

CABINET

8 February 2005

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
10 JANUARY 2005

REPORT OF CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

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RECENT REFERENCES:

None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report sets out the relevant minute extracts from the meeting of the Principal Scrutiny Committee on 10 January 2005 that have been referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

Since the meeting of Principal Scrutiny Committee, a request has been received from Whiteley Parish Council that Cabinet's approval of the recommendations relating to Whiteley be deferred to allow the Parish Council to formally respond to the report.

RECOMMENDATION:

To consider and determine the matters set out the minute extracts from the meeting of the Principal Scrutiny Committee on 10 January 2005.

CABINET8 February 2005EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
10 JANUARY 2005REPORT OF CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR**1 SCRUTINY REVIEW – THE COMMUNITY OF WHITELEY**  
(Report PS155 refers)

The Committee noted that this report was also to be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 8 February 2005.

It was agreed that requests to establish a Forum in Whiteley should be in co-operation with Fareham Borough Council. Furthermore, it was agreed that copies of this report be made available to Fareham Borough Council, Whiteley Parish Council, representatives of the business community and any other interested groups.

**RESOLVED:**

That Cabinet be recommended to approve:

1. That a forum be established in co-operation with Fareham Borough Council to promote closer working between all organisations serving the Whiteley community on both sides of the District Council boundary. This could be a formal meeting place for elected representatives, business leaders and community leaders to meet regularly to discuss common problems. Its aim would be to foster good working relationships between the organisations serving Whiteley with a focus on the well-being of the whole community.

2. That Hampshire County Council be thanked for including proposals for the Botley by-pass scheme and be encouraged to consider the future provision of Whiteley Way as soon as possible.

3. That Hampshire County Council be urged to give priority to the completion of Rookery Avenue and Yew Tree Drive for use by cars and buses as soon as possible.

4. That Hampshire County Council's review of Primary Education provision to serve the Whiteley area be welcomed and that Hampshire County Council be urged to carry out a full investigation with a view to extending the existing school when consulted as part of that review.

5. That the local Primary Care Trust be urged to support provision of a Health Centre for Whiteley at the earliest opportunity.

6. That the Director of Development Services be urged to work with the Whiteley Business Forum to monitor the situation following the installation of the yellow lines in the Business Park area of Whiteley and advise Cabinet on further improvements required to ensure that adequate and safe parking be available for all users of the Business Park and for neighbouring residents.

7. That Hampshire County Council be pressed to take action immediately to provide a direct pedestrian link from Swanwick railway station to Whiteley as this is urgently needed in order to encourage more people to use public transport.

8. That the Director of Development Services notify the Whiteley Business Forum of all new planning applications relating to the Whiteley area.

2 **MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES**  
(Report PS160 Extract of Minutes refer)

The Committee considered the Exempt minutes of the following meetings:

- a) Central Services Performance Improvement Committee held on 2 December 2004 - exempt item (as contained within the Council Minute Book 5 January 2005 page 381)

Following discussion of the exempt minute of the Central Services Performance Improvement Committee, the Director of Finance updated the Committee in open session on the current position with regard to the voluntary liquidation of the Winchester Alliance for Mental Health and the outstanding debt to the Council of £350,000 approximately.

The Council had provided payroll services for the voluntary body. The debt had arisen in respect of salary advances made on behalf of the Alliance by the Council, which had not been fully reimbursed.

Regular reports had been made to Members on the financial position of the Alliance. Members had been concerned that the important services to vulnerable people should continue to be provided. It had allowed the Alliance time to reorganise its finances so that the debt could be repaid over time and the service continue. However, the Alliance had recently elected to go into voluntary liquidation.

The Director explained that a report was to be provided to the next meeting of the Central Services Performance Improvement Committee detailing the current position regarding the debt as well setting out some of the background (previously exempt) information provided to Members.

To date, no formal objections to the Council's Accounts from the public had been received. The Director was in contact with the Liquidator as he proceeded with his work.

The Director had asked the Council's external auditors (PricewaterhouseCoopers) to undertake a review of the Council's handling of the matter.

Following debate, it was proposed that the Committee should recommend that Cabinet amend the Council's policy on providing payroll services to voluntary bodies as so to minimise any future potential for a re-occurrence. The majority of Members supported this approach. Following further discussion, the following was agreed as proposed changes to the Council's policy and that these be recommended to Cabinet for formal adoption:

- That for new clients all payments for the provision of payroll services be made in *advance* to the Council.
- That for existing clients, provision of payroll services be immediately ceased should payments be defaulted for two months consecutively.

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Central Services Performance Improvement Committee held on 2 December 2004 (exempt Minute) be received.

2. That it be recommended to Cabinet that the proposed changes to the Council's policy on providing payroll services to voluntary bodies, as set out as follows, be endorsed:

- That for new clients all payments for the provision of payroll services be made in *advance* to the Council.
- That for existing clients, provision of payroll services be immediately ceased should payments be defaulted for two months consecutively.