

CABINET

11 June 2003

Attendance:

Councillors:

Campbell (Chairman) (P)

Beveridge (P)

Cook (P)

Evans (P)

Hiscock (P)

Learney (P)

Nelmes (P)

Wagner (P)

Others in attendance and speaking:

Councillors Davies and Wright

Mrs H Dewdney – TACT

Others in attendance and not speaking:

Councillors Baxter, Bennetts, Bidgood, Hollingbery, Mitchell and Pearson

107. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Broadway/Friarsgate Planning Brief

Mr Cole (City of Winchester Trust) stated that there appeared to be some confusion about the amount of retail floorspace proposed for food shopping within the development and whether the figures quoted were net or gross. In particular he queried whether existing food stores, within the Planning Brief area, were taken into account in calculating the maximum floorspace allocated for food retail. He stressed that it was important that a good mix of retail was included within the site and that food shopping did not take up a disproportionate amount of space. He suggested that the Planning Brief should be amended to address this point. The Director of Development Services responded to these points under the relevant agenda item below.

108. **APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET COMMITTEES ETC**

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Bidgood be appointed as the Chairman of the West of Waterlooville Forum for the 2003/04 Municipal Year.

2. That Councillor Allgood replace Councillor Macmillan on the West of Waterlooville Forum for the 2003/04 Municipal Year.

(Full Membership: Councillors Bidgood (Chairman), Allgood, Busher, Carter, Davies, Evans, Hatch, Read and Stallard. Deputies: Bennetts, Chamberlain, Coates and de Peyer)

3. That Councillor Clohosey replace Councillor Knasel on the Stock Condition Informal Member/Officer Working Group for the 2003/04 Municipal Year.

(Full Membership: Councillors Maynard, Craig, Hiscock, Hoare, Clohosey and Oxley. Officers: K Kershaw and A Nairn)

109. **MINUTES**

With regard to the discussion in the minutes on the provision of litter bins for the Cathedral Close, one Member requested that the last sentence of paragraph four, page four be amended as it did not reflect the view of the meeting. He emphasised that although money would not be available from the General Fund, the Cathedral should be able to request possible alternative sources of funding from the Winchester Town Forum should this be necessary. Cabinet agreed with the proposed amendment (new wording outlined below with changes in italics):

“In agreeing to the request, Members commented that the Cathedral should be made aware that Cabinet considered that budget increases should not be *forthcoming from the General Fund.*”

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held 21 May 2003 (less exempt business) be approved and adopted.

110. **MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE HELD 29 MAY 2003**

(Report CAB672 refers)

Cabinet considered the minutes of the Winchester District Local Plan Committee held 29 May 2003 and the recommendations contained therein (report CAB672 refers).

With regard to the Broadway/Friarsgate item, Councillor Beveridge declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as a member of the City of Winchester Trust which had commented on the Brief. He both spoke and voted thereon.

(i) **Broadway/Friarsgate Planning Brief (Report WDLP21 refers)**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Wright made a number of comments regarding the Planning Brief. He stressed the need to ensure that the development led to an increase in trade for Winchester as a whole. The importance of addressing the issues of access to the City and choice of retail outlets was also highlighted. He suggested that the project should only be allowed to proceed if the proposed units were already allocated. He also proposed that the Council should invite proposals from a choice of developers rather than negotiating with a single developer at this stage.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Davies stressed the need for clarity in the Planning Brief and agreed that it was important that retail outlets outside of the development should not suffer as a result of the proposals. He also requested clarification about the impact of the recent ODPM statement on town centre retail policies.

Cabinet also noted the comments made by Mr Cole in the public participation period prior to the start of the meeting.

With regard to the comments on the amount of food retail floorspace, the Director of Development Services advised that the Retail Consultant had recommended a maximum for an individual food store of no more than 3000 sq m gross. This recommendation had been agreed and reflected in the Local Plan Review. Any surplus requirement for food shopping not met from within the site should be accommodated elsewhere within Winchester. He confirmed that although there had possibly been some confusion at the Local Plan Committee about whether the figures referred to were gross or net, the Planning Brief was clear that the figures stated were sq m gross.

After further discussion, one Member proposed that the Planning Brief should be amended to request the Master Planner to ascertain the maximum level of retail floorspace that should be included within the site in order to achieve the appropriate mix between retail and other uses. In addition, the Master Planner should be asked to indicate what proportion of the retail floor space should be allocated to large-scale food shopping. The Director of Development Services noted these comments but did not consider it appropriate for the Master Planner to advise on the need for retail floorspace. However, it was important for them to be asked to test what the capacity of the site was for various retail uses, including food shopping. It was agreed that the exact wording of the amendment be delegated to the Director of Development Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Transport and Access and Environment, Economy and Development. The amendment would then be submitted for agreement by full Council at its meeting on 25 June.

With regard to the query about the ODPM statement, the Director of Development Services advised that this emphasised the importance of a quantitative test with regard to the floorspace required. The retail consultants had done this and therefore he did not consider that this issue required any amendment to the Brief.

In response to other issues raised by Councillors at the start of this item, the Director of Development Services advised that the Consultant had recommended an increase in shopping floorspace of 22 percent but estimated that available expenditure in Winchester should increase by 32 percent. Consequently existing city centre businesses should not be adversely affected. The Chief Executive added that it would be for the developer to decide whether the development was viable and the Council would need to consider the effect on the City Centre as a whole and to maintain a dialogue with the developer once the scheme had been completed.

One Member requested that the Planning Brief should recognise the requirement for cyclists to be able to travel through the site to other parts of the City Centre and not just to and from the development itself. This was agreed.

In discussion about the Winchester District Local Plan Committee proposed amendment regarding the Antiques Market, Members agreed that there should be a strong preference stated in the Brief for the Antiques Market not to be demolished. But should this prove necessary, it was essential that the use should be accommodated elsewhere. It was agreed that the exact wording of the amendment on this point be delegated to the Director of Development Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Transport and Access and Environment, Economy and Development as before.

(ii) The Future of Strategic Planning in Hampshire (Report WDLP23 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Davies expressed concern that the Council was continuing in its objections to the inclusion of part of the District within the boundaries of the proposed South Downs National Park and the consequential financial cost to the Council of this stance. Cabinet noted his comments but considered that the Council's current position should not be altered.

With regard to the comments of the Winchester District Local Plan Committee on the future of Strategic Planning, Members noted that the arguments for and against being included within the South Hampshire Sub-Regional Strategy area were finely balanced. The Chief Executive advised that he believed it was important for the Council to be involved in the early discussions in order that it could contribute to proposals. He also considered that the issue of boundaries would be better addressed at a later date, in particular as he commented that the boundaries for individual elements could differ. For example the boundaries for economic purposes could be different than for transport matters. Following discussion, Cabinet did not consider that the amendments to the report put forward by the Winchester District Local Plan Committee should be agreed. Instead, the original report recommendations should be approved, subject to a change to indicate that the District should, without prejudice to our future stance, join initial discussions about strategic planning for the South Hampshire area.

At the conclusion of the debate on both reports, Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the reports.

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE AMENDMENTS TO THE BROADWAY/FRIARSGATE PLANNING BRIEF, AS SET OUT IN REPORT CL11 BE AGREED.

RESOLVED:

1. That authority be delegated to the Director of Development Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Transport and Access and Environment, Economy and Development, to draft amendments to the Broadway/Friarsgate Planning Brief as outlined above, for agreement by Council.

2. That the strategic planning authorities and the South East England Regional Assembly be informed that the City Council:

- (i) generally supports the recommendation that work on a further Structure Plan Review for Hampshire be abandoned and that sub-regional strategies be produced for South Hampshire and the Blackwater Valley.
- (ii) considers that the City Council should be included within discussions on the South Hampshire Study area, due primarily to its economic and transport links with the urban areas of southern Hampshire.

111. **BAPSY BEQUEST – CONCLUSIONS ON FEASIBILITY STUDY**
(Report CAB665 refers)

Following discussion, Cabinet agreed that the consultation event proposed in the above report should take place prior to the matter being referred to the Community, Arts and Social Performance Improvement Committee, and the report recommendations be amended accordingly.

It was also agreed that it was important to take account of proposals for the Guildhall as set out in the Best Value Improvement Plan in reaching a decision on the best way forward.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the five options available in relation to the use of the bequest be noted.
2. That a consultation event be organised for all Council Members and representatives of key community organisations to consider the implications of these options.
3. That after the consultation event, the Community, Arts and Social Performance Improvement Committee be invited to consider the implications of these options in detail.
4. That a further report be submitted to Cabinet in due course containing specific recommendations from the Community, Arts and Social Performance Improvement Committee on the issues raised in the terms of reference set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report.
5. That further work be commissioned to examine the options and implications for re-ordering existing ground floor accommodation from within the approved budget.
6. That approval be given for the £10,000 remaining from the funds allocated to the feasibility study to be carried forward into the Community Services revenue budget for 2003/04 in order to pay for this further work.

112. **PERFORMANCE PLAN 2003/04**
(Report CAB671 refers)

Cabinet noted that a number of amendments were required to the Plan before it was submitted to Council for approval at its meeting on 25 June. These amendments included refining the information in the Portfolio sections and ensuring the statistics were complete and as meaningful and understandable to the public as possible. The Chairman requested that the Portfolio Holders consider their individual areas and report back to the Portfolio Holder for Performance Management on any necessary changes. The amended Plan would then be submitted to Council for approval.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2003/04 AS SET OUT IN REPORT CL12 BE AGREED.

RESOLVED:

1. That the format and content of the document as set out in the appendix to the report be agreed for recommendation to Council, subject to amendments to be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Performance Management, and the revised Performance Plan be submitted directly to Council.

2. That following Council approval, the Chief Executive be authorised to complete and refine the text of the document, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Performance Management.

113. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**
(Report CAB661 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs Dewdney (TACT) expressed concern with regard to the proposal to use some funding from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) towards two projects. She stated that TACT had not been consulted on this proposal and also that she understood that HRA funds were ring fenced for the use of City Council tenants only.

The Director of Health and Housing confirmed that TACT would be fully consulted prior to any decision to allocate HRA funding to these projects. He explained that HRA funds would only be used if the projects benefited Council tenants directly. Cabinet agreed that the Director of Health and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, be given delegated authority to agree grants from the HRA if appropriate following consultation with TACT.

In response to questions, the Director of Community Services advised that proposals for Council grants to be administered centrally were being considered in order to simplify the process for the various organisations which applied to the Council each year.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following grants to be paid to voluntary sector organisations be approved:

- (i) Rent Deposit Scheme - £5,000
- (ii) ROCC - £2,000
- (iii) Winchester Lodgers - £7,000
- (iv) Victoria Housing Project - £4,350
- (v) WACA - £5,000
- (vi) Keystone - £3,000
- (vii) Nightshelter - £10,000
- (viii) Stonham – Refuge - £8,000
- (ix) Bird in Hand Gardening Project - £1,170

- (x) Dorcas Furniture Project - £1,000
- (xi) Winchester Housing Trust - £5,000

2. That the decision on grants from the Housing Revenue Account for the Bird in Hand Gardening Project and 'Dorcas' project as outlined in the report be delegated to the Director of Health and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, following consultation with TACT.

114. **RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR DURLEY PARISH COUNCIL**
(Report CAB668 refers)

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

That £29,000 be released from the Open Space Fund to Durley Parish Council for the provision of a Multi-Use Games Area.

115. **FINANCE DEPARTMENT – PROPOSALS FOR AN INVESTIGATIONS TEAM LEADER**
(Report PER50 refers)

Members noted that at its meeting on 9 June, Personnel Committee had agreed that the Finance Department establishment be increased by one FTE for the post of Investigations Team Leader.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the reports.

RESOLVED:

1. That a virement of £24,000 from WIBS to the Finance salary budget for 2003/03 be approved.

2. That the increase in the Finance base salary budget (£36,000 full year) be approved.

116. **ANNUAL AND AD-HOC APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES**
(Report CAB667 refers)

Members noted that a list of all nominations received had been circulated to Cabinet for consideration.

From the nominations received, Cabinet agreed to the following appointments being made.

RESOLVED:

That the following appointments to external bodies be made (deputies shown in brackets) for the 2003/04 Municipal Year, unless stated otherwise:

- (i) Winchester Movement and Access Plan Joint Members' Panel (WMAP)
Councillors Bailey, Beveridge, Davies, Hutton and Lipscomb
(Busher, Hiscock and Hollingbery)
- (ii) Central Hampshire Rural Transport Strategy Members' Panel (CHARTS)
Councillors Allgood, Beveridge, Bailey, Busher and Knasel
(Davies, Stallard and Sutton)
- (iii) Local County Highway Management Advisory Panel
Councillors Bailey, Beveridge, Clohosey, Davies and Pearson
(de Peyer, Lipscomb and Wagner)
- (iv) Project Integra Management Board
Councillor Wagner (Evans)
- (v) Project Integra Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Hutton (Mitchell)
- (vi) Community Action Hampshire (3 year appointment)
Councillor Allgood
- (vii) Whiteley Community Association
Councillor Hatch
- (viii) Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) (3 year appointment)
Councillor Nelmes

117. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CABINET**

The Director of Community Services advised that the report on Swanmore College would be submitted to Cabinet once the current planning application had been determined.

Members noted that the IT infrastructure report was likely to be delayed.

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items for consideration by Cabinet, as set out on the agenda sheet and amended above, be noted.

118. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
119	Minutes of the previous meeting held 21 May: Upgrade to Revenues & Benefits System 1 and 2 Larrymore Cottages Exton) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). (Para 7 Schedule 12A refers).) Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services. (Para 9 to Schedule 12A refers).
120	Finance Department - Staffing of Accountancy Section) Information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office-holder, former office-holder or applicant to become an office-holder under the authority. (Para 1 to Schedule 12A refers).) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office-holders under, the authority. (Para 11 to Schedule 12A refers).

119. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held 21 May 2003 be approved and adopted.

120. **FINANCE DEPARTMENT – STAFFING OF ACCOUNTANCY SECTION**
(Report PER51 refers)

Members noted that at its meeting on 9 June, Personnel Committee had noted the new staff structure for the Accountancy Section.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined above and contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the increase in the Finance base salary budget (£10,000 full year) be approved.

The meeting commenced at 9.00am and concluded at 10.45am

S Campbell
Chairman