

COUNCIL (BUDGET MEETING)

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2013 AT THE LANSDOWN HALL - CIVIC CENTRE, ST STEPHENS PLACE, TROWBRIDGE. BA14 8AH.

Present:

Cllr Richard Beattie, 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 (Chairman), Cllr Brian Dalton, Cllr Andrew Davis, Cllr Peter Davis, Cllr Tony Deane, Cllr Christopher Devine, Cllr Peter Doyle, Cllr Nick Fogg, Cllr Peter Fuller, Cllr Richard Gamble, Cllr Jose Green, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr Mark Griffiths, Cllr Mollie Groom, Cllr Lionel Grundy OBE, Cllr Brigadier Robert Hall, Cllr Russell Hawker, Cllr Mike Hewitt, Cllr Malcolm Hewson, Cllr Alan Hill, 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 Simon Killane, Cllr John Knight, Cllr Jerry Kunkler, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Alan MacRae, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Laura Mayes, Cllr Ian McLennan, Cllr Jemima Milton, 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 Rhé-Philipe, Cllr Pip Ridout, Cllr Bill Roberts, Cllr Ricky Rogers, Cllr Judy Rooke, 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 Bridget Wayman, Cllr Ian West, Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cllr Christopher Williams and Cllr Graham Wright

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Sample, Julie Swabey, Peggy Dow, Mary Douglas, Desna Allen, Bill Douglas, Jane Burton, Rod Eaton, Fred Westmoreland and Mike Cuthbert-Murray.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2012 were presented.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last Council meeting held on 13 November 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman drew Councillors' attention to a letter of advice previously circulated by the Monitoring officer in relation to interests, particularly on the setting of the budget and council tax, garage tenancies and the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Local Plan.

It was noted that a number of Councillors had applied for and been granted a dispensation to enable them to participate in the debate and voting on the setting of the budget and council tax. A list of Councillors who had been granted such a dispensation is attached as Appendix A to these minutes.

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

Cllr Francis Morland explained that he did not intend to declare an interest in the budget and setting of council tax item given the clarification given recently by the Minister that this was no longer necessary.

4 Announcements by the Chairman

The Chairman made the following announcements:

a) Former Councillors

The Chairman sadly informed Council of the recent deaths of former councillors, Ann Lye and Celia Lambert.

A liberal democrat, Ann Lye was elected to Wiltshire County Council in 1993 at a by-election to represent the Trowbridge West electoral division, and was returned later in that year to represent Trowbridge East until 1997. She also served on West Wiltshire District Council and Trowbridge Town Council, where she was a former chairman. She was well known in the Trowbridge community and was a founder member of the charity Action on Homelessness, which was still supporting vulnerable people today. She moved to Pembrokeshire in 2001.

Labour councillor, Mrs Celia Lambert served as the Wiltshire County Councillor for the Salisbury Bemerton electoral division from 1981 to 1988 during which time she was chairman of the Planning Committee and was an active member of the Salisbury community.

A number of Councillors paid tribute to both former Councillors. Of Monica Blake, Councillors commented that she had done an exceptional job as Councillor and would be greatly missed. Of Ann Lye, Councillors remembered her with fondness and referred to her unstinting work for the community she served in Trowbridge and the Liberal Democrat party, her great sense of humour and that she too would also be greatly missed.

Council stood for a moment in silence as a mark of respect for both former Councillors.

b) Councillors standing down

The Chairman took the opportunity, as this was the last meeting of the Council before the elections in May, to pay tribute to Councillors who had made it known they would not be standing for re-election, namely, Councillors Brigadier Hall, Peter Davis, Carole Soden, Julie Swabey, Judy Rooke, Bill Roberts, Lionel Grundy and Richard Beattie. The Chairman presented those Councillors who were in attendance with a small memento to remind them of their time on the Council.

c) Royal Visits

The Chairman referred to recent royal visits.

In December, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent visited the Wessex Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Warminster before travelling on to Bradford on Avon to visit Anthony Best Dynamics – a leading company in dynamic testing of vehicles – and the Wiltshire Music Centre, to celebrate their 15th anniversary.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall had visited the County twice. In December she attended the Bowood House Christmas extravaganza, in aid of the Wiltshire Bobby Van, before travelling on to Malmesbury to meet with victims of recent flooding in the town. She returned to Wiltshire again this month to visit the Rise Children's Centre, the Oaks, Chippenham to meet members of the Chippenham Time Credits Network set up by spice in partnership with the council, as well as others involved in initiatives to support work around financial inclusion, including Wiltshire Money. She then travelled on to Langley Burrell to meet young people taking part in courses run by Community First's Youth Action Wiltshire programme, before concluding her visit at the Wiltshire Scrapstore and resource centre to open the charity's new community room.

d) **New Year Honours**

The Chairman was delighted to be able to announce that a number of Wiltshire residents had received national recognition in the recent New Year Honours list.

A **CBE** was awarded to **Mr. Steve Visscher** of Marlborough for services to the support of scientific research

An **OBE** was awarded to **Mrs. Daphne Pullen** of Upton Lovell for charitable services

MBEs have been awarded to:

Mrs. Jillian Clark from Sutton Benger for services to the community of Sutton Benger

Mr. David Edgington from Westbury for services to the industrial heritage of the stationary engine

Lady Martin from Highworth for services to music and to charity

Mr. John “Mike” Tupman from Burbage for services to policing and to the community of Marlborough

Following their re-introduction, **British Empire Medals** were awarded for the first time to Wiltshire residents. Those receiving this award were:

Mrs. Daphne Breakspear from Wroughton for services to amateur dramatics in Swindon

Mrs. Jane Legat from Whiteparish for services to the community of Whiteparish

Colonel Richard Pinder from Fovant for services to the community of Fovant

Mrs. Lillian Smallshaw from Seend for services to the community of Seend

The Council congratulated them all on receiving such national recognition.

5 **Petitions**

(a) **Petitions Received**

The Chairman explained that no petitions had been received for presentation to this meeting.

(b) **Petitions Update**

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

Resolved:

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

6 Public Participation

The Chairman reported receipt of two requests for public participation. Mrs Landell-Mills on continued funding for the Wiltshire Victoria County History Appeal Trust being an element of the Financial Plan (minute no.7 refers) and Mrs Neal on the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Local Plan (minute no.10 refers). The Chairman agreed to take the speakers at the respective agenda items.

7 Wiltshire Council Financial Plan 2013/14

Declaration of Interest - Please refer to minute no. 3 above.

Public Participation

Mrs Landell-Mills addressed Council on the Budget. In particular she explained her disappointment at the Council's withdrawal of funding for the Wiltshire Victoria County History project. She hoped the Council would be able to extend its support to ensure the completion of Volume 9 which only required a few more months work prior to publication next year and that the Council should remain involved in the project.

Cllr Stuart Wheeler, Cabinet member for Transformation, Culture, Leisure and Libraries explained that due to the financial pressures on the Council, it was having to make some difficult decisions. However, he reassured Mrs Landell-Mills that every effort would be made to support the completion of Volume 9.

The Chairman explained how she 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:

- The Leader's Budget Speech (This was circulated at the meeting - Appendix B to these minutes)
- Budget report which included comments from the Special Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee held on 7 February 2013 and recommendations from Cabinet on 12 February 2013

- Financial Plan
- Updated appendices to the Financial Plan
- Minutes and report of the Special Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
- Extract from minutes of Cabinet held on 12 February 2013
- Report on Council tax setting

The Chairman reminded Council that it had a legal obligation to set a budget today. She explained that she would first call upon the Leader of the Council to present and propose the Budget and her Cabinet's recommendation. She would then call upon the Chairman of the Special Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to present the minutes and report of his Committee held on 7 February. Group Leaders would then be called to comment and respond to the Leader's proposals. As was customary, the Chairman explained that Group Leaders would not be limited to five minutes.

Accordingly, the Chairman invited Cllr Jane Scott, Leader of the Council, to present her budget speech as circulated at the meeting.

The Leader highlighted the Council's achievements over the last four years which were also highlighted in a short DVD film shown at the meeting. She also referred to the challenges which the Council continued to face in terms of increased demands for its services and the financial pressures as a consequence of significant reductions in Government funding. The Leader explained that she was proud of the achievements that had been delivered and that in tough times, the Council had managed to sustain its front line services and continued to support the most vulnerable in its communities.

The Leader thanked all staff who had worked tremendously hard during a challenging time in local government. She thanked all Councillors for their contribution and the roles they played as back-bench members or as members of scrutiny committees which ensured a constructive challenge to the Cabinet and members of the Schools Forum. She thanked the Corporate Directors and in particular, she thanked the Service Director for Finance and his team for the production of this year's budget and supporting papers.

The Leader moved the Budget as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 February which included agreeing the Council's budget of £340.518 million; a continued freeze on the Council's element of council tax; to set rents and fees and charges and the allocation of a new Rural Grant of £0.362 million between the base budgets for Area Boards and school improvements.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr John Thomson, Deputy Leader.

Cllr Trevor Carbin, Chairman of the Special Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee presented the views of his Committee dated 12 February in the form of its minutes and report. Cllr Carbin thanked Paul Kelly,

the Council's Designated Scrutiny Officer and his team for their hard work in supporting the scrutiny function.

Group Leaders were then given an opportunity to comment and respond to the Leader's proposals. The Chairman then opened the debate to all other Councillors. A number of questions and points were made during the debate to which the Leader or relevant Cabinet members responded. The Leader of the Council as mover of the motion, exercised her right of reply and responded to a number of points made during the debate.

Cllr Jon Hubbard requested a separate vote on the part of the motion relating to the freezing of council tax. However, it was explained that it would not be sound to take the budget piecemeal.

Following debate and on being put to the vote, it was

Resolved:

That Council adopt the following:

- a. To endorse the update of the 2012-15 Financial Plan for 2013/14 as presented.**
- b. To allocate the new Rural Grant allocated to Wiltshire on 5th February of £0.362 million between the base budgets for Area Boards (£0.162 million) and School Improvement (£0.200 million) as set out at paragraph 6.7 of the report presented.**
- c. To approve the savings and investment proposals summarised at Sections 9 and 7 respectively of the report presented and Sections 4 and 5 of Cabinet's proposed Financial Plan at Appendix 1 of the report presented. Along with the net nil changes for the Rural Grant to provide a net revenue budget for 2013/14 of £340.518 million.**
- d. To:**
 - i. Freeze Wiltshire Council's element of the Band D council tax for 2013/14 £1,222.43, as calculated in accordance with statute, as set out in Section 10 of the report presented.**
 - ii. Set the Council's total net expenditure budget for 2013/14 at £340.518 million.**
 - iii. Approve the award of grants to Parish and Town Councils as set out under Sections 10.9 and 10.10 of this report so no such precepting body is impacted by the local Council Tax support scheme introduced for 2013/14;**

- iv. **Set a 3.4% increase for dwelling rents in accordance with rent restructuring;**
- v. **Set the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2013/14 (original) as set out at Appendix F of Cabinet's proposed Financial Plan at Appendix 1 of the report presented;**
- vi. **That all other rent or service charges related to the Housing Revenue Account be frozen at 2011/12 levels.**
- vii. **To approve the Capital programme at Appendix E of Cabinet's proposed Financial Plan, attached to the report presented at Appendix 1.**
- viii. **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 presented.**

8 Report on Council Tax Setting

At the Chairman's invitation, the Leader presented a report which detailed the various calculations in the prescribed format to enable Council to approve the council tax requirement for 2013/14.

Using the tax base previously approved by Cabinet on 18 December 2012 of 164,575.59 Band D equivalent households, and the draft net budget requirement of £340.518 million (of which £201.182m is funded by council tax) gives a band D council tax for 2013/2014 of £1,222.43.

On being proposed by the Leader and seconded by the Deputy Leader, it was

Resolved:

That the Council approves the Council Tax Resolutions for 2013/14 as follows:

1. **That it be noted that on 18 December 2012 the Council calculated:**
 - (a) **the Council Tax Base 2013/2014 for the whole Council area as 164,575.59 [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 the attached Appendix C.**

2. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2013/2014 (excluding Parish precepts) is £201.182m.

3. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2013/2014 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:

- (a) £877,532,967.43 (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) £524,830,000.00 (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) £352,702,967.43 (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) £1,296.47 (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 £
864.31	1,008.37	1,152.41	1,296.47	1,584.57	1,872.68	2,160.78	2,592.94

- (e) £12,184,967.43 (Aggregate of Town & Parish Council Precepts) being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C).
- (f) £1,222.43 (Band D Council Tax for Wiltshire Council purposes only) being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (2 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of

its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precept relates, as shown below:

Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £
814.95	950.78	1,086.60	1,222.43	1,494.08	1,765.73	2,037.38	2,444.86

ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned for lunch at this point in the meeting, 1pm and reconvened at 1.55pm.

9 Treasury Management Strategy 2013/14

Cllr John Brady, Cabinet member for Finance, Performance and Risk presented a report previously considered by Cabinet on 12 February 2013 which sought approval of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2013/14.

It was noted that the Council was required by legislation to approve a Treasury Management Strategy, which incorporated the setting of Prudential and Treasury Indicators and an Annual Investment Strategy. The report set out the main areas for consideration by the Council including:

- The Prudential Indicators and Treasury Indicators
- The Borrowing Strategy
- Other Debt Management Issues
- Cash Investments; and
- Minimum Revenue Provision

The primary treasury management risks to which the Council is exposed are adverse movements in interest rates and the credit risk of its investment counterparties.

The strategies detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B of the report presented took into account the forecast movement in interest rates and allowed sufficient flexibility to vary strategy if actual movements in interest rates were not in line with the forecast.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Prudential and Treasury Indicators be adopted (Appendix A of the report presented) and the change in Prudential Indicator 4, which now compares Gross (previously Net, of investments) Debt with the Capital**

Financing Requirement in accordance with an amendment issued by CIPFA in November 2012 be approved;

- b) That the Annual Investment Strategy (Appendix B of the report presented) be adopted;**
- c) That the Service Director, Finance be authorised to vary the amount of borrowing and other long term liabilities within both the Treasury Indicators for the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary;**
- d) That the Service Director, Finance be authorised to agree the restructuring of existing long-term loans where savings are achievable or to enhance the long term portfolio;**
- e) That short term cash surpluses and deficits continue to be managed through temporary loans and deposits; and**
- f) 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 Service Director, Finance the authority to select such funds.**

10 Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Local Plan - Adoption

Public Participation

Mrs Neal, Clerk to Chitterne Parish Council addressed Council on the Plan in so far as the inclusion of land at Valley Farm, Chitterne was concerned. The Parish Council considered that the greenfield site in such a sensitive location should never have been considered for inclusion in the Plan and had made representations on this issue at every opportunity.

Cllr de Rhé-Philipe explained that whilst she had sympathy for the Parish Council's position, the site having been put forward by the landowner had to be considered. She quoted from the Inspector's Report which stated: '*...the site has capacity to accommodate some waste management uses, within the limits defined by its allocation for local scale development. It is not necessary therefore, that the site should be removed from the Plan in the interests of soundness*'. She added that the use of the site would still be subject to planning approval.

Cllr Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Cabinet member for Economic Development and Strategic Planning presented the recommendation from Cabinet dated 22

January 2013 that Council adopt the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Local Plan incorporating the Inspector's main modifications.

The report previously considered by Cabinet, the Plan itself as proposed and Planning Inspector's Report were presented. The Plan presented the final element of the current waste planning policy framework for Wiltshire and Swindon.

The Planning Inspector's Report, outlined that the Plan appropriately reflected national policy and the policy framework set out in the adopted Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Core Strategy (July 2009) and Waste Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (September 2009).

Councillors were advised that the Planning Inspector concluded that, subject to the inclusion of a limited number of main modifications, the submitted Plan was sound and should be adopted as soon as reasonably practicable. It was noted that Swindon Borough Council had resolved to formally adopt the Plan at its meeting on 17 January 2013.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe explained the background to the development of the Plan and how over 100 potential waste sites had initially been considered for inclusion which had been subject to extensive assessment. The number of sites had during the course of development of the Plan now been reduced to 34 which represented the best and most deliverable options for future waste management development. All 34 sites would of course still be subject to the planning application process. Cllr de Rhé-Philippe paid tribute to the huge amount of detailed work carried out by officers to bring the Plan to this stage.

Cllr de Rhé-Philippe moved the adoption of the Plan and this was seconded by the Leader of the Council.

The Chairman opened the debate out initially to group leaders and then to all other Councillors. A number of concerns and comments were raised during debate both in general terms and site specific to Councillors' respective divisions, to which Cllr de Rhé-Philippe responded.

In response to points on consultation and whether comments received during consultation had been fully acted upon, Cllr Brady emphasised that this Plan had been subject to extensive consultation more so than any other Plan. This had included involvement of Area Boards and various meetings held with full officer support and that all comments received had been fully considered and taken into account.

Following debate, it was

Resolved:

That the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Local Plan, incorporating the Inspector's main modifications, be adopted.

Recorded Vote

The above decision was the subject of a recorded vote at the request of the requisite number of Councillors and recorded as follows:

For the motion (56)

Cllrs Beattie, Berry, Brady, Britton, Bryant, Bucknell, Carter, Clewer, Cochrane, Colmer, Conley, Connolly, Crisp, Andrew Davis, de Rhé-Philipe, Deane, Doyle, Fuller, Gamble, Green, Greenman, Groom, Grundy, Hall, Hewitt, Hill, Howard, Keith Humphries, Hutton, Johnson, Killane, Kunkler, Lay, MacRae, McLennan, Milton, Moss, Noeken, Parker, Payne, Randall, Ridout, Roberts, Rogers, Scott, Seed, Smale, Soden, Sturgis, Thomson, Tonge, Trotman, Wayman, Wheeler, While and Williams.

Against the motion (9)

Cllrs Brown, Caswill, Hawker, Hewson, Hubbard, Jenkins, Marshall, Newbury and Oldrieve.

Abstentions (11)

Cllrs Carbin, Dalton, Jeans, Knight, Morland, Helen Osborn, Jeff Osborn, Packard, Phillips, Rooke and West.

11 **Review of Proportionality and Allocation of Seats on Committees**

Following changes in the number of seats held by individual political groups on the Council, a request had been received from the Leader of the Independent Group for a review of the allocation of seats to political groups.

Accordingly, Council considered a report by the Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer on the legal considerations to be taken into account in undertaking such a review.

The report guided Council through the legal requirements in allocating seats to political groups. In particular the report set out the legal position, the number of councillors in each of the five political groups, the four principles laid down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Committees of the Council and the method to be used in calculating places to the Committees. A draft scheme of Committee places which had been the subject of initial consultation with group leaders was circulated for Council's consideration.

A discussion ensued on the application of the legal requirements to allocate seats to political groups. In particular, concern was expressed by the Independent Group in relation to how this applied to the allocation of seats on the Police and Crime Panel. The Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer confirmed his view that the proposals before the Council complied with the legal requirements. He advised that the Council was not legally bound to provide the Independent Group a place on the Police and Crime Panel, which was subject to special rules involving the need to ensure that 'the balanced appointment objective' is met so far as reasonably practicable. Panel members had

undergone a specific period of induction training over the last eight months and it would not be possible to repeat this training prior to the elections in May. The Council was entitled to take this factor into account in considering the impact of a change of membership at this point in time on the 'balanced appointment objective' which required the local authority members of the Panel (when taken together) to have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Panel to discharge its obligations effectively. In relation to the rules on political proportionality under the 1989 Act, the Council was under a duty to apply these as far as reasonably practicable.

Cllr Christopher Newbury advised that effective from the end of this meeting, Cllr Ernie Clark would replace him as Independent Group Leader, with Cllr Francis Morland as deputy.

Resolved:

- a) **That the report and legal requirements be noted**
- b) **To confirm the total aggregate number as 179 and the scheme of committee places available to councillors as attached as Appendix D to these minutes.**
- c) **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:**

Licensing Committee

Cllr Jacqui Lay removed as member

Cllr Chris Humphries appointed as member

Audit Committee

Cllr Alan MacRae removed as member

Cllr Jacqui Lay appointed as member

Eastern Area Planning Committee

Cllr Trevor Carbin removed as member

Cllr Chris Humphries appointed as member

Children's Services Committee

Cllr David Jenkins removed as member

Cllr Jacqui Lay appointed as member

Recorded Vote

Cllrs Francis Morland and Russell Hawker requested that their votes against the above decisions be recorded.

12 **Councillors' Induction Programme 2013**

Cllr Allison Bucknell, Chairman of the Councillor Development Group presented a report which updated Council on the work undertaken to date on the 2013 Councillor Induction Programme, what had been agreed by the Councillor Development Group and the areas still being developed.

The Council noted that the Induction Programme had been split into three strands. An online e-guide which would be replacing the traditional hardcopy 'A Handbook for Members', a councillors quickstart guide and a programme of workshops that made up the induction programme itself. The induction programme would run from 7 May 2013 to 10 June 2013.

In addition to the initial programme, a suggested programme of learning that would stretch out across the remaining first year and beyond was being created to assist in the continuous development of councillors, committee members and committee chairs.

During debate reference was made to the importance of Councillors taking up training opportunities particularly on quasi judicial functions and the legal responsibilities of being a corporate parent and safeguarding. Members paid tribute to Cllr Bucknell and the Councillor Development team of Councillors and officers for all their work on the induction, in particular, Jay Gascoigne who was co-ordinating the induction programme.

Resolved:

- a) That the actions taken so far in the preparation of the proposed induction programme for 2103, be endorsed, noting that further discussions would take place between Group Leaders and the Corporate Leadership Team before the programme was finalised.**
- b) That for those areas where the Council has a quasi judicial role or where there are rights of appeals where costs are incurred, all Councillors and Substitute Members are required to undergo training before serving on those Committees and it shall be the responsibility of their Group Leader for ensuring that this happens.**
- c) That all Councillors to undergo training in respect of their responsibilities for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults**
- d) That Councillors be encouraged to undertake specific training in relation to the Committees to which they are appointed.**

13 **Wiltshire Council's Pay Policy Statement**

At the Chairman's invitation, Cllr Allison Bucknell as Chairman of the Staffing Policy Committee, presented a report regarding the updated Pay Policy Statement and publication of senior staff pay. The Policy Statement had been considered by the Staffing Policy Committee at its meeting on 9 January 2013 which recommended its approval.

Council was advised that under section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 every local authority was required to prepare and publish a pay policy statement for the financial year 2012/13 and this must be updated in each subsequent financial year. The statement had been updated for 2013/14 to reflect current headcount, budget and redundancy figures. It was noted that there had been no significant changes.

Resolved:

(a) That the updated Pay Policy Statement set out in Appendix 1 of the report presented be approved

(b) That the continued publication of senior staff salaries with a threshold of £52,800, along with job descriptions, budget responsibilities and numbers of staff be approved, with individuals being asked to consent for their names to be included.

14 **Notices of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion received.

15 **Councillors' Questions**

The Chairman reported the receipt of questions from Cllrs Nicholas Fogg, Bill Douglas, Brian Dalton, Jon Hubbard and Chris Caswill details of which were circulated and attached as Appendix E 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.

16 **Minutes of Cabinet and Committees**

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

Meeting	Date
Cabinet	18 December 2012, 22 January and 12 February 2013
Cabinet Capital Assets Committee	22 January 2013
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	13 December 2012 and 7 February 2013
Children's Select Committee	29 November 2012
Environment Select Committee	20 December 2012
Health Scrutiny Committee	15 November 2012 and 17 January 2013
Northern Area Planning Committee	12 December 2012, 9 January and 30 January 2013
Eastern Area Planning Committee	22 November 2012 and 31 January 2013
Southern Area Planning Committee	15 November 2012 and 24 January 2013
Western Area Planning Committee	14 November, 5 December 2012 and 23 January 2013
Strategic Planning Committee	14 November 2012
Audit Committee	19 December 2012
Officer Appointments Committee	18 December 2012
Staffing Policy Committee	7 November 2012 and 9 January 2013
Wiltshire Pension Fund Committee	6 December 2012
Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel	5 December 2012 and 4 January 2013

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 minutes of the above mentioned minutes be received and noted.

Appendices

Appendix A – List of dispensations granted	– Minute no. 3
Appendix B – Leader's Budget Speech	– Minute no. 7
Appendix C – List of precepts by parish	– Minute no. 8
Appendix D – Allocation of Committee places	– Minute no. 11
Appendix E – Councillors' questions and responses	– Minute no. 15

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am – 4.15 pm)

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Register of Confirmed Dispensations

<u>Surname</u>	<u>First name</u>	<u>Certificate Number</u>
Allen	Desna	1500
Beattie	Richard	15055
Berry	Chuck	15057
Brady	John	1501
Britton	Richard	1502
Brown	Rosemary	1503
Bryant	Liz	15056
Bucknell	Allison	1504
Carbin	Trevor	1505
Carter	Nigel	15059
Caswill	Chris	1506
Clark	Ernie	1507
Clewer	Richard	1508
Cochrane	Christopher	1509
Colmer	Peter	15010
Conley	Linda	15011
Connolly	Mark	15012
Crisp	Christine	15013
Dalton	Brian	15014
Davis	Andrew	15015
Davis	Peter	15016
De Rhe Philipe	Fleur	15017
Deane	Tony	15018
Devine	Christopher	15051
Douglas	Mary	15019
Douglas	Bill	15020
Doyle	Peter	15021
Eaton	Rod	15022
Fogg	Nick	15052
Fuller	Peter	15023
Gamble	Richard	15024
Green	Jose	15025
Greenman	Howard	15026
Griffiths	Mark	15027
Groom	Mollie	15028
Grundy	Lionel	15029
Hall	Robert	15030
Hawker	Russell	15062

Hewitt	Mike	517527
Hewson	Malcolm	15063
Hill	Alan	15031
Howard	Charles	15032
Hubbard	Jon	15033
Humphries	Chris	15034
Humphries	Keith	15035
Hutton	Peter	15036
James	Tom	15064
Jeans	George	15037
Jenkins	David	15038
Johnson	Julian	15039
Knight	John	15040
Kunkler	Jerry	15054
Lay	Jacqui	51760
Macrae	Alan	15041
Marshall	Howard	15042
Maye	Laura	15043
Milton	Jemima	15044
Morland	Francis	15045
Moss	William	15046
Noeken	John	15047
Ody	Jeff	15048
Oldrieve	Stephen	15049
Osborn	Helen	15050
Osborn	Jeff	51751
Packard	Mark	51752
Parker	Sheila	51753
Payne	Graham	51754
Petty	Stephen	51755
Phillips	Nina	51756
Randall	Leo	51757
Ridout	Pip	51758
Roberts	William	517526
Rooke	Judy	51759
Sample	Paul	517510
Scott	Jane	517511
Seed	Jonathon	517512
Smale	John	517513
Soden	Carole	517514
Sturgis	Toby	517515
Swabey	Julie	517516
Thomson	John	517517
Tonge	Dick	517518
Trotman	Tony	517519
Wayman	Bridget	517520

West	Ian	517521
Westmoreland	Fred	517522
Wheeler	Stuart	517523
While	Roy	517524
Williams	Christopher	517525
Wright	Graham	15053

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Leader's speech – Budget – 26 February 2013

They say a week is a long time in politics but Wiltshire Council became a unitary authority almost four years ago and the time has gone so quickly!

In the four years we have made many changes and we have delivered a great deal.

Our focus has always been to do what we believe is best for the people of Wiltshire.

We have had to change, do things differently, adopt new and innovative ways of working and not be afraid to take tough decisions. We have done this so that our front line services can be protected.

Four years ago we had the opportunity as a new unitary to make efficiencies and save money and this has undoubtedly helped us.

We knew that the demand for some of our services was increasing; particularly those for adult care as the growth in the number of older people in our county was exceeding the national average, also that more children were coming into care as was the case across the UK.

We also recognised that investment was needed in the county's roads and the waste and recycling collection services.

What we didn't know, at the time, was that this demand pressure would be combined with a significant reduction in our funding from central government as a result of the Comprehensive Funding Review in 2010. The review reflected the national and world wide economic decline. The chancellor announced that local government funding would be reduced by 28 per cent in real terms and 21 per cent in cash over the next four years. In the autumn of 2012, this reduction in cash was extended by a further 2 per cent to apply in 2014/15. For Wiltshire this means our funds from central government have been reduced in cash terms by 22 per cent but in real terms, when factoring in inflation, the reduction is closer to 37 per cent, which is nine per cent more than we predicted in 2010.

Added to that our financial challenge is tougher in Wiltshire.

We receive an average of 224 pounds in government grant per head of population – that is almost 94 pounds less than the English rural average of 318 pounds. Plus - the population of the county aged 65 plus is 15 per cent higher than the national average and this will rise to 18 per cent by 2015.

This means we need to invest more than 3 million pounds in services for older people next year just to stand still.

Keeping the local economy vibrant has always been a priority. Following the review in 2010 we had to adapt and revise our plan to take account of the effect of the economic downturn. This combined with the reduction in central government funding would have an impact on our communities and residents, and Wiltshire's economy as a whole.

In response to these challenges, three years ago we published our first business plan.

It set out that we would:

- invest in key frontline services
- protect the most vulnerable in our communities, and,
- save money to enable us to do this

And, it also stated that;

- We would keep any increase in council tax low, and;
- We would protect our frontline services.

I think it's important that I update on whether we achieved what we set out to do. It's easy to set goals but far more challenging to actually achieve them.

These achievements are key to the decision on the budget proposals for next year 2013/14 and what we agree in readiness for a newly-elected council.

Over the last four years, we have invested more than 85 million pounds in frontline services, we have not increased council tax, we have managed the 22 per cent decrease in central government funding and we have delivered more than 100 million pounds of savings to pay for this.

To bring this to life and to remind you of some of the investments and savings that we have delivered, I would like to show you the following [short video that takes a look back at the first four years of Wiltshire Council and highlights some of our key achievements...](#)

I hope you will agree that we have built a good and solid foundation ready to hand over to the new council in May, and that we leave a legacy of outstanding achievements and new innovative programmes of work, that will continue to deliver improvements and savings long into the future.

I'd like to now look ahead to next year.

At a time when other local authorities are making cuts, we plan to invest and improve our services and increase our support for local communities, despite a continued decrease in public sector funding.

In 2013/14 our funding from central government will have been reduced by a further 9.8 million pounds – this represents the biggest reduction so far – and by the end of 2015 our funding from central government will have reduced by 22 per cent.

I am proposing to invest almost 18 million pounds in the revenue budget to support key frontline services.

This will include investment into;

- adult care and aspects of children's services reflecting the increased demand in these areas and our commitment to protecting the most vulnerable in our communities
- car parking; to support local towns and the city to allocate three days of free parking to coincide with local events – building on the success of last year's celebrations – and, to support season tickets for parking to assist low paid workers and to reflect our commitment to boosting the local economy
- waste and recycling services – this will be the final investment to support the MBT plant in Westbury becoming fully operational in September - and to meet the current landfill taxes. This service will save money from next year as recycling rates continue to increase and we dispose of waste in more innovative ways leading to a reduction in the amount of landfill tax we are charged
- And, we need to cover inflation costs and changes in central government legislation such as meeting the redundancy costs in some schools converting to academies and for setting up the new health and well being board.

I am also pleased to announce that as a result of lobbying central government, we have attracted an additional 362,000 pounds of government grant above the draft settlement figures. This additional funding reflects the new formula that recognises the uniqueness of rural areas and the additional costs that are incurred in supporting rural communities like ours.

Our allocation was one of the highest nationally and I am proposing that;

- 162,000 pounds of this additional grant will be distributed between the area boards to focus on children and young people in communities, supporting local projects, schemes and facilities reflecting the success of many local initiatives last year. An example of this was the excellent Young People's Awards in Melksham and I understand that this project has been deservedly shortlisted for a corporate award.
- The remaining 200,000 pounds will be allocated to support and challenge schools to raise standards and improve educational outcomes for Wiltshire's young people.

- We also agreed to support town and parish councils following the late announcement on council precepts from central government. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank these councils for the work they do delivering local services and supporting our communities.

I am also planning to invest almost 146 million pounds into services and capital schemes.

This will include;

- An additional 3 million pounds on roads maintenance reflecting local feedback that we need to spend more on highways and potholes including £300,000 more into flood alleviation projects
- £16.6 million on affordable housing and social housing highlighting the demand for good quality affordable homes and reflecting our new powers to spend more money to improve the condition of our council homes in Salisbury
- Almost £39 million to provide the first seven community campuses in Corsham, Melksham, Salisbury, Calne, Cricklade, Pewsey and Tisbury. This will deliver sustainable savings through more efficient, modern buildings as well as providing enhanced facilities for our communities. In the longer term the plan is to create 18 campuses in each of the community areas. The campuses will bring police, health, leisure, other council and public and voluntary services together in one location, in modern, efficient facilities, based on what each local community says it needs.
- We will continue to invest in the local economy with the roll out of superfast broadband. This was planned to reach 85 per cent of Wiltshire homes and businesses but will now reach 91per cent. We allocated £16 million and we received a government grant of £4 million to deliver this project.
- Our base budget reflects a £1 million growth each year to support the local economy. This includes help to provide incubation units across the county, as well as local initiatives in market towns such as underwriting the Christmas market in

Salisbury, and support for the apprenticeship scheme which aims to have 1,000 people placed in apprenticeships by July this year. Currently more than 770 have been placed in apprenticeship posts in local businesses.

- This year has been a difficult year for schools. The funding for schools is currently allocated from central government for us to reallocate based on local and national formulae. Overall Wiltshire's funding allocation remains below the national average in terms of spend per pupil. In line with national requirements, we have worked with schools and revised the formula to deliver a new scheme that reflects local priorities.

The total estimated Dedicated School's Grant for 2013/14 is more than 302 million pounds before the adjustment for the impact of academies. No school will receive a reduction in budget of more than 1.5 per cent per pupil, before any pupil premium is added.

- We are planning to allocate £38 million into schools to invest in new fit-for-purpose buildings and to carry out maintenance works on existing buildings.

It is vital that we continue to protect our frontline services and those who are most vulnerable in our communities and that we support economic growth to create and protect jobs through investment in infrastructure, and support for local businesses and inward investment.

We need to continue to work with our local communities to do more in 2013, such as local events to help boost our market towns and city. We know that stronger communities that come together are better able to tackle issues that affect them.

We also know that Wiltshire is a great place in which to live and work – in fact it's the fourth happiest county in the country and we want to keep it that way.

Our budget proposal for 2013/14 looks ahead to the challenges we face and it grasps the opportunities ahead.

Last year's events helped to reinvigorate the local economy and we will continue to take action to keep it buoyant. Communities came together to celebrate, generating a sense of pride and real community spirit. We want to encourage them to come together again this year and we will work with them to support local events and activities.

Last year inspired many of us to be more healthy and active and to take up new sports or activities. I intend to continue to provide free swimming for the under 16s in the school holidays given the overwhelming success with more than 100,000 free swims taken up so far. The rise in the level of activity – particularly children and young people – and the reduction in the level of childhood obesity in our county is a reflection of last year's success.

We were proud to support our local Olympic and Paralympic athletes as they competed and won medals at last year's Games, and we need to keep this momentum going, encouraging everyone to continue to keep fit and healthy and participate in sport and activities.

We are working with local businesses to look at ideas to support our future Olympians and Paralympians in readiness for the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016.

From the first of April public health will be integrated into the council and I am excited at the opportunities this provides for us to work with our partners to continue to improve the health and wellbeing of our local residents.

Whilst the global economic picture is still not good and we are constantly reminded of the recession, Wiltshire's economy has remained resilient and we are boosting it by making sure people have opportunities to work locally. It is excellent news that Wiltshire is one of the top five areas nationally for business investment and that the percentage of people on job seekers allowance is 2 per cent compared with 3.7 per cent across the country. We are supporting the 'Get Britain Working' measures and with our partners we are creating a thriving and dynamic economy which is bucking the national trend.

One of the biggest challenges we've had to contend with is central government's changes to welfare. These wide-ranging reforms will leave some people worse off and we have been working, again, with our partners to ensure the most vulnerable are supported.

Unfortunately in some areas like council tax benefit which is being devolved to local authorities there is a shortfall in government funding. To pay for this shortfall more people will see reductions in benefits. An enormous amount of work is taking place with local people to support those who will be hit the hardest. The aim behind the reforms is to get people back into work, and in Wiltshire we will work to ensure there are more high value job opportunities for those who want and need them.

It is, therefore, vital that we continue to help local people find and stay in employment, which is why we are continuing with our investment into new initiatives in Wiltshire.

More than 25 million pounds of European and government money will be invested into key projects as a result of our work.

These include; securing 10 million pounds of Regional Growth Funding, which will lever in a further 60 million of private investment to develop Porton Science Park.

This will safeguard 100 jobs and create a further 100 jobs in the short term, and create 2,000 new high value jobs over the lifetime of the project.

We have provided direct support for over 700 Wiltshire businesses and working with them we have helped to safeguard almost 3,000 jobs and create more than 2,700 new jobs.

The recent news that the government has agreed the Swindon and Wiltshire Deal will mean that we are able to unlock the economic power of the military in our county. The bid will see military leavers' skills being used by companies who wish to locate and grow in the county. It will also mean surplus MOD land will be considered as areas for potential appropriate development. The bid includes funding for 2,000 university places and higher apprenticeships to support our workforce becoming more skilled. This will mean that companies – no matter how specialist – wishing to move or expand will be able to employ highly skilled local people. It's early days but this is really excellent news for Wiltshire. But, like any good business, we have to keep our costs down, we still have to make savings just to stand still, let alone make the investments I have proposed.

We need to continue to remove waste and unnecessary bureaucracy in our services and provide what our residents need.

I plan to save - 27million, 656 thousand pounds in next year's budget to ensure we can invest in key services and protect those who are most vulnerable.

Four years ago we would have liked to reduce council tax. But, due to the impact of central government cuts in funding and the need to make savings we could not make a reduction. We have, however, not increased in the level of council tax for three years running and we are proposing no increase for next year. We feel it's important to recognise the continued impact of the economic climate and to support our local tax payers.

As I have mentioned previously, the move to one large unitary council has undoubtedly helped us to make savings - the council is bigger and more efficient and has greater buying and negotiating power.

An example is the recent 1.2 million pounds of savings delivered as a result of the new contract awarded for highways and amenities – previously this would have been five separate smaller contracts which were less efficient and more costly. We will continue to look at what we purchase and where we can make further savings.

We are delivering services more efficiently and we are reducing costs by around 10 per cent. We are able to do this by focusing on the customer and removing waste, and we are making better use of our council properties and assets, providing more efficient, fit-for-purpose, cheaper to run and maintain buildings.

We are saving significant money by reducing the number of council offices. We inherited more than 95 that were costly to run, had huge outstanding maintenance work - valued at more than 21 million pounds - and we are reducing to 3 main hubs that will be more efficient.

These will be customer friendly and offer community space as well as the opportunity for sharing with other public sector organisations. An excellent example of this is the police move into the Monkton Park offices. This programme to reduce and refurbish will deliver

savings of more than £5 million each year in running and maintenance costs and will provide fit-for-purpose, energy efficient buildings.

The sale of offices at Browfort in Devizes and Bradley Road in Trowbridge will result in capital funding which will help to fund the delivery of the seven campuses that I referred to earlier.

We have reduced the workforce by 600 posts, including more than 200 managerial roles and the post of chief executive in the last four years.

Our back office or support function costs were 19 per cent of our total budget in 2009 – this is now 9 per cent of our budget and we intend to reduce this further.

We will continue to review the use of consultants and our management structures. The aim is to further reduce duplication by reviewing some corporate support services to deliver more savings. We aim to reduce by an additional 200 posts next year.

The new Help to Live at Home service, which helps older people to live independently at home and in their local community, avoiding residential care for as long as possible, is recognised nationally as both innovative and practical, meeting the balance of achieving care and quality of life. So far it has saved more than 1.2 million pounds and it will continue to save money. More than 60 per cent of people who have received initial support services have no further requirement for care and the service has been streamlined from more than 90 providers to eight.

Our base line budget last year was 350 million, 370 thousand pounds. For this year our proposed base line budget is 340million, 518 thousand pounds – a reduction of almost £10 million.

I firmly believe that in the first four years as a unitary council we have seized the opportunities to do things differently and take a radical approach to delivering our services in the future.

I am extremely proud of the achievements we have delivered and that in tough times we have managed to sustain our front line services and continue to support the most vulnerable in our communities.

We are gaining national recognition for our transformational work including the campus programme, our property rationalisation, our work with local communities and our help to live at home programme.

However, we also recognise that there is work still to be done to improve our children's services and ensure that children and young people are safeguarded. Much has been done since last year's Ofsted inspection, but there is still more to do and that work will continue as a top priority.

I consider it a privilege to have been leader for the first four years of Wiltshire Council and I am confident that strong foundations have been laid ready for a new council to continue to build upon.

Thank you's

Before I move to the recommendation, I would like to say a special thank you to Michael Hudson, Finance Director and his team for the production of this year's budget and all the supporting papers.

I now move the recommendations on page 253 of the summons, as well as the recommendations made at cabinet on the 12 February regarding the additional £362,000 government rural grant.

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TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2012/2013			2013/2014			C Tax increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Aldbourne	812.02	27,500.00	33.87	753.64	25,525.79	33.87	0.00%
Alderbury	964.25	30,000.00	31.11	910.35	36,000.00	39.55	27.13%
All Cannings	270.84	9,351.00	34.53	249.04	9,534.35	38.28	10.86%
Allington	192.73	7,980.00	41.41	175.54	7,269.11	41.41	0.00%
Alton	115.12	2,250.00	19.54	103.44	2,021.22	19.54	0.00%
Alvediston	49.25	0.00	0.00	45.59	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Amesbury	3,751.95	206,000.00	54.90	3,376.35	195,661.61	57.95	5.56%
Ansty	71.34	1,400.00	19.62	72.43	1,500.00	20.71	5.56%
Ashton Keynes	669.54	32,050.00	47.87	641.26	32,297.12	50.37	5.22%
Atworth	511.83	14,622.00	28.57	476.76	15,499.03	32.51	13.79%
Avebury	237.51	11,100.00	46.73	215.71	9,980.13	46.27	-0.98%
Barford St Martin	217.51	7,370.00	33.88	192.83	7,163.08	37.15	9.65%
Baydon	296.31	11,905.00	40.18	282.77	14,101.00	49.87	24.12%
Beechingstoke	71.54	0.00	0.00	65.64	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Berwick Bassett & W/Bourne Monkton	92.63	600.00	6.48	85.96	1,757.02	20.44	215.43%
Berwick St James	81.59	1,250.00	15.32	73.34	1,123.57	15.32	0.00%
Berwick St John	127.66	3,000.00	23.50	132.86	3,000.00	22.58	-3.91%
Berwick St Leonard	17.01	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Biddestone	237.61	7,000.00	29.46	237.56	6,998.52	29.46	0.00%
Bishops Cannings	764.96	13,900.00	18.17	722.19	13,400.19	18.55	2.09%
Bishopstone	275.91	5,000.00	18.12	259.33	5,200.00	20.05	10.65%
Bishopstrow	63.58	900.00	14.16	62.43	900.00	14.42	1.84%
Bowerchalke	179.60	4,500.00	25.06	166.67	5,176.75	31.06	23.94%
Box	1,529.51	131,189.00	85.77	1,443.63	128,455.15	88.98	3.74%
Boyton	88.56	900.00	10.16	86.55	529.35	6.12	-39.76%
Bradford On Avon	3,981.49	354,157.00	88.95	3,615.22	329,407.00	91.12	2.44%
Bratton	525.96	24,500.00	46.58	481.94	22,448.77	46.58	0.00%
Braydon	26.96	0.00	0.00	22.84	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Bremhill	461.88	5,000.00	10.83	440.69	4,772.67	10.83	0.00%
Brinkworth	595.11	16,000.00	26.89	573.87	16,000.00	27.88	3.68%
Britford	185.97	600.00	3.23	169.21	2,946.55	17.41	439.01%
Broad Hinton & W/Bourne Bassett	398.00	5,500.00	13.82	376.44	5,202.40	13.82	0.00%
Broad Town	266.66	3,400.00	12.75	253.67	3,284.29	12.95	1.57%
Broadchalke	321.78	6,000.00	18.65	304.88	6,186.01	20.29	8.79%
Brokenborough	96.22	1,265.00	13.15	98.90	1,265.00	12.79	-2.74%
Bromham	807.14	34,000.00	42.12	737.77	33,074.87	44.83	6.43%
Broughton Gifford	350.74	7,500.00	21.38	325.75	8,465.00	25.99	21.56%
Bulford	1,092.81	39,336.33	36.00	1,055.47	41,913.39	39.71	10.31%
Bulkington	122.88	4,500.00	36.62	118.20	4,500.00	38.07	3.96%
Burbage	789.53	32,910.00	41.68	735.01	63,925.00	86.97	108.66%
Burcombe	64.28	1,500.00	23.34	57.77	2,000.00	34.62	48.33%
Buttermere	28.26	0.00	0.00	29.98	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Calne	5,865.82	1,172,825.00	199.94	5,080.29	1,015,753.00	199.94	0.00%
Calne Without	1,128.83	6,000.00	5.32	1,077.06	5,729.96	5.32	0.00%
Castle Combe	172.83	4,250.00	24.59	162.75	4,252.02	26.13	6.26%
Chapmanslade	315.12	5,000.00	15.87	300.52	3,769.25	12.54	-20.98%
Charlton	233.73	4,800.00	20.54	224.44	4,710.00	20.99	2.19%
Charlton St Peter & Wilsford	84.77	800.00	9.44	83.64	800.00	9.56	1.27%
Cherhill	358.00	6,800.00	18.99	333.64	6,335.82	18.99	0.00%
Cheverell Magna (Great Cheverell)	256.01	8,171.00	31.92	238.32	7,689.17	32.26	1.07%
Chicklade	39.00	0.00	0.00	38.01	0.00	0.00	0.00%

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2012/2013			2013/2014			C Tax increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Chilmark	236.31	6,500.00	27.51	227.81	6,767.05	29.70	7.96%
Chilton Foliat	190.74	5,665.00	29.70	189.71	5,634.39	29.70	0.00%
Chippenham	12,669.73	1,701,390.00	134.29	11,285.48	1,541,015.11	136.55	1.68%
Chippenham Without	84.38	3,675.00	43.55	84.73	3,822.00	45.11	3.58%
Chirton	183.98	2,000.00	10.87	171.01	1,858.88	10.87	0.00%
Chitterne	139.90	6,000.00	42.89	127.18	5,454.75	42.89	0.00%
Cholderton	92.04	3,600.00	39.11	84.51	3,800.00	44.97	14.98%
Christian Malford	341.98	9,000.00	26.32	340.05	8,950.12	26.32	0.00%
Chute	84.38	2,600.00	30.81	86.44	2,618.00	30.29	-1.69%
Chute Forest	164.87	5,750.00	34.88	163.32	5,696.60	34.88	0.00%
Clarendon Park	114.33	1,500.00	13.12	113.09	1,500.00	13.26	1.07%
Clyffe Pypard	142.98	2,000.00	13.99	136.44	2,000.00	14.66	4.79%
Codford	362.08	6,000.00	16.57	323.11	6,653.93	20.59	24.26%
Colerne	962.17	47,619.66	49.49	916.96	48,666.76	53.07	7.23%
Collingbourne Ducis	386.26	17,427.00	45.12	357.32	16,558.28	46.34	2.70%
Collingbourne Kingston	224.87	9,500.00	42.25	203.63	8,603.37	42.25	0.00%
Compton Bassett	109.35	2,870.00	26.25	99.11	2,870.00	28.96	10.32%
Compton Chamberlayne	55.52	2,250.00	40.53	58.90	2,250.00	38.20	-5.75%
Coombe Bissett	358.50	11,000.00	30.68	351.22	10,775.43	30.68	0.00%
Corsham	4,800.28	560,090.00	116.68	4,281.79	525,996.00	122.84	5.28%
Corsley	341.98	5,000.00	14.62	327.53	4,788.49	14.62	0.00%
Coulston	79.30	1,960.00	24.72	77.31	1,960.00	25.35	2.55%
Cricklade	1,617.37	242,841.00	150.15	1,484.71	227,625.00	153.31	2.10%
Crudwell	503.27	14,095.00	28.01	491.28	13,760.75	28.01	0.00%
Dauntsey	255.62	8,000.00	31.30	241.90	9,571.47	39.57	26.42%
Devizes	4,403.97	464,632.00	105.50	3,738.57	403,094.00	107.82	2.20%
Dilton Marsh	742.77	19,500.00	26.25	646.63	16,974.04	26.25	0.00%
Dinton	300.89	10,000.00	33.23	278.80	10,200.00	36.59	10.11%
Donhead St Andrew	232.73	5,000.00	21.48	247.32	7,000.00	28.30	31.75%
Donhead St Mary	480.39	13,000.00	27.06	449.87	13,673.48	30.39	12.31%
Downton	1,360.66	45,137.00	33.17	1,233.27	48,081.57	38.99	17.55%
Durnford	183.98	2,050.00	11.14	175.68	1,957.08	11.14	0.00%
Durrington	2,185.62	104,603.00	47.86	2,036.25	121,696.00	59.76	24.86%
East Kennett	55.12	0.00	0.00	50.90	0.00	0.00	0.00%
East Knoyle	334.12	7,000.00	20.95	324.00	6,987.80	21.57	2.96%
Easterton	247.66	12,800.00	51.68	227.64	12,084.44	53.09	2.73%
Easton Grey	44.38	0.00	0.00	44.18	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Easton Royal	136.41	4,995.00	36.62	136.80	5,495.00	40.17	9.69%
Ebbesbourne Wake	101.19	1,000.00	9.88	97.55	963.79	9.88	0.00%
Edington	341.78	6,000.00	17.56	318.78	5,597.78	17.56	0.00%
Enford	262.78	6,439.00	24.50	238.10	6,162.45	25.88	5.63%
Eriestoke	91.84	5,300.00	57.71	87.42	5,145.01	58.85	1.98%
Etchilhampton	75.32	1,500.00	19.92	67.88	1,352.17	19.92	0.00%
Everleigh	91.14	3,300.00	36.21	87.55	3,256.24	37.19	2.71%
Figheldean	233.73	16,497.00	70.58	214.61	15,147.17	70.58	0.00%
Firsdown	282.68	7,000.00	24.76	273.53	8,467.60	30.96	25.04%
Fittleton	104.48	4,000.00	38.28	101.82	3,897.67	38.28	0.00%
Fonthill Bishop	43.18	0.00	0.00	41.96	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Fonthill Gifford	57.51	1,400.00	24.34	54.81	1,500.00	27.37	12.45%
Fovant	328.45	6,000.00	18.27	310.54	6,000.00	19.32	5.75%
Froxfield	155.42	4,500.00	28.95	133.36	3,860.77	28.95	0.00%

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2012/2013			2013/2014			C Tax increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Fyfield & West Overton	390.64	9,000.00	23.04	372.05	8,212.03	22.07	-4.21%
Grafton	335.02	6,500.00	19.40	319.08	5,000.00	15.67	-19.23%
Great Bedwyn	593.32	15,000.00	25.28	545.44	14,788.72	27.11	7.24%
Great Hinton	99.60	1,800.00	18.07	101.82	2,000.00	19.64	8.69%
Great Somerford	379.29	6,895.00	18.18	364.89	6,634.00	18.18	0.00%
Great Wishford	140.99	2,500.00	17.73	130.95	2,821.74	21.55	21.55%
Grimstead	274.32	3,500.00	12.76	263.41	6,000.00	22.78	78.53%
Grittleton	267.56	3,934.00	14.70	267.27	3,928.87	14.70	0.00%
Ham	99.60	1,500.00	15.06	103.31	1,500.00	14.52	-3.59%
Hankerton	152.24	3,500.00	22.99	147.12	3,382.29	22.99	0.00%
Heddington	198.20	2,750.00	13.87	180.68	2,750.00	15.22	9.73%
Heytesbury & Knook	361.68	9,400.00	25.99	319.79	8,311.34	25.99	0.00%
Heywood	308.15	3,911.00	12.69	287.03	3,711.41	12.93	1.89%
Hilmarton	309.94	7,700.00	24.84	290.43	7,214.28	24.84	0.00%
Hilperton	1,940.65	24,238.72	12.49	1,733.23	22,098.68	12.75	2.08%
Hindon	231.93	7,500.00	32.34	221.56	7,165.25	32.34	0.00%
Holt	697.50	16,899.00	24.23	642.03	15,904.39	24.77	2.23%
Horningsham	164.27	8,500.00	51.74	151.82	8,973.17	59.10	14.22%
Hullavington	483.67	17,000.00	35.15	464.47	14,826.12	31.92	-9.19%
Idmiston	902.76	22,000.00	24.37	871.80	23,000.00	26.38	8.25%
Keevil	228.95	6,000.00	26.21	225.42	6,078.26	26.96	2.86%
Kilmington	137.81	4,000.00	29.03	130.57	3,380.45	25.89	-10.82%
Kington Langley	374.32	19,038.00	50.86	347.74	17,686.06	50.86	0.00%
Kington St Michael	302.98	12,630.00	41.69	282.87	12,922.85	45.68	9.57%
Lacock	500.49	11,100.00	22.18	480.51	10,657.71	22.18	0.00%
Landford	578.59	18,000.00	31.11	563.41	18,000.00	31.95	2.70%
Langley Burrell	131.54	4,350.00	33.07	123.36	4,529.52	36.72	11.04%
Latton	243.08	5,689.00	23.40	226.52	6,200.00	27.37	16.97%
Laverstock & Ford	2,317.06	28,855.00	12.45	2,188.48	27,246.58	12.45	0.00%
Lea & Cleverton	394.42	8,518.00	21.60	390.23	8,428.97	21.60	0.00%
Leigh	146.66	3,500.00	23.86	137.05	3,750.00	27.36	14.67%
Limpley Stoke	299.99	11,465.00	38.22	289.49	11,064.31	38.22	0.00%
Little Bedwyn	128.36	2,248.40	17.52	127.91	2,240.98	17.52	0.00%
Little Cheverell	80.60	2,500.00	31.02	76.88	2,384.82	31.02	0.00%
Little Somerford	181.89	6,000.00	32.99	180.77	6,083.60	33.65	2.00%
Longbridge Deverill	395.61	4,000.00	10.11	370.92	5,740.00	15.48	53.12%
Luckington	300.29	4,800.00	15.98	284.34	5,023.75	17.67	10.58%
Ludgershall	1,497.38	105,000.00	70.12	1,281.90	91,886.83	71.68	2.22%
Lydiard Millicent	743.56	14,000.00	18.83	731.91	16,581.87	22.66	20.34%
Lydiard Tregoze	224.57	7,500.00	33.40	201.52	6,730.77	33.40	0.00%
Lyneham & Bradenstoke	1,528.32	35,000.00	22.90	1,438.51	73,532.00	51.12	123.23%
Maiden Bradley	137.71	9,977.83	72.46	123.42	9,757.63	79.06	9.11%
Malmesbury	2,041.74	345,279.00	169.11	1,841.44	317,320.00	172.32	1.90%
Manningford	191.34	6,300.00	32.93	182.95	6,024.54	32.93	0.00%
Marden	57.31	350.00	6.11	51.14	312.47	6.11	0.00%
Market Lavington	786.65	44,500.00	56.57	726.32	41,687.92	57.40	1.47%
Marlborough	3,343.80	407,000.00	121.72	3,086.98	389,747.21	126.26	3.73%
Marston	105.17	2,270.00	21.58	108.41	2,340.00	21.58	0.00%
Marston Meysey	80.00	2,000.00	25.00	75.70	1,892.50	25.00	0.00%
Melksham	4,999.28	342,050.00	68.42	4,179.74	291,698.00	69.79	2.00%
Melksham Without	2,821.32	107,000.00	37.93	2,760.00	104,686.80	37.93	0.00%

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2012/2013			2013/2014			C Tax increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Mere	1,207.13	90,000.00	74.56	1,060.62	81,369.83	76.72	2.90%
Mildenhall	218.40	7,000.00	32.05	206.23	9,000.00	43.64	36.16%
Milston	54.73	800.00	14.62	52.45	816.82	15.57	6.50%
Milton Lilbourne	255.72	7,000.00	27.37	248.57	6,803.36	27.37	0.00%
Minety	669.64	12,000.00	17.92	665.02	11,917.16	17.92	0.00%
Monkton Farleigh	191.24	4,300.00	22.48	165.58	3,922.24	23.69	5.38%
Netheravon	411.63	20,500.00	49.80	367.42	18,797.52	51.16	2.73%
Netherhampton	193.53	1,750.00	9.04	191.36	1,729.89	9.04	0.00%
Nettleton	336.31	5,000.00	14.87	324.54	4,825.91	14.87	0.00%
Newton Toney	175.52	7,125.00	40.59	164.58	6,680.30	40.59	0.00%
North Bradley	705.36	8,345.00	11.83	656.27	7,831.67	11.93	0.85%
North Newnton	194.42	3,000.00	15.43	182.07	2,809.34	15.43	0.00%
North Wraxall	203.78	2,500.00	12.27	199.83	2,951.91	14.77	20.37%
Norton & Foxley	62.19	0.00	0.00	62.61	0.00	0.00	0.00%

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2012/2013			2013/2014			C Tax increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Norton Bavant	54.92	0.00	0.00	54.23	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Oaksey	238.70	12,852.00	53.84	219.33	12,852.00	58.60	8.84%
Odstock	259.79	9,000.00	34.64	242.38	8,240.00	34.00	-1.85%
Ogbourne St Andrew	188.25	2,950.00	15.67	180.20	2,823.73	15.67	0.00%
Ogbourne St George	213.13	4,750.00	22.29	208.56	6,500.00	31.17	39.84%
Orcheston	108.06	1,500.00	13.88	100.80	1,400.00	13.89	0.07%
Patney	68.16	500.00	7.34	60.45	443.70	7.34	0.00%
Pewsey	1,524.94	87,000.00	57.05	1,364.22	77,828.75	57.05	0.00%
Pitton & Farley	373.03	6,523.41	17.49	351.77	6,500.00	18.48	5.66%
Potterne	621.08	16,000.00	25.76	547.64	14,107.21	25.76	0.00%
Poulshot	156.81	5,000.00	31.89	142.54	5,000.00	35.08	10.00%
Preshute	80.20	2,050.00	25.56	80.70	2,050.00	25.40	-0.63%
Purton	1,659.86	165,430.00	99.67	1,580.21	163,791.53	103.65	3.99%
Quidhampton	159.30	4,020.00	25.24	142.34	5,420.00	38.08	50.87%
Ramsbury	942.17	39,480.00	41.90	902.81	38,587.74	42.74	2.00%
Redlynch	1,580.46	30,452.00	19.27	1,494.51	36,406.26	24.36	26.41%
Roundway	2,051.49	58,682.00	28.60	1,923.22	73,918.00	38.43	34.37%
Rowde	514.32	27,000.00	52.50	470.95	24,724.87	52.50	0.00%
Royal Wootton Bassett	4,271.24	787,090.00	184.28	3,894.10	717,604.75	184.28	0.00%
Rushall	77.71	2,600.00	33.46	74.24	2,784.07	37.50	12.07%
Salisbury	15,335.14	1,380,162.60	90.00	13,518.68	1,216,681.20	90.00	0.00%
Savernake	134.13	1,000.00	7.46	134.05	1,000.00	7.46	0.00%
Seagry	160.00	8,500.00	53.13	158.77	8,435.45	53.13	0.00%
Sedgehill & Semley	275.42	4,920.00	17.86	269.68	5,396.48	20.01	12.04%
Seend	523.87	9,761.00	18.63	510.31	9,452.08	18.52	-0.59%
Semington	395.81	7,500.00	18.95	368.87	6,990.09	18.95	0.00%
Shalbourne	303.28	0.00	0.00	298.92	3,000.00	10.04	N/A
Sherrington	33.23	0.00	0.00	30.37	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Sherston	713.02	22,400.00	31.42	665.81	20,919.75	31.42	0.00%
Shrewton	769.04	18,000.00	23.41	710.21	16,626.02	23.41	0.00%
Sopworth	61.39	500.00	8.14	59.94	487.91	8.14	0.00%
South Newton	253.23	4,700.00	18.56	214.15	3,974.62	18.56	0.00%
South Wraxall	215.42	2,000.00	9.28	214.72	3,492.60	16.27	75.32%
Southwick	736.30	14,500.00	19.69	680.44	13,397.86	19.69	0.00%
St Paul Without	903.06	11,064.00	12.25	912.03	11,064.00	12.13	-0.98%
Stanton St Bernard	84.67	1,500.00	17.72	81.04	1,936.03	23.89	34.82%
Stanton St Quintin	265.37	4,750.00	17.90	253.88	4,294.45	16.92	-5.47%
Stapleford	137.01	3,650.00	26.64	125.25	3,336.66	26.64	0.00%
Staverton	714.41	22,411.00	31.37	663.36	20,809.60	31.37	0.00%
Steeple Ashton	442.87	20,000.00	45.16	417.59	18,858.36	45.16	0.00%
Steeple Langford	246.16	5,000.00	20.31	232.79	4,727.96	20.31	0.00%
Stert	91.24	912.40	10.00	90.45	904.50	10.00	0.00%
Stockton	90.05	0.00	0.00	84.15	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Stourton	95.52	1,328.00	13.90	92.85	1,844.00	19.86	42.88%
Stratford Toney	29.15	0.00	0.00	30.04	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Sutton Benger	428.94	6,750.00	15.74	402.60	8,086.92	20.09	27.64%
Sutton Mandeville	127.26	900.00	7.07	133.23	1,000.00	7.51	6.22%
Sutton Veny	320.09	12,000.00	37.49	300.52	11,266.49	37.49	0.00%
Swallowcliffe	105.67	1,500.00	14.20	103.63	2,171.55	20.95	47.54%
Teffont	136.12	6,785.00	49.85	138.60	5,785.00	41.74	-16.27%
Tidcombe & Fosbury	46.17	0.00	0.00	51.58	0.00	0.00	0.00%

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPTS

Parish/Town Council	2012/2013			2013/2014			C Tax increase
	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	Tax Base	Precepts £	Council Tax Band D (£)	
Tidworth	2,153.88	170,000.00	78.93	1,933.79	195,000.00	100.84	27.76%
Tilshead	136.81	6,300.00	46.05	131.61	6,135.64	46.62	1.24%
Tisbury	926.15	42,542.00	45.93	821.82	37,746.19	45.93	0.00%
Tockenham	119.00	3,200.00	26.89	111.58	3,000.39	26.89	0.00%
Tollard Royal	61.09	3,000.00	49.11	61.54	3,000.00	48.75	-0.73%
Trowbridge	11,002.01	1,319,488.00	119.93	9,352.50	1,146,873.00	122.63	2.25%
Upavon	490.54	14,500.00	29.56	447.02	13,213.91	29.56	0.00%
Upper Deverills	167.26	5,850.00	34.98	164.35	6,000.00	36.51	4.37%
Upton Lovell	86.66	2,800.00	32.31	84.63	2,800.00	33.09	2.41%
Upton Scudamore	142.68	2,950.00	20.68	135.27	2,950.00	21.81	5.46%
Urchfont	512.52	27,300.00	53.27	468.98	30,882.56	65.85	23.62%
Warminster	6,291.48	453,318.00	72.05	5,527.97	407,394.00	73.70	2.29%
West Ashton	318.90	4,250.00	13.33	300.43	4,024.73	13.40	0.53%
West Dean	105.27	4,000.00	38.00	93.37	3,000.00	32.13	-15.45%
West Knoyle	67.16	2,200.00	32.76	61.72	2,043.95	33.12	1.10%
West Lavington	471.83	19,200.00	40.69	440.08	25,207.00	57.28	40.77%
West Tisbury	267.56	5,810.00	21.71	264.84	5,749.68	21.71	0.00%
Westbury	4,982.86	349,332.00	70.11	4,280.52	307,092.00	71.74	2.32%
Westwood	503.67	10,500.00	20.85	459.22	9,574.74	20.85	0.00%
Whiteparish	700.48	27,500.00	39.26	667.35	26,200.16	39.26	0.00%
Wilcot & Huish	266.96	3,999.00	14.98	261.69	4,421.12	16.89	12.75%
Wilsford-cum-Lake	54.73	400.00	7.31	55.99	1,000.00	17.86	144.32%
Wilton	1,379.37	112,713.00	81.71	1,206.41	110,563.00	91.65	12.16%
Wingfield	188.75	5,500.00	29.14	182.02	5,304.06	29.14	0.00%
Winsley	922.76	18,000.00	19.51	886.20	18,289.76	20.64	5.79%
Winterbourne	578.39	16,852.65	29.14	544.15	16,332.23	30.01	2.99%
Winterbourne Stoke	85.97	2,231.00	25.95	83.48	2,707.88	32.44	25.01%
Winterslow	891.22	22,232.00	24.95	858.71	21,424.81	24.95	0.00%
Woodborough	142.98	1,350.00	9.44	142.04	2,190.86	15.42	63.35%
Woodford	233.53	4,000.00	17.13	221.23	3,789.67	17.13	0.00%
Wootton Rivers	127.26	2,300.00	18.07	118.37	2,138.95	18.07	0.00%
Worton	279.60	7,000.00	25.04	250.06	7,000.00	27.99	11.78%
Wyllye	208.25	5,000.00	24.01	199.78	4,796.72	24.01	0.00%
Yatton Keynell	374.02	8,750.00	23.39	351.82	8,229.07	23.39	0.00%
Zeals	296.51	5,504.00	18.56	254.09	3,360.91	13.23	-28.72%
TOTAL / AVERAGE	181,007.02	13,154,080.00	72.67	164,575.59	12,184,967.43	74.04	1.89%

Appendix D

Committee	Total Number of Places for Elected Members	Conservative Group Allocation (61 seats)	Liberal Democrat Group Allocation (22 seats)	Labour Group Allocation (2 seats)	Independent Group Allocation (10 seats)	Devizes Guardians Group Allocation (3 seats)
Strategic Planning	13	9	3	-	1	-
Area Planning Committees						
North	11	8	3	-	-	-
South	11	6	3	1	1	-
East	9	6	-	-	2	1
West	11	6	3	-	2	-
Licensing	12	7	3	-	2	-
Overview and Scrutiny Management	13	7	3	1	1	1
Children's Services Select	13	9	2	-	2	-
Environment Select	13	7	3	1	1	1
Health and Adult Social Care Select	13	8	3	-	1	1
Standards	13	7	3	1	1	1
Police and Crime Panel	7	5	2		-	
Audit	13	7	3	-	2	1
Appeals	8	6	2	-	-	-
Staffing Policy	9	6	2	-	1	-
Officer Appointment	5	3	1	-	1	-
Pension Fund	5	4	1	-	-	-
TOTALS:	179	111	40	4	18	6

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Wiltshire Council

Council

26 February 2013

Item 14 (1) - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Nicholas Fogg, Marlborough West Division

To

**Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health and
Protection Services**

Question 1

How many visits/tests on food have been carried out in the past year by Council officials and with what results?

What cuts, if any, have been made to the funding of the Trading Standards department? Has the number of staff employed been reduced together with the number of tests made on food?

Has the Food Standards Agency asked Wiltshire to carry out any tests on the current food scare (some 24 authorities round the country asked to do so)?

Response

Due to the speed at which this matter is progressing and the likelihood of further updates from the FSA before Council, a verbal response shall be provided at the meeting.

Wiltshire Council - Council

26 February 2013

Item 14 (2) - Questions from Councillors**From Councillor Bill Douglas, Chippenham Hardens and England Division****To****Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing****Question 2**

In April the new so called 'Bedroom Tax' will be introduced. This will impact families across Wiltshire of working age, meaning from about 38 years, with potential additional bills which could be as high as £80 per month. Those without the means to pay will be forced to seek alternative and smaller accommodation. I believe that there are roughly 18,000 people on Wiltshire's housing waiting list currently. Can the Cabinet Member explain to us how he intends to resolve this housing situation?

Response

The new Housing Benefit rules will help free up larger social housing stock and reflect the existing arrangements in the private sector. Although we support the aims of these changes, we appreciate that the transition into these new rules may cause difficulties for both tenants and housing providers. We can provide reassurance that we are working very hard with our partners to support housing tenants and our housing providers through this transition.

In August 2012 extensive analysis of households across Wiltshire who will be affected by the 'bedroom tax' was undertaken, which enabled us to work effectively with our partners to ensure targeted communication could take place in October 2012. Below is a breakdown of the total households affected by this change and how it impacts them financially. This data can be broken down to address level which has significantly helped with targeting our resources and that of our housing providers to ensure that every households affected has been well informed.

Reductions to HB per week	Of which...		Total
	Under-occupying by 1 bedroom	Under-occupying by 2+ bedrooms	
£30+	1	16	17

£25-£30	1	236	237
£20-£25	6	170	176
£15-£20	441	6	447
£10-£15	1978	9	1987
£5-£10	28	0	28
<£5	1	0	1
Total	2456	437	2893

Money management, debt advice and housing advice are crucial to households seeking to manage their increased liabilities for rent. The letters that had been sent out signposted households to seek this advice from our website and trained housing staff, Wiltshire's Citizens Advice, Shelter and the government's Directgov website.

A training programme has been developed and training sessions have taken place with operational staff both at Wiltshire Council and across many of our partners on the changes contained within the Welfare Reform Act to ensure they are best placed to provide robust and beneficial advice to these households.

As with all the housing providers across Wiltshire, the housing management team for the council's housing stock wrote to all their tenants affected by the bedroom tax offering them a visit to discuss their options and they are now in the process of attempting to contact those that have yet to respond. The results of these visits were as follows:-

9% of tenants have said that they are considering moving.

37% of tenants have decided to pay the difference

16% of tenants are not affected (pensionable age, back in work and off benefits, babies born etc)

1% tenants are thinking about taking in a lodger

37% tenants still to see.

The other housing providers across Wiltshire who have also conducted home visits are getting a very similar feedback, in that the majority of households are deciding to pay the difference rather than considering a move.

To help facilitate moves more easily for those households who may need to consider down sizing into smaller more suitable accommodation, we conducted a full 3 month consultation exercise to allow us to amend our current allocation policy to give the highest priority we were able to under the new allocation guidance for households who would be in financial hardship and under occupying by 2 or more bedrooms.

Based on the information we have we have identified 447 who would meet this criteria, with 297 households who are not currently registered on the housing register and 144 households who are on the housing register and who we are currently writing to offer advice and carry out financial assessments.

As well as using the choice based lettings system to bid for a transfer we have advertised and have noticed a significant increase in tenants who are doing a mutual exchange. Mutual exchanges are home swaps between social sector tenants and have provided many households affected by the new rules with the opportunity to move to smaller properties without having to bid through choice based lettings.

Ensuring sufficient affordable homes for those in need will aid those affected by the new rules in the longer term. One of our key priorities as a council is to ensure that there is an appropriate supply of good quality housing of all types and of all tenures, delivered to address the needs of people in Wiltshire. Our target is to deliver 600 new affordable homes a year. As well as working with our housing providers and private developers to increase the levels of affordable homes in Wiltshire, the Council has also built and let new council homes in the area, and is delivering the only affordable housing PFI scheme in the South West. This project will provide over 242 new affordable homes to rent.

Question 3

With no homes available people seeking to downsize but who cannot afford to pay will be trapped and forced to pay the tax, or become homeless if they collapse into debt. Can the Cabinet Member tell us what steps Wiltshire Council has taken for when the assistance money allocated by the Government runs out? What provisions are in place to assist genuinely poor elderly people, and families, already struggling to pay bills and rent while feeding themselves and their children?

Response

The new rules relating to housing benefit 'bedroom tax' will only affect those of working age who have a spare room and are claiming benefit. Anyone over the qualifying age for state pension credit will not be affected by these changes.

The Government has allocated us discretionary housing funds amounting to £474,000 for 2013/14. Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) provide customers with further financial assistance when a local authority considers that help with housing costs is needed. DHP is only determined a year at a time and could be subject to major change next year with the arrival of universal credit which will incorporate housing costs. We are not able to assess at this stage what the impact on Wiltshire will be due to the limited information provided to date. The roll out is not scheduled to begin in Wiltshire until March 2014 and it maybe that some households are better off. DHP awards can either be a short term award to give a customer time to sort out their financial circumstances or they can be awarded until the customer's circumstances change.

A report is due to go to cabinet to seek approval in terms of prioritising the spend of this grant to ensure the most vulnerable are able to keep their homes and not fall into debt, especially if the properties have been significantly adapted to allow a member of the household to live independently.

In addition to what is described above, there is an identified need to increase 'financial capability' across the county to enable individuals to manage their finances independently and responsibly. In particular the introduction of Universal Credit could present a challenge to people who are not used to managing their benefits. Universal Credit will help claimants and their families to become more independent and will simplify the benefits system by bringing together a range of working-age benefits into a single streamlined payment. The new Universal Credit system aims to:

- improve work incentives
- smooth the transitions into and out of work, supporting a dynamic labour market
- simplify the system, making it easier for people to understand, and easier and cheaper for staff to administer
- reduce in-work poverty
- cut back on fraud and error.

It will be launched in 2013 and will replace:

- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credits
- Working Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit.

Universal Credit is known as the new single payment for people who are looking for work or on a low income. The council and other partners are working together through the financial inclusion partnership for the county, Wiltshire Money, to address this need.

For example, Wiltshire Money is working with front line staff in children's centres to raise awareness of financial exclusion issues and ensure that staff understand where to refer families which are struggling. Another key area of work for Wiltshire Money is the promotion of services which support good money-management and provide alternatives to unaffordable credit. This includes working with the credit unions through Wiltshire Community Bank and England's Illegal Money Lending Team.

Wiltshire Council

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26 February 2013

Item 14 (3) - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Brian Dalton, Salisbury Harnham Division

To

Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question 4

Can I ask how much of the £18.7m for “maintaining and improving roads” was spent in the Salisbury area in this financial year? It seems that only the Harnham gyratory was resurfaced within the Salisbury area in September as planned, and nothing else.

Response

The budget figure of £18.7m includes expenditure on Integrated Transport Schemes, Bridges and drainage works. The capital budget for road maintenance in 2012/13 was £14.1m. The expenditure on major maintenance in the Salisbury area was approximately £500,000 this year. As well as the resurfacing of Harnham Gyratory, there were carriageway repairs at Crane Street, safety fence work at Churchill Way South, footway works at Manor Road, and other bridge and sign maintenance work across the area. This total excludes the day to day carriageway defect repair work carried out, including repairing potholes, and the repairs to the drainage systems.

The investment in improving the condition of the road network is spread across the whole county, and is based on need. The structural condition of the roads and their skid resistance are important. The severe winter weather and flooding has badly affected parts of the network, and this year this was particularly noticeable on some of the minor rural roads where the construction is not as substantial as on many of the purpose built urban roads.

Question 5

I note that the council plans to spend an additional £3m in the next financial year. Are there any road works planned for the Salisbury area this time around? Roads in South Wiltshire are in a dire state. The list of roads below are from my question to council last year. None of these have received any attention and are in a state of disrepair. There are numerous other roads that could be added to this list that councillors will be aware of:

- A30 London Rd

- A338 London Rd to the Winterbournes and beyond

In the City:

- Catherine St
- Silver St
- Minster St
- Castle St
- Blue Boar Row
- Winchester St
- Endless St
- Brown St
- St Ann St
- Folkestone Rd
- Essex Square
- Norfolk Rd
- Harnham Rd

Response

The priorities for road resurfacing next financial year are currently being reviewed and finalised. Road safety is the priority, and technical surveys regarding road condition and skid resistance are used to inform the site selection. The high speed roads with poor accident records are of particular concern. It is too early to know which roads it will be possible to treat next year.

It would be unrealistic to expect a long list of roads to be resurfaced in a single area. There is an extensive 2700 mile road network in Wiltshire which has suffered from under investment in the past, and from severe winters in recent years and flood damage this year. The maintenance backlog is being reduced through the ongoing investment, but the priority has to be to keep the highway network in a safe condition, and this requires work to be prioritised according to need. The use of technical surveys of road condition and skid resistance is important to inform this process.

Whilst it is unlikely that it will be possible to resurface a long list of roads in Salisbury next year, it is intended to carry out a series of repairs across the network based on those sites most in need of attention, which could include those listed. This carriageway repair programme has proved successful in addressing problem sites in recent years and will be developed further with the increased budget for 2013/14 and the new Highways and Streetscene contract starting in June.

Question 6

How much has the council paid out in compensation claims since the 2009 financial year in Wiltshire Council as a whole and separately, South Wiltshire for:

- a) Vehicle damage claims and
- b) Personal injury claims.

Are there any cases ongoing for the above?

Response

The Public Liability claims received which have been caused by defects on the Highway or Car Parks and include payments for compensation and associated costs from 1st April 2009 to 18th February 2013 are:

- a) Wiltshire Council total paid £112,434.73 for vehicle damage claims. Of this £53,159.40 is from the Southern Highway Area. Breaking this down by year;

	Annual figures	Southern Area
09/10	£55,320.70	£26,928.51
10/11	£41,534.05	£20,227.55
11/12	£6,481.80	£1,802.42
12/13	£9,098.18	£4,200.92

- b) Wiltshire Council total paid £275,526.35 for personal injury claims. Of this £102,135.30 is from Southern Highway Area.

	Annual figures	Southern Area
09/10	£55,320.70	£26,928.51
10/11	£147,301.23	£70,050.00
11/12	£12,010.00	£11,350.00
12/13	£44.98	£44.98

There are cases ongoing. However, the cost of claims is not high taking into account the extensive highway network, and they represent a very small proportion of the Council's expenditure on highways.

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26 February 2013

Item 14 (4) - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Jon Hubbard, Melksham South Division

To

**Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult
Care, Communities and Housing**

Question 7

At the recent cabinet meeting held in Salisbury the Cabinet Member gave me an assurance that he would be asking officers to revisit the decision not to issue emergency cash loans as part of the council's new crisis support scheme.

I was disappointed to note that no mention of this was to be found in the draft minutes of the meeting.

Is the cabinet member able to assure me that this was an error of omission and that this work is indeed being undertaken and could he outline for me when we can expect to see the revised plan?

Response

This will be confirmed as a basic omission in minutes and will be corrected at the next cabinet meeting.

The scheme is new and will be reviewed during its first six months of operation by which time we should have established more detail regarding demand and need.

Wiltshire Council

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26 February 2013

Item 14 (5) - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To

Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question 8

What provision, if any, has been made for additional grit bins in the proposed 2013/2014 council budget?

Response

There is no provision for new bins but consideration is given to cases where relocating existing bins might be more advantageous to the community. The council has approximately 1600 salt bins which it fills and maintains on the road network throughout the county. Each location is recorded and identified on town and parish maps. The resource to fill these bins particularly during extreme weather when they become emptied in a short time is great. The council operates a 1 tonne salt bag scheme. In this scheme Wiltshire Council delivers the salt to the town/parish councils. This enables them to treat areas of their community which they consider to be important through the winter. It has proved very successful. Since we trialled the scheme two years ago 46 councils have joined the scheme. Chippenham Town Council already participates.

In some cases own and parish councils have provided new bins themselves and undertaken to fill them from the 1 tonne bags of salt provided to them at the start of the winter season. I will ensure an officer of the winter team contacts Chippenham Town Council to further develop their weather response plan in preparation for the next winter season.

All requests for existing salt bins to be repaired or refilled can be reported to Wiltshire Council through CLARENCE 0800 232323. Requests are then noted, prioritised and every attempt to refill them will be made as soon as possible.

The salt must only be used on the highway and not on private driveways or property.

Question 9

If there are to be any additional grit bins, what can residents do to make the case for their streets or areas?

Response

Any request for an *existing bin* to be relocated must be supported by the town or parish council. These requests together with any *new bins* provided by the town or parish councils will then be reviewed by the Area Highway Engineer who will consider the following:

- A request will not be accepted unless the new location to site the bin has been agreed between the local and adjacent residents.
- Bins will not be placed on main roads that are routinely salted on Primary or Secondary routes. These routes are published on the council's web site:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/roadshighwayspavements/gritting.htm
- Bins will only be considered in areas that are populated and have either a steep incline or a known seepage from spring water.
- The location is not within 200 metres of another salt bin location.
- Bins will only be placed where there is a sufficiently wide verge or footpath to allow safe passage of pedestrians and allow safe access for salt replenishment.
- Bins will not be placed on roads that are not adopted.
- Bins shall not obstruct sight lines.
- Bins will only be provided if there is sufficient traffic and/or pedestrian use to justify provision.
- If salt bins are misused for the treatment of private driveways, or regularly vandalised, Wiltshire Council reserve the right to remove them.
- Area Highway Engineers will notify the Weather & Drainage Team of any moves so updated maps can be issued for town and parish councils and weather plans amended.
- Once a suitable site has been agreed, the Area Highway Engineer will arrange the works through the Community Steward.

Wiltshire Council

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26 February 2013

Item 14 (6) - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To

Councillor Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Question 10

When do you expect the string of large potholes in Cocklebury Road, near the Chippenham train station, to be filled in?

Response

The majority of potholes on site were filled earlier this week. There are a few more by the site entrance to the new station car park; we have raised a new works instruction for these to be filled in during the next week.

Question 11

Given the tendency for potholes to open up the time on this busy stretch of road, what plans are therefore it to be resurfaced?

Response

The priorities for road resurfacing next financial year are currently being reviewed and finalised. Road safety is the priority, and technical surveys regarding road condition and skid resistance are used to inform the site selection. The high speed roads with poor accident records are of particular concern. It is too early to know which roads it will be possible to treat next year.

There is an extensive 2700 mile road network in Wiltshire which has suffered from under investment in the past, and from severe winters in recent years and flood damage this year. The maintenance backlog is being reduced through the ongoing investment, but the priority has to be to keep the highway network in a safe condition, and this requires work to be prioritised according to need. The use of technical surveys of road condition and skid resistance is important to inform this process.

This carriageway repair programme has proved successful in addressing problem sites in recent years and will be developed further with the increased budget for 2013/14 and the new Highways and Streetscene contract starting

in June. Cocklebury Road will be considered for treatment next year to ensure it remains in safe condition.

Wiltshire Council

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26 February 2013

Item 14 (7) - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To

Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing

Question 12

In the light of growing national concern about the combined effects of benefit changes on the poorest section of our society, do you now regret passing up the opportunity to protect residents in Council Tax Bands A and B from the removal of their Council Tax relief?

Do you see an opportunity to review this decision, and if so when?

Response

Wiltshire Council is subject to a significant loss in revenue as a result of the Government's decision to end the funding of council tax benefit scheme, in full. The scheme is abolished with effect from 1st April 2013 and replaced by a local scheme called Council Tax Reduction.

The current fully funded scheme awarded £27.1 million in council tax benefit in 2012/13. Next year funding of the local scheme will fall by £6 million. This means that the local scheme cannot be as generous without significant cuts to a range of services.

In order to design a new local scheme a number of options were considered. As part of the design process, the council were obliged to consult with residents and stakeholders upon the options. Almost 1000 responses were received of which 662 agreed that households should contribute 20% toward their council tax. A number of charities contributed to the process and the final draft was developed in consultation with the Wiltshire Citizens Advice Bureau.

From April those of working age and who are not considered vulnerable* will have their council tax reduction awarded on 80% of their full council tax. Those who qualify for the maximum reduction will therefore have to pay the remaining 20%. For a family in a band A dwelling, this will mean paying around £200 per year toward council tax, whilst a qualifying family in a band E

dwelling would pay £373.00. This figure will fall by 25% for those who live alone.

We believe this to be a sufficiently steep taper, built into the scheme.

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Charge	£202	£235	£269	£303	£370	£437	£505	£606
Claimants	3432	4288	3070	765	288	90	27	2

(These figures are based on an average band d charge of £1515.25 for 2012/13)

If we were to exempt those living in band A & B properties the additional cost of £1,700,944 or rather loss of benefit would be shared amongst 4242, rather than the 12,000 families currently affected.

Based on the thorough analysis of the caseload, the numbers affected and the results of the consultation, we believe that the final scheme recognises the banding issue but it cannot afford to fully protect those in band A and B dwellings. This would pass a disproportionate financial burden on to those living in properties with higher bands.

The award of other means tested benefits does not take into consideration the value of the property in which the claimant lives. Income levels of those on benefit are the same regardless of the size of dwelling they live in, and to further penalise those in larger homes does not engender the scheme with any sense of fairness or proportion.

The scheme is designed to protect the most vulnerable, to simplify operation and encourage those who can, to work. This means that the vulnerable will not have to pay the additional 20%. * "Vulnerable" in this context means those households where anyone in the family qualifies for one of the disability premiums, or is in receipt of any of the war widow(er)'s pensions or war disablement pensions

If a property is significantly larger, then the scheme has been designed to encourage home owners to let room to lodgers, families or friends, by reducing the non-dependant deduction to the lowest standard rate.

Past experience has shown that a scheme based on valuation band is flawed. In the mid 1990s a national scheme was introduced to limit benefit being awarded to properties in Band E and above. The scheme lasted two years before it was abandoned for being unfair and for creating debt that was very difficult to recover.

To build a scheme based on valuation band incorporates a degree of complexity that the proposed scheme seeks to remove wherever possible. The scheme was published via our web site, by the due dates, 31st January 2013. The council's budget has been set accordingly. Any change to the scheme would jeopardise the budget and the council's chances of issuing council tax bills for 2013/14.

Wiltshire Council

Council

26 February 2013

Item 14 (8) - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To

Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing

Question 13

Which stakeholders did the Council consult on its way to abandoning all emergency cash awards in its Local Welfare Provision replacement of the previous Social Fund Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants?

Given that there were over 2000 Crisis Loan awards of an average of £51 and 580 Community Care Grants averaging just under £600 made in just six months in 2011, and that the DWP award rates for these two schemes were 84% and 76% respectively does he accept that the Social Fund met a genuine need for the people of Wiltshire?

And if so, what is his response to those people who will genuinely need small cash advances in the future? Are they simply to be referred to pay day loan providers, charging extortionate rates of interest, and guaranteeing continuation of the poverty cycle?

Response

Consultation

- Consultation was limited due to the late announcement in confirming the sum of available for Local Welfare Provision the council would have to distribute and the late clarification as to what it could be used for. Aspects of the existing scheme will still be delivered by the Department of Work and Pensions.
- Consultation so far has included the CAB, Wiltshire money, disabled groups and Department of Work and Pensions and the council's Welfare Reform Forum
- Consultation, particularly with users and the voluntary sector will continue and we will learn from feedback as the scheme develops

Awards and cash payments

- The scheme has not been developed in isolation. A number of meetings have taken place between the council and The Department of Work and Pensions, who will be referring their customers to our scheme. They believe the current social fund scheme is not directed to those most in need and is wide open to abuse hence it's abolition.
- The Department of Work and Pensions is clear that we should not be trying to replicate the current scheme.
- The Department of Work and Pensions will continue to award cash advances to those who are awaiting income support and other welfare benefits (funeral grants for example) they administer.
- Community care grants have, in the past, predominately been used to provide goods, not cash – they are usually items of essential furniture to help set up home or for rent deposits.
- The focus of the new scheme is on immediate need, food, warmth, shelter. With a budget of £617,000, this is £50k less to spend than the Department of Work and Pensions spent in Wiltshire during 2011/12. We need to ensure that the fund is directed to alleviate crisis and the best way of doing this, in many cases is by referral to the voluntary sector.
- Unlike the Department of Work and Pensions the council will signpost people to other means of support and discretionary payment, such as discretionary housing payments, which are also administered by the council's benefits service.
- The interviewing facilities at County Hall and Milford Street, Snuff Street and Monkton Park are already causing concern in terms of staff safety. To ask staff to make cash awards will most certainly place them at increased risk.
- The guidance from the Department of Work and Pensions and the feedback we have received from our staff who were involved in the administration of the social fund confirmed our concerns. Cash awards could leave the scheme open to abuse and cause the misdirection of funds from those who genuinely need them.
- The verification process would need to be far stricter if we were to make cash awards, thereby delaying awards to many people in genuine need.
- Unlike the Department of Work and Pensions the council will monitor and record every application and award. We will quickly build

information to determine need and use this information to review our approach and our policies.

Wiltshire Council

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26 February 2013

Item 14 (9)- Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To

Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing

Question 14

What opportunities to report poor care or abuse are open to Wiltshire residents whose relatives have been privately financed in care homes in the in the County, without the involvement of the NHS or this Authority?

Response

The Council has a responsibility to ensure the quality of all services including those provided to individuals funding their own care. To this end all care homes are reviewed and visited by commissioning staff and all homes are subject to inspection by the Care Quality Commission. CQC's telephone number is 01225 712553.

There are a number of opportunities that include:

Report to Care Quality Commission details of which have to be displayed in public areas of the care home;

Report to the Council's care quality helpline – the number is 01225 712553

Contacting Age UK or South West Advocacy Network to support an individual in raising a complaint or concern;

Report to the Council's safeguarding team where poor care or potential abuse of residents are a concern. The role of the safeguarding team is widely publicised.

The Local Adults Safeguarding Board have an overall responsibility to assure that all residents of Wiltshire safeguarded. To this end it produces information which is available in written form and on the [Council website](#) .

The Quality Assurance Sub Group of the Safeguarding Adults Board monitors all safeguarding alerts, their source and the response. This information is presented to the Safeguarding Adults Board on a quarterly basis. They have

recently undertaken an audit of homes and identified where no alerts have been made. Information on safeguarding is being sent to all those homes identified.

The Council have a specialist Safeguarding Adults Team who provide a service to the whole of Wiltshire. All alerts from whatever source go this team. They perform a triage function, using a multi-agency threshold guidance. This ensure there is consistency of approach throughout the county and they are able to identify patterns of abuse at an early stage. The telephone number for the Safeguarding team is 0300 456 0111

Report to the police on 01380 734212 where abuse or poor care is suspected

Wiltshire Council

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26 February 2013

Item 14 (10)- Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To

Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing

Question 15

Specifically how, and how often, does this Authority monitor the quality of nursing care delivered in care homes which the Council uses for placements, and which offer nursing services?

Response

The Council has block and framework agreements with nursing home providers and have a number of means by which we monitor quality. These include:

Regular feedback and liaison with the Care Quality Commission to exchange information informally and formally about care homes. Representatives from CQC undertake a formal inspection process of providers measuring their performance against defined legislative standards expressed in legislation. CQC inspectors visit care homes on an announced and unannounced basis and this information is shared with the Council's commissioning team

Individual reviews of people placed in care homes and funded by the Council. These reviews are undertaken by the Council's operational staff and take place in care homes. Whilst completing reviews staff are expected to take into account the service that is provided on a more general basis. This information is reported to commissioning staff.

Formal contract reviews: These take place annually as a minimum at which providers are expected to report back on a number of quality issues.

Regular information and liaison with the Council's safeguarding team to ensure commissioners are aware of safeguarding alerts and actions arising as a result of any safeguarding alerts. Where a number of concerns are raised, investigated and found to be proven, the Council can take a number of actions including implement a decision to make no further placements, to restrict the number of new placements or to provide additional assistance to the provider

to enable them to improve services. Our principle aim is to ensure customers are safe and every effort is made to ensure existing residents do not have to re-locate.

Unannounced and announced visits to care homes by commissioning staff: Every care home is visited annually as a minimum in addition to formal contract management meetings. Homes will be visited more frequently where there are concerns or where a potential risk is identified such as those where the existing manager has left and no replacement appointed; those where CQC have identified some compliance actions are required; those homes where the number of residents who have fallen or those homes where members of the public or the Council's staff have raised concerns. The emphasis of these visits is on the performance of the whole home rather than services delivered to individuals so whether residents are self funders or supported by the Council is not taken into account.

South West Audit Partnership: A recent audit of two large nursing home providers in Wiltshire was very complimentary about the quality of service being provided. .

Where concerns about quality are founded, the Council and Wiltshire CCG will work with the provider to develop an improvement action plan which will be monitored closely to ensure improvements are made.

In terms of the Council's role in proactively promoting quality in nursing homes the Council funds "My Home Life" which is a national programme supported by Age UK which provides training and support to care home managers. To date 45 care home managers have completed or are currently undergoing the My Home Life programme.

Wiltshire Council

Council

26 February 2013

Item 14 (11) - Questions from Councillors

From Councillor Chris Caswill, Chippenham Monkton Division

To

Councillor Keith Humphries, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection Services

Question 16

With reference to the recent Briefing Note on the ongoing horsemeat scandal, why has this Authority chosen to use a public analyst which is not capable of carrying out DNA analysis? Was that decision informed by a need to reduce costs?

How many Public Protection Service officers qualified to carry out food safety checks does the Council currently employ? And what were the equivalent numbers for 2010 and 2011?

Why is the Council "liaising with any food manufacturers operating in Wiltshire who process comminuted beef products" rather than seeking clear assurances or carrying out checks?

For how many meat processing businesses in the County does this Council have enforcement responsibility?

What checks are being carried out on the beef being served in Wiltshire schools, both within the Academy system and in those schools for which the Council still has direct responsibility?

Response

Due to the speed at which this matter is progressing and the likelihood of further updates from the FSA before Council, a verbal response shall be provided at the meeting.