are on

target to deliver 98 per cent of the predicted savings. Where savings have since been identified as not deliverable, due to changes in circumstances, they have found new efficiencies.

A balanced budget is forecast for the year end.

They have also been highly visible meeting over 2,500 staff at forums and delivering an annual corporate awards event - supported entirely by sponsorship funding - to recognise the outstanding work of over 300 staff.

They are also implementing change programmes where these are most needed, including improvements to our development management service and a programme to help reinvigorate our local market towns. The team has also recognised that it can be leaner and they have proposed a further reduction of two service director posts to make additional savings of £160,000 per year.

This year – 2012 - will see two national, once in a lifetime events that will directly impact on Wiltshire; the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch Relay.

We recognise that this is a unique and invaluable opportunity for us to reinvigorate our local economy and showcase our county. The world's media will focus on Wiltshire publicising and promoting what our county has to offer. This level of publicity is priceless.

Our communities will be able to come together and show what makes them special. If we hadn't focused on 2012 and these key events, that will leave a legacy for years to come, then these amazing opportunities would have been lost.

Communities across the county have already signed up to take part in this year's events and the enthusiasm and energy to showcase Wiltshire is overwhelming.

At the recently held budget consultation forums many people voted to allocate money to celebrate 2012 and recognised, like we have, the value that this will add to Wiltshire. On this basis, I am proposing that we will fund £290,000 from existing base budgets to pump prime the events this year and that wherever possible the expenditure will be offset by income generated from businesses participating and/or sponsoring the events.

The money will come from holding vacancies in corporate services that have not already been deleted as part of the saving proposals.

Talking of the Olympics and getting more active, we were extremely concerned when the government withdrew the funding for free swimming for the under 16's and over 60's. We were fortunate that with the support of NHS Wiltshire we were able to continue with free swimming for several months after the grant was withdrawn.

However, it was with regret that in last year's budget we were unable to allocate funding for this to continue. We recognise that we need to support children to get fit, to be healthy and to tackle obesity and I am therefore pleased to announce that this year we are proposing to allocate £145,000 to enable the under 16s to swim for free in the school holidays. We will review the take up on this initiative after the summer holidays this year.

As I stated before, we are in a strong position. By making tough decisions and focusing on what's best for the people of Wiltshire we can plan to invest almost £350 million into key services over the next three years.

Our continued success in delivering our priorities and an ambitious number of transformational projects will result in an improvement to the lives of people in Wiltshire.

We will continue to change and we will keep looking at the way we deliver our services, working even more closely with our local communities.

We are, therefore, developing a culture that drives, embraces and embeds change. We have clear strong leadership that is steering, guiding and continuously supporting and managing change to ensure we deliver quality outcomes.

We will continue to engage with our customers and communities and our focus is to place our customers at the heart of everything that we do and adopt a can-do approach, so that we work as one council, one team to deliver even more.

I can't end without expressing my thanks to the new leadership team, the extended leadership team and all the council's staff for their hard work, commitment and outstanding delivery this year, particularly in these challenging and demanding times, and a special thanks must be extended to Michael Hudson, Finance Director and his team for the production of this year's budget and all the supporting papers.

I would like to move the recommendations on page 118 and to add to these recommendations the amendment made at cabinet on the 15 February regarding free swimming for under 16's in the school holiday period.

Appendix B

Council Tax Schedule 2012/2013	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
Wiltshire Council	814.95	950.78	1,086.60	1,222.43	1,494.08	1,765.73	2,037.38	2,444.86
Wiltshire Police Authority	105.18	122.71	140.24	157.77	192.83	227.89	262.95	315.54
Wiltshire Fire Authority	41.59	48.52	55.45	62.38	76.24	90.10	103.97	124.76
Town & Parish Council (Average)	48.45	56.52	64.60	72.67	88.82	104.97	121.12	145.34
Total	1,010.17	1,178.53	1,346.89	1,515.25	1,851.97	2,188.69	2,525.42	3,030.50

Council Tax Charge by band per Parish/Town Council

Aldbourne	22.58	26.34	30.11	33.87	41.40	48.92	56.45	67.74
Alderbury	20.74	24.20	27.65	31.11	38.02	44.94	51.85	62.22
All Cannings	23.02	26.86	30.69	34.53	42.20	49.88	57.55	69.06
Allington	27.61	32.21	36.81	41.41	50.61	59.81	69.02	82.82
Alton	13.03	15.20	17.37	19.54	23.88	28.22	32.57	39.08
Alvediston	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amesbury	36.60	42.70	48.80	54.90	67.10	79.30	91.50	109.80
Ansty	13.08	15.26	17.44	19.62	23.98	28.34	32.70	39.24
Ashton Keynes	31.91	37.23	42.55	47.87	58.51	69.15	79.78	95.74
Atworth	19.05	22.22	25.40	28.57	34.92	41.27	47.62	57.14
Avebury	31.15	36.35	41.54	46.73	57.11	67.50	77.88	93.46
Barford St Martin	22.59	26.35	30.12	33.88	41.41	48.94	56.47	67.76
Baydon	26.79	31.25	35.72	40.18	49.11	58.04	66.97	80.36
Beechingstoke	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Berwick Bassett & W/Bourne Monkton	4.32	5.04	5.76	6.48	7.92	9.36	10.80	12.96
Berwick St James	10.21	11.92	13.62	15.32	18.72	22.13	25.53	30.64
Berwick St John	15.67	18.28	20.89	23.50	28.72	33.94	39.17	47.00
Berwick St Leonard	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biddestone	19.64	22.91	26.19	29.46	36.01	42.55	49.10	58.92
Bishops Cannings	12.11	14.13	16.15	18.17	22.21	26.25	30.28	36.34
Bishopstone	12.08	14.09	16.11	18.12	22.15	26.17	30.20	36.24
Bishopstrow	9.44	11.01	12.59	14.16	17.31	20.45	23.60	28.32
Bowerchalke	16.71	19.49	22.28	25.06	30.63	36.20	41.77	50.12
Box	57.18	66.71	76.24	85.77	104.83	123.89	142.95	171.54
Boyton	6.77	7.90	9.03	10.16	12.42	14.68	16.93	20.32
Bradford On Avon	59.30	69.18	79.07	88.95	108.72	128.48	148.25	177.90
Bratton	31.05	36.23	41.40	46.58	56.93	67.28	77.63	93.16
Braydon	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bremhill	7.22	8.42	9.63	10.83	13.24	15.64	18.05	21.66
Brinkworth	17.93	20.91	23.90	26.89	32.87	38.84	44.82	53.78
Britford	2.15	2.51	2.87	3.23	3.95	4.67	5.38	6.46
Broad Hinton & W/Bourne Bassett	9.21	10.75	12.28	13.82	16.89	19.96	23.03	27.64
Broad Town	8.50	9.92	11.33	12.75	15.58	18.42	21.25	25.50
Broadchalke	12.43	14.51	16.58	18.65	22.79	26.94	31.08	37.30
Brokenborough	8.77	10.23	11.69	13.15	16.07	18.99	21.92	26.30
Bromham	28.08	32.76	37.44	42.12	51.48	60.84	70.20	84.24
Broughton Gifford	14.25	16.63	19.00	21.38	26.13	30.88	35.63	42.76
Bulford	24.00	28.00	32.00	36.00	44.00	52.00	60.00	72.00
Bulkington	24.41	28.48	32.55	36.62	44.76	52.90	61.03	73.24
Burbage	27.79	32.42	37.05	41.68	50.94	60.20	69.47	83.36
Burcombe	15.56	18.15	20.75	23.34	28.53	33.71	38.90	46.68
Buttermere	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calne	133.29	155.51	177.72	199.94	244.37	288.80	333.23	399.88
Calne Without	3.55	4.14	4.73	5.32	6.50	7.68	8.87	10.64
Castle Combe	16.39	19.13	21.86	24.59	30.05	35.52	40.98	49.18
Chapmanslade	10.58	12.34	14.11	15.87	19.40	22.92	26.45	31.74
Charlton	13.69	15.98	18.26	20.54	25.10	29.67	34.23	41.08
Charlton St Peter & Wilsford	6.29	7.34	8.39	9.44	11.54	13.64	15.73	18.88
Cherhill	12.66	14.77	16.88	18.99	23.21	27.43	31.65	37.98
Cheverell Magna (Great Cheverell)	21.28	24.83	28.37	31.92	39.01	46.11	53.20	63.84
Chicklade	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chilmark	18.34	21.40	24.45	27.51	33.62	39.74	45.85	55.02
Chilton Foliat	19.80	23.10	26.40	29.70	36.30	42.90	49.50	59.40
Chippenham	89.53	104.45	119.37	134.29	164.13	193.97	223.82	268.58
Chippenham Without	29.03	33.87	38.71	43.55	53.23	62.91	72.58	87.10

Chirton	7.25	8.45	9.66	10.87	13.29	15.70	18.12	21.74
Chitterne	28.59	33.36	38.12	42.89	52.42	61.95	71.48	85.78
Cholderton	26.07	30.42	34.76	39.11	47.80	56.49	65.18	78.22
Christian Malford	17.55	20.47	23.40	26.32	32.17	38.02	43.87	52.64
Chute	23.25	27.13	31.00	34.88	42.63	50.38	58.13	69.76
Chute Forest	20.54	23.96	27.39	30.81	37.66	44.50	51.35	61.62
Clarendon Park	8.75	10.20	11.66	13.12	16.04	18.95	21.87	26.24
Clyffe Pypard	9.33	10.88	12.44	13.99	17.10	20.21	23.32	27.98
Codford	11.05	12.89	14.73	16.57	20.25	23.93	27.62	33.14
Colerne	32.99	38.49	43.99	49.49	60.49	71.49	82.48	98.98
Collingbourne Ducis	30.08	35.09	40.11	45.12	55.15	65.17	75.20	90.24
Collingbourne Kingston	28.17	32.86	37.56	42.25	51.64	61.03	70.42	84.50
Compton Bassett	17.50	20.42	23.33	26.25	32.08	37.92	43.75	52.50
Compton Chamberlayne	27.02	31.52	36.03	40.53	49.54	58.54	67.55	81.06
Coombe Bissett	20.45	23.86	27.27	30.68	37.50	44.32	51.13	61.36
Corsham	77.79	90.75	103.72	116.68	142.61	168.54	194.47	233.36
Corsley	9.75	11.37	13.00	14.62	17.87	21.12	24.37	29.24
Coulston	16.48	19.23	21.97	24.72	30.21	35.71	41.20	49.44
Cricklade	100.10	116.78	133.47	150.15	183.52	216.88	250.25	300.30
Crudwell	18.67	21.79	24.90	28.01	34.23	40.46	46.68	56.02
Dauntsey	20.87	24.34	27.82	31.30	38.26	45.21	52.17	62.60
Devizes	70.33	82.06	93.78	105.50	128.94	152.39	175.83	211.00
Dilton Marsh	17.50	20.42	23.33	26.25	32.08	37.92	43.75	52.50
Dinton	22.15	25.85	29.54	33.23	40.61	48.00	55.38	66.46
Donhead St Andrew	14.32	16.71	19.09	21.48	26.25	31.03	35.80	42.96
Donhead St Mary	18.04	21.05	24.05	27.06	33.07	39.09	45.10	54.12
Downton	22.11	25.80	29.48	33.17	40.54	47.91	55.28	66.34
Durnford	7.43	8.66	9.90	11.14	13.62	16.09	18.57	22.28
Durrington	31.91	37.22	42.54	47.86	58.50	69.13	79.77	95.72
East Kennett	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
East Knoyle	13.97	16.29	18.62	20.95	25.61	30.26	34.92	41.90
Easterton	34.45	40.20	45.94	51.68	63.16	74.65	86.13	103.36
Easton Grey	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Easton Royal	24.41	28.48	32.55	36.62	44.76	52.90	61.03	73.24
Ebbesbourne Wake	6.59	7.68	8.78	9.88	12.08	14.27	16.47	19.76
Edington	11.71	13.66	15.61	17.56	21.46	25.36	29.27	35.12
Enford	16.33	19.06	21.78	24.50	29.94	35.39	40.83	49.00
Erlestoke	38.47	44.89	51.30	57.71	70.53	83.36	96.18	115.42
Etchilhampton	13.28	15.49	17.71	19.92	24.35	28.77	33.20	39.84
Everleigh	24.14	28.16	32.19	36.21	44.26	52.30	60.35	72.42
Figheledean	47.05	54.90	62.74	70.58	86.26	101.95	117.63	141.16
Firsdown	16.51	19.26	22.01	24.76	30.26	35.76	41.27	49.52
Fittleton	25.52	29.77	34.03	38.28	46.79	55.29	63.80	76.56
Fonthill Bishop	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fonthill Gifford	16.23	18.93	21.64	24.34	29.75	35.16	40.57	48.68
Fovant	12.18	14.21	16.24	18.27	22.33	26.39	30.45	36.54
Froxfield	19.30	22.52	25.73	28.95	35.38	41.82	48.25	57.90
Fyfield & West Overton	15.36	17.92	20.48	23.04	28.16	33.28	38.40	46.08
Grafton	12.93	15.09	17.24	19.40	23.71	28.02	32.33	38.80
Great Bedwyn	16.85	19.66	22.47	25.28	30.90	36.52	42.13	50.56
Great Hinton	12.05	14.05	16.06	18.07	22.09	26.10	30.12	36.14
Great Somerford	12.12	14.14	16.16	18.18	22.22	26.26	30.30	36.36
Great Wishford	11.82	13.79	15.76	17.73	21.67	25.61	29.55	35.46
Grimstead	8.51	9.92	11.34	12.76	15.60	18.43	21.27	25.52
Grittleton	9.80	11.43	13.07	14.70	17.97	21.23	24.50	29.40
Ham	10.04	11.71	13.39	15.06	18.41	21.75	25.10	30.12
Hankerton	15.33	17.88	20.44	22.99	28.10	33.21	38.32	45.98
Heddington	9.25	10.79	12.33	13.87	16.95	20.03	23.12	27.74
Heytesbury & Knook	17.33	20.21	23.10	25.99	31.77	37.54	43.32	51.98
Heywood	8.46	9.87	11.28	12.69	15.51	18.33	21.15	25.38
Hilmarton	16.56	19.32	22.08	24.84	30.36	35.88	41.40	49.68
Hilperton	8.33	9.71	11.10	12.49	15.27	18.04	20.82	24.98
Hindon	21.56	25.15	28.75	32.34	39.53	46.71	53.90	64.68
Holt	16.15	18.85	21.54	24.23	29.61	35.00	40.38	48.46
Horningsham	34.49	40.24	45.99	51.74	63.24	74.74	86.23	103.48
Hullavington	23.43	27.34	31.24	35.15	42.96	50.77	58.58	70.30
Idmiston	16.25	18.95	21.66	24.37	29.79	35.20	40.62	48.74

Keevil	17.47	20.39	23.30	26.21	32.03	37.86	43.68	52.42
Kilmington	19.35	22.58	25.80	29.03	35.48	41.93	48.38	58.06
Kington Langley	33.91	39.56	45.21	50.86	62.16	73.46	84.77	101.72
Kington St Michael	27.79	32.43	37.06	41.69	50.95	60.22	69.48	83.38
Lacock	14.79	17.25	19.72	22.18	27.11	32.04	36.97	44.36
Landford	20.74	24.20	27.65	31.11	38.02	44.94	51.85	62.22
Langley Burrell	22.05	25.72	29.40	33.07	40.42	47.77	55.12	66.14
Latton	15.60	18.20	20.80	23.40	28.60	33.80	39.00	46.80
Laverstock & Ford	8.30	9.68	11.07	12.45	15.22	17.98	20.75	24.90
Lea & Cleverton	14.40	16.80	19.20	21.60	26.40	31.20	36.00	43.20
Leigh	15.91	18.56	21.21	23.86	29.16	34.46	39.77	47.72
Limpley Stoke	25.48	29.73	33.97	38.22	46.71	55.21	63.70	76.44
Little Bedwyn	11.68	13.63	15.57	17.52	21.41	25.31	29.20	35.04
Little Cheverell	20.68	24.13	27.57	31.02	37.91	44.81	51.70	62.04
Little Somerford	21.99	25.66	29.32	32.99	40.32	47.65	54.98	65.98
Longbridge Deverill	6.74	7.86	8.99	10.11	12.36	14.60	16.85	20.22
Luckington	10.65	12.43	14.20	15.98	19.53	23.08	26.63	31.96
Ludgershall	46.75	54.54	62.33	70.12	85.70	101.28	116.87	140.24
Lydiard Millicent	12.55	14.65	16.74	18.83	23.01	27.20	31.38	37.66
Lydiard Tregoze	22.27	25.98	29.69	33.40	40.82	48.24	55.67	66.80
Lyneham & Bradenstoke	15.27	17.81	20.36	22.90	27.99	33.08	38.17	45.80
Maiden Bradley	48.31	56.36	64.41	72.46	88.56	104.66	120.77	144.92
Malmesbury	112.74	131.53	150.32	169.11	206.69	244.27	281.85	338.22
Manningford	21.95	25.61	29.27	32.93	40.25	47.57	54.88	65.86
Marden	4.07	4.75	5.43	6.11	7.47	8.83	10.18	12.22
Market Lavington	37.71	44.00	50.28	56.57	69.14	81.71	94.28	113.14
Marlborough	81.15	94.67	108.20	121.72	148.77	175.82	202.87	243.44
Marston	16.67	19.44	22.22	25.00	30.56	36.11	41.67	50.00
Marston Meysey	14.39	16.78	19.18	21.58	26.38	31.17	35.97	43.16
Melksham	45.61	53.22	60.82	68.42	83.62	98.83	114.03	136.84
Melksham Without	25.29	29.50	33.72	37.93	46.36	54.79	63.22	75.86
Mere	49.71	57.99	66.28	74.56	91.13	107.70	124.27	149.12
Mildenhall	21.37	24.93	28.49	32.05	39.17	46.29	53.42	64.10
Milston	9.75	11.37	13.00	14.62	17.87	21.12	24.37	29.24
Milton Lilbourne	18.25	21.29	24.33	27.37	33.45	39.53	45.62	54.74
Minety	11.95	13.94	15.93	17.92	21.90	25.88	29.87	35.84
Monkton Farleigh	14.99	17.48	19.98	22.48	27.48	32.47	37.47	44.96
Netheravon	33.20	38.73	44.27	49.80	60.87	71.93	83.00	99.60
Netherhampton	6.03	7.03	8.04	9.04	11.05	13.06	15.07	18.08
Nettleton	9.91	11.57	13.22	14.87	18.17	21.48	24.78	29.74
Newton Toney	27.06	31.57	36.08	40.59	49.61	58.63	67.65	81.18
North Bradley	7.89	9.20	10.52	11.83	14.46	17.09	19.72	23.66
North Newton	10.29	12.00	13.72	15.43	18.86	22.29	25.72	30.86
North Wraxall	8.18	9.54	10.91	12.27	15.00	17.72	20.45	24.54
Norton & Foxley	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Norton Bavant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oaksey	35.89	41.88	47.86	53.84	65.80	77.77	89.73	107.68
Odstock	23.09	26.94	30.79	34.64	42.34	50.04	57.73	69.28
Ogbourne St Andrew	10.45	12.19	13.93	15.67	19.15	22.63	26.12	31.34
Ogbourne St George	14.86	17.34	19.81	22.29	27.24	32.20	37.15	44.58
Orcheston	9.25	10.80	12.34	13.88	16.96	20.05	23.13	27.76
Patney	4.89	5.71	6.52	7.34	8.97	10.60	12.23	14.68
Pewsey	38.03	44.37	50.71	57.05	69.73	82.41	95.08	114.10
Pitton & Farley	11.66	13.60	15.55	17.49	21.38	25.26	29.15	34.98
Potterne	17.17	20.04	22.90	25.76	31.48	37.21	42.93	51.52
Poulshot	21.26	24.80	28.35	31.89	38.98	46.06	53.15	63.78
Preshute	17.04	19.88	22.72	25.56	31.24	36.92	42.60	51.12
Purton	66.45	77.52	88.60	99.67	121.82	143.97	166.12	199.34
Quidhampton	16.83	19.63	22.44	25.24	30.85	36.46	42.07	50.48
Ramsbury	27.93	32.59	37.24	41.90	51.21	60.52	69.83	83.80
Redlynch	12.85	14.99	17.13	19.27	23.55	27.83	32.12	38.54
Roundway	19.07	22.24	25.42	28.60	34.96	41.31	47.67	57.20
Rowde	35.00	40.83	46.67	52.50	64.17	75.83	87.50	105.00
Royal Wootton Bassett	122.85	143.33	163.80	184.28	225.23	266.18	307.13	368.56

Rushall	22.31	26.02	29.74	33.46	40.90	48.33	55.77	66.92
Salisbury	60.00	70.00	80.00	90.00	110.00	130.00	150.00	180.00
Savernake	4.97	5.80	6.63	7.46	9.12	10.78	12.43	14.92
Seagry	35.42	41.32	47.23	53.13	64.94	76.74	88.55	106.26
Sedgehill & Semley	11.91	13.89	15.88	17.86	21.83	25.80	29.77	35.72
Seend	12.42	14.49	16.56	18.63	22.77	26.91	31.05	37.26
Semington	12.63	14.74	16.84	18.95	23.16	27.37	31.58	37.90
Shalbourne	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sherrington	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sherston	20.95	24.44	27.93	31.42	38.40	45.38	52.37	62.84
Shrewton	15.61	18.21	20.81	23.41	28.61	33.81	39.02	46.82
Sopworth	5.43	6.33	7.24	8.14	9.95	11.76	13.57	16.28
South Newton	12.37	14.44	16.50	18.56	22.68	26.81	30.93	37.12
South Wraxall	6.19	7.22	8.25	9.28	11.34	13.40	15.47	18.56
Southwick	13.13	15.31	17.50	19.69	24.07	28.44	32.82	39.38
St Paul Without	8.17	9.53	10.89	12.25	14.97	17.69	20.42	24.50
Stanton St Bernard	11.81	13.78	15.75	17.72	21.66	25.60	29.53	35.44
Stanton St Quintin	11.93	13.92	15.91	17.90	21.88	25.86	29.83	35.80
Stapleford	17.76	20.72	23.68	26.64	32.56	38.48	44.40	53.28
Staverton	20.91	24.40	27.88	31.37	38.34	45.31	52.28	62.74
Steeple Ashton	30.11	35.12	40.14	45.16	55.20	65.23	75.27	90.32
Steeple Langford	13.54	15.80	18.05	20.31	24.82	29.34	33.85	40.62
Stert	6.67	7.78	8.89	10.00	12.22	14.44	16.67	20.00
Stockton	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stourton	9.27	10.81	12.36	13.90	16.99	20.08	23.17	27.80
Stratford Toney	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sutton Benger	10.49	12.24	13.99	15.74	19.24	22.74	26.23	31.48
Sutton Mandeville	4.71	5.50	6.28	7.07	8.64	10.21	11.78	14.14
Sutton Veny	24.99	29.16	33.32	37.49	45.82	54.15	62.48	74.98
Swallowcliffe	9.47	11.04	12.62	14.20	17.36	20.51	23.67	28.40
Teffont	33.23	38.77	44.31	49.85	60.93	72.01	83.08	99.70
Tidcombe & Fosbury	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tidworth	52.62	61.39	70.16	78.93	96.47	114.01	131.55	157.86
Tilshead	30.70	35.82	40.93	46.05	56.28	66.52	76.75	92.10
Tisbury	30.62	35.72	40.83	45.93	56.14	66.34	76.55	91.86
Tockenham	17.93	20.91	23.90	26.89	32.87	38.84	44.82	53.78
Tollard Royal	32.74	38.20	43.65	49.11	60.02	70.94	81.85	98.22
Trowbridge	79.95	93.28	106.60	119.93	146.58	173.23	199.88	239.86
Upavon	19.71	22.99	26.28	29.56	36.13	42.70	49.27	59.12
Upper Deverills	23.32	27.21	31.09	34.98	42.75	50.53	58.30	69.96
Upton Lovell	21.54	25.13	28.72	32.31	39.49	46.67	53.85	64.62
Upton Scudamore	13.79	16.08	18.38	20.68	25.28	29.87	34.47	41.36
Urchfont	35.51	41.43	47.35	53.27	65.11	76.95	88.78	106.54
Warminster	48.03	56.04	64.04	72.05	88.06	104.07	120.08	144.10
West Ashton	8.89	10.37	11.85	13.33	16.29	19.25	22.22	26.66
West Dean	25.33	29.56	33.78	38.00	46.44	54.89	63.33	76.00
West Knoyle	21.84	25.48	29.12	32.76	40.04	47.32	54.60	65.52
West Lavington	27.13	31.65	36.17	40.69	49.73	58.77	67.82	81.38
West Tisbury	14.47	16.89	19.30	21.71	26.53	31.36	36.18	43.42
Westbury	46.74	54.53	62.32	70.11	85.69	101.27	116.85	140.22
Westwood	13.90	16.22	18.53	20.85	25.48	30.12	34.75	41.70
Whiteparish	26.17	30.54	34.90	39.26	47.98	56.71	65.43	78.52
Wilcot & Huish	9.99	11.65	13.32	14.98	18.31	21.64	24.97	29.96
Wilsford-cum-Lake	4.87	5.69	6.50	7.31	8.93	10.56	12.18	14.62
Wilton	54.47	63.55	72.63	81.71	99.87	118.03	136.18	163.42
Wingfield	19.43	22.66	25.90	29.14	35.62	42.09	48.57	58.28
Winsley	13.01	15.17	17.34	19.51	23.85	28.18	32.52	39.02
Winterbourne	19.43	22.66	25.90	29.14	35.62	42.09	48.57	58.28
Winterbourne Stoke	17.30	20.18	23.07	25.95	31.72	37.48	43.25	51.90
Winterslow	16.63	19.41	22.18	24.95	30.49	36.04	41.58	49.90
Woodborough	6.29	7.34	8.39	9.44	11.54	13.64	15.73	18.88
Woodford	11.42	13.32	15.23	17.13	20.94	24.74	28.55	34.26
Wootton Rivers	12.05	14.05	16.06	18.07	22.09	26.10	30.12	36.14
Worton	16.69	19.48	22.26	25.04	30.60	36.17	41.73	50.08
Wylve	16.01	18.67	21.34	24.01	29.35	34.68	40.02	48.02
Yatton Keynell	15.59	18.19	20.79	23.39	28.59	33.79	38.98	46.78
Zeals	12.37	14.44	16.50	18.56	22.68	26.81	30.93	37.12

North Bradley	702.69	8,308.00	11.82	705.36	8,345.00	11.83	0.08%
North Newton	197.01	3,000.00	15.23	194.42	3,000.00	15.43	1.31%
North Wraxall	199.19	1,975.00	9.92	203.78	2,500.00	12.27	23.69%
Norton & Foxley	60.54	0.00	0.00	62.19	0.00	0.00	0.00%

Yatton Keynell	370.50	8,750.00	23.62	374.02	8,750.00	23.39	-0.97%
Zeals	291.80	5,304.00	18.18	296.51	5,504.00	18.56	2.09%
TOTAL / AVERAGE	179,297.66	12,733,036.90	71.02	181,007.02	13,154,080.00	72.67	2.33%

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PROPOSED DRAFT SCHEME OF COMMITTEE PLACES

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

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**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCIL
28 FEBRUARY 2012**

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM CLLR ERNIE CLARK, HILPERTON DIVISION

TO CLLR JANE SCOTT, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question 1

Private Eye magazine's 'Rotten Boroughs' column has revealed that the beneficiaries of the Kennet District Council 'non-pensionable honoraria' scheme were Chief Executive Mark Boden, HR director Anne Ewing and Chief Finance Officer Andrew Hart. The sums involved were reported as £10,360 for Boden, £5,733 for Ewing and £6,298 for Hart.

In reply to my question to her in February last year, Cllr. Scott replied 'The Council is pursuing two claims amounting to a total sum of approximately £ 20,000. Both cases are being contested and one of the individuals has instructed a solicitor. The Council is considering its position in the light of the points raised in defence.'

Assuming that the council has now considered its position, could Cllr Scott please advise what action is now being pursued and which of the three officers were, or are, being pursued to repay the monies? Why were only two being pursued and not all three? How did she come to the figure of 'a total sum of approx. £20,000'?

Response

The action being pursued is recovery of the enhanced element of severance payments in those cases where the honorarium was erroneously included in the calculation of severance payments.

In the majority of cases where the honorarium was paid either the staff did not leave the Council or the mistake was picked up before the staff member left the employ of the Council and therefore they did not receive an enhanced element to their severance payments.

There were only two former Kennet staff members who received an enhanced element of their severance payments (£9,722.74 and £10,038.33 respectively).

The recovery action that has been taken is that demand has been made of the two former staff members for recovery of these sums. One has responded denying any liability and raising a number of factors in defence of the payment. The other has instructed a solicitor who has required further information before responding.

Due to the historical nature of this information it has taken some time to compile this information and therefore there has been a delay. This information has now been supplied to the party's solicitor and the Council's Legal Team is waiting for a response. Once this is received any defences raised can be considered and a final decision made as to whether Court proceedings are justifiable.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR

QUESTION FROM CLLR JON HUBBARD, MELKSHAM SOUTH DIVISION

TO COUNCILLOR JANE SCOTT **LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Question 1

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

Response

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

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

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

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

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

TO CLLR JANE SCOTT, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question 1

- a) What has been the cost to the Council to date for its support for the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board?
- b) Does the Council's apparently enthusiastic support for this initiative imply this Administration's full support for the NHS Bill on which the Board depends?

Response

- a) The cost to date has been minimal (under £1,000), reflecting the costs of 3 development workshops for Board members and other stakeholders.

All other development and support costs have been met from within existing resources, including:

1. Adult Social Care Service Director and Head of Service
2. Democratic Services Head of Service
3. National Graduate Management Trainee (6 month placement)

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

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

**TO KEITH HUMPHRIES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND
PROTECTION SERVICES**

Question 1

As the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 makes major changes to the Licensing Act 2003 and the licensing system, is not time to begin an early review of the Council's Licensing Policy and to engage the public in that review?

Response

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 contains a number of key changes to Licensing Act including the following:

- the introduction of a late night levy to help cover the cost of policing the late night economy
- increasing the flexibility of early morning alcohol restriction orders
- lowering the evidential threshold on licensing authorities
- removal of the existing vicinity test for licensing representations to allow wider local community involvement.

None of these changes come into effect immediately on Royal Assent. The existing legislative procedure and protocol means that the measures are brought into force on one of two common commencement dates in April or October each year. The earliest therefore any of the alcohol provisions will be introduced is likely to be 6 April 2012, with more complex proposals requiring detailed secondary legislation likely to be commenced later. Further information regarding consultation on these changes will be available shortly from the Home Office.

The Licensing Policy Committee were made aware of the impending changes at their meeting earlier this month and are monitoring progress through the various government channels. Once we have full details of the proposals (and guidance) we will respond accordingly which will include a review of the existing Licensing Policy, including consultation with both the public and partners and appropriate training for members of the Committee.

This commitment is already contained within the work programme of the Committee and was raised and discussed at the last meeting of the Licensing Policy Committee - please refer to page 146 and 147 of the minutes book received with the Council summons.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

QUESTION FROM CLLR CHRIS CASWILL, CHIPPENHAM MONKTON DIVISION

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

Question 1

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

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

Response

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

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

- b) The approved plans demonstrate a total of 322 car parking spaces, with 17 labelled as being for visitors.
- c) The 17 visitor parking spaces are protected by condition 12 of permission 06/01005/FUL, which specifies the spaces should be kept free from obstruction and only used for the parking of vehicles in connection with the development.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

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

**TO CLLR DICK TONGE, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORT**

Question 1

In the event that parking provision in the Market Quarter area in Chippenham is drastically changed (see my question to Cllr Sturgis), it seems certain to force a significant amount of additional vehicle parking onto nearby streets. If this happens, what urgent steps will be taken to review the street parking arrangements in the area?

Response

The specific circumstances will be considered as part of the next area review as shown in the policy shown at:

<http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=431>

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

QUESTION FROM CLLR CHRIS CASWILL, CHIPPENHAM MONKTON DIVISION

TO CLLR DICK TONGE, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Question 1

- a. Is it correct that the procedure you have introduced for changes to onstreet parking regimes require issues first of all to be logged on the Area Board issues system, then referred to town or parish councils, then back to the Area Boards, and then once a year back to Council officers in Trowbridge? And after that, if action is taken, it has to go through the lengthy processes of public advertisement and consultation? Do you agree that this process could take upwards of two years between an issue being raised and a solution put in place?
- b. With this process in place, how will the Council exercise its role as the strategic parking authority, for example in undertaking a much-needed review of parking in the vicinity of Chippenham Station?

Response

- a) If a Town or Parish Council refuses to consider requests they will be referred to the Area Board for consideration. If the Town Council considers requests there is no need for them to be reviewed by the Area Board.

The legislative timescale is determined by the Department of Transport and the need for proper and thorough consultation. All waiting and parking restrictions are controlled by a legal Order known as a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Enforcement is then carried out as a contravention of the legal Order. The TRO process can take many months to complete and the costs of developing proposals and consultation, together with the advertising and legal fees, can be substantial. For this reason, schemes requiring a TRO are not normally carried out on an ad hoc basis. Experience has also shown that the introduction of ad hoc restrictions can result in shifting the problem elsewhere. Accordingly, a comprehensive review of the parking in a Town or Parish as a whole is the most effective and efficient way of dealing with parking issues.

- b) All requests will be processed as shown in a) above. The Council will exercise its role in the way shown in policy HT- 030 -11, as shown at <http://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=431>

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

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

**TO CLLR DICK TONGE, CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORT**

Question 1

Is it the policy of this administration that meetings of Community Area Transport Groups should be held behind closed doors, with no access for the public and press? If not, will you encourage all CAT Groups to hold their meetings in public, and also to make agendas and papers available in advance to all Wiltshire Councillors in their areas?

Response

The recommendations of the CATG's go to the Area Boards for public discussion and then approval or otherwise by the Area Board members. The attendance at CATG's is a matter for the particular Area Board.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

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

TO CLLR JANE SCOTT, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Question 1

- a) What arrangements are being made to set up the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel?
- b) How is it envisaged that the 'balanced appointments' required by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 will be met for the panel as a whole?
- c) Will the formal proposals for the Panel be brought to full Council for its agreement?

Response

- (a) Councillors and Officers of both Swindon and Wiltshire Councils and the Police Authority have met to have initial discussions on the transition from Police Authority to directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner including the arrangements for the Police and Crime Panel.

Tasks that need to be undertaken have been identified and allocated to officers of the respective authorities. Initially a report will be prepared for the Transition Board that the Police Authority has established to oversee the transition.

Group Leaders were informed of this on 20 February and an article was included in the Elected Wire on 24 February 2012.

- (b) In establishing the Panel the Act requires that as far as reasonably practicable, local authorities must achieve a balanced composition for the Panel. This is to achieve both a geographical and political balance.

Part of the discussions referred to in (a) above have touched on this.

However final determination of this matter will have to await the elections that Swindon has in May. These are "all out" elections so the outcome may have an impact on the overall political proportionality between the two councils.

- (c) The Panel will be a joint committee of Swindon and Wiltshire Councils and so yes the matter will be brought before the Council in order that the Panel is formally appointed – probably in May at the Annual meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - ITEM 13

QUESTION FROM CLLR CHRIS CASWILL, CHIPPENHAM MONKTON DIVISION

TO CLLR FLEUR DE RHÉ-PHILLIPE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Question 1

- a) Now that there has been time for reflection, can you explain the mysterious appearance of the paragraph 61 “Junction 17, M4, provides an opportunity for new employment provision in Wiltshire. These opportunities should be explored further in conjunction with the Wiltshire and Swindon Enterprise Partnership” in the version of the Core Strategy draft provided to Councillors for the meeting on February 7th?
- b) Does its subsequent omission mean that these opportunities will not now be explored, even though land there has been offered for development?

Response

- a) The inclusion of this bullet point was a drafting error. It related to an issue that was considered during the production process of the Core Strategy and one that was subsequently discounted. It was considered that this would be inconsistent with the overall strategy for employment delivery at Chippenham, which is to be focused at the town to support its self containment and help reduce out commuting (paragraph 5.49, Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document February 2012).

An earlier draft of the Chippenham section containing the bullet point approach, referring to Junction 17, was inadvertently used in the Council version. As this hadn't been part of the document recommended to Council by Cabinet, it obviously couldn't, nor did it need to be in the Draft Core Strategy that was in front of Council for approval for consultation.

- b) The Wiltshire Core Strategy Pre-Submission Document (paragraph 6.5) recognises that:

“There may be proposals that may arise during the plan period that are of exceptional strategic importance to the Wiltshire economy which may merit consideration. In such circumstances, potential will be explored in conjunction with the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, with consideration being given to the sub-regional context and impacts on the overall development strategy, in particular not undermining the delivery of the strategic employment sites already planned at settlements.”

As such potential exists to explore opportunities that come forward.

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WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

28 FEBRUARY 2012

QUESTION FROM CLLR NIGEL CARTER. DEVIZES NORTH DIVISION
FOR THE WILTSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

Question 1

It is understood that current financial limitations on the Authority's budget are causing problems in funding recruitment and retention of retained fire-fighters - proposed contracts suggest that, in certain circumstances, fire-fighters may be earning less than the minimum wage depending on hours worked - and that full-time fire-fighters are being recruited on contracts of one-year's length only, leading to uncertainty and a loss of morale? It is further understood that many of the fire stations operating with retained fire-fighters are unable to mount full crews when rostered, leaving substantial gaps in cover. A recent incident in the Devizes area is reputed to have drawn in crews from as far afield as Amesbury and Malmesbury to provide cover.

Can the Authority reassure council that stations are being adequately manned by suitably trained and committed fire-fighters and that no area of the county is unreasonable exposed to risk from fire because of inadequate cover?

Response

Wiltshire and Swindon Combined Fire Authority is the body corporate responsible for Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (FRS), with elected members drawn from both Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council. Its role is to ensure that an effective, efficient and resilient Service is provided for the people of Wiltshire and Swindon.

Wiltshire FRS' managers have taken the opportunity to look afresh at how the service could be delivered in future. There is no intention to stand still given the very dynamic environment in which the Service operates. One of the challenges facing Wiltshire FRS is a reduction in Government grant funding allocation, in line with other fire and rescue services. A programme of change has been put in place to enable the organisation to deliver services for the future with reduced funding while still delivering the same or improved levels of response to the people of Wiltshire and Swindon.

This programme has included a detailed review phase to determine how operational services could be delivered differently, whilst achieving the same or better outcomes. A series of proposals have been developed and these have been communicated to all FRS staff at a series of briefings that took place earlier this month. This started a 16 week internal consultation process.

The external consultation on the proposed changes will commence on 5th March. This will include presentations at a number of Community Area Board meetings – Devizes Community Area Board will receive this information on 26th March.

The detailed review of the Service's operational arrangements has included much work on the retained duty system. This allows firefighters – many of whom have other jobs - to be 'on call' for emergencies from home or work and then respond when mobilised in the event of an incident. Although this system has worked well in the past, it is no longer sustainable in the long term because of the significant demographic and societal changes that have taken place over the years. The system needs to change and a series of proposals have been developed to make improvements.

Levels of fire cover are continually reviewed and arrangements made to address any shortfalls. For incidents of some scale, crews from other stations are routinely brought in to make up the appropriately-sized response. The proposed new system for on call firefighters will not need so much day-to-day management. It involves a salary scheme, which will provide greater certainty for firefighters and the Service in the future.

Given that the Service is going through a period of transition, and to maintain current crewing levels on wholetime stations, a number of retained firefighters (who put themselves forward for this opportunity) have undertaken a 12 month temporary contract to work as wholetime firefighters. This was entirely voluntary and provides them with a great opportunity, with certainty for the period of their contract. This is a very positive step and a responsible action for the organisation to take.

We have already improved our capacity and capability for managing larger scale incidents by changing the working arrangements for our middle and senior level operational managers. Further work within the programme of change will ensure:

- The retention of all existing fire stations across Wiltshire and Swindon.
- The retention of all fire engines and improved levels of availability of those fire engines.
- The provision of five competent firefighters on fire engines.
- The provision of additional capacity to manage risk across Wiltshire and Swindon.

In conclusion, I would like to repeat that the aim of the changes which are now being consulted upon is to enable the organisation to deliver services for the future with reduced funding whilst maintaining or improving the levels of response to the communities we serve. Resources will be more closely linked to risk, the better to help protect life and property in Wiltshire and Swindon; and I hope the Council will be reassured by this.