

CABINET

17 May 2007

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET COMMITTEES AND INFORMAL
MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUPS ETC 2007/08

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB1266– Annual Appointments to Cabinet Committees and Informal Member/Officer Working Groups, 18 May 2006
CAB1316 – Climate Change, 13 September 2006
CAB1346 - Establishment of Cabinet (LDF) Committee, 15 November 2006
CAB1436 – Minor Amendments to the Constitution, 28 March 2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report lists the annual appointments that are required to be made to the Informal Member/Officer Working Groups etc that are established by Cabinet for 2007/08. Nominations received at the time of dispatch have been listed in the Report. Any other Members that are interested in serving on these bodies should contact their respective Group Leaders by 15 May 2007 who will be co-ordinating nominations for consideration and endorsement by Cabinet.

In addition, Cabinet Committees can be appointed with membership drawn from the Cabinet only and can be given delegated powers to make decisions. Last year, a Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee and Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee were appointed, as set out in paragraph 2 below.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Cabinet considers which bodies should be re-appointed, and if so, determines the membership.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 3 of the report gives details of Informal Member/Officer Working Groups etc. to which appointments need to be made. The membership of Informal Member/Officer Working Groups does not have to be politically balanced, nor do they have to consist of Cabinet members only.
- 1.2 The purpose of these Groups is to provide Portfolio Holders with a consultation mechanism as major policy is formulated. An alternative is to ask Principal Scrutiny Committee or one of the Scrutiny Panels to undertake this work. Where this route is followed, an Informal Scrutiny Group may be appointed by Principal Scrutiny Committee or the relevant Scrutiny Panel and Cabinet members would not be appointed to sit on that Group, although they may be called as a witness as part of the review. It is important to avoid any duplication of effort and regular liaison meetings are held with the Chairmen of Principal Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels to ensure proper co-ordination. The Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources also attend these liaison meetings.
- 1.3 Cabinet Committees can be appointed with membership drawn from the Cabinet only and these Committees can be given delegated powers to make decisions. Currently, two Cabinet Committees have been appointed; Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee and Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee.

2 Appointments to Cabinet Committees

2.1 Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee

This Cabinet Committee was established by the 19 May 2005 meeting of Cabinet (Report CAB1076 refers), which gave the following terms of reference:

- (i) to exercise the functions contained in any agency agreement with the County Council with regard to traffic management, park and ride or on-street parking;
- (ii) to exercise any District Council functions with regard to temporary road closures, park and ride or off-street parking."

Last year it was agreed that the Committee's membership be the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport plus any two other Cabinet Members to be selected by the City Secretary and Solicitor in alphabetical rotation.

The date of the next meeting has been agreed for Tuesday 5 June 2007 at 10.00am in the Walton Room, Guildhall.

At the time this report was prepared, the Conservative Group are not proposing any changes to the membership.

2.2 Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee

This Committee was established at the Cabinet meeting on 15 November 2006 (Report CAB1346 refers). This Committee's membership is the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport (Cllr Wood) plus Councillors Beckett, Hollingbery and Pearson as the standing members of the Committee.

In the event of any of the standing members not being available for a particular meeting, another member of Cabinet will be selected in alphabetical rotation by the City Secretary and Solicitor to substitute for the standing member.

In addition, it was agreed that the following standing list of councillors be invited to attend and offer views at meetings of the Committee:

- (a) Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee; and named members from the Liberal Democrats (3), Independents (1) and Labour (1) as follows: Councillors Beveridge, Cook, Sutton, Busher and de Peyer.
- (b) Ward Councillors, where appropriate.

The terms of reference were widened at Cabinet on 28 March 2007 (Report CAB1436 refers) to include adoption of all Supplementary Planning Documents and are now as set out below:

- (a) To determine all matters in the following stages of the production of Development Plan Documents in the Local Development Framework (LDF):
 - (i) Pre-Production Stage – the evidence base and arrangements for community involvement.
 - (ii) Production Stage – initial issues and options and associated public consultation.
- (b) To advise and make recommendations to Cabinet and Council upon the following stages of production of the LDF:
 - (i) Production Stage – Approval of Preferred Options for public consultation.
 - (ii) Submission Version – Approval of the version to be submitted to the Examination before the Inspector.
 - (iii) Adoption of Development Plan Documents following the Inspector's report after the Examination.
- (c) To consider and agree the adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents.
- (d) To determine matters upon related projects and studies to the LDF or to make recommendations to Cabinet.

The date for the next meeting has been agreed for Thursday 7 June 2007 at 10.00am in the Walton Room, Guildhall.

At the time this report was prepared, the Conservative are not proposing any changes to their membership. The Liberal Democrats wish to nominate four councillors to be invited to each meeting: Councillors Beveridge, Cook, Evans and Sutton.

3 Appointments to Informal Member/Officer Working Groups

3.1 Housing Options Appraisal Steering Group

This Group was originally established in September 2003 to manage the statutory requirement to submit options appraisals for the future management and delivery of landlord services to Government Regional Offices.

The final Housing Options Appraisal report was submitted to Cabinet on 20 April 2005 and then onto the ODPM. However, it has been decided that the Group be reappointed to maintain a watching brief over developments with the Housing Options process.

In 2006/07 the Group's membership was as follows:

Housing Options Appraisal Steering Group
 Councillors: Coates, Hiscock, Rees and Tait
 TACT Representatives: Four representatives and one deputy
 Officers: B Merrett, F Lyon, H Bone, R Botham and L MacLachlan

There is a requirement that this Group be re-established for 2007/08 with revised officer membership as follows: *R Botham, G Cole, H Bone, A Garlick/L Alexander and C Broomfield.*

At the time this report was prepared, the Conservative Group are not proposing any changes to the membership. The Liberal Democrat Group wish to nominate Councillor Hiscock plus one other Councillor (name to be confirmed).

2.3 Supported Housing Informal Member/Officer Working Group

In 2006/07, this Working Group was reappointed with the following membership:

Councillors: Chapman, Coates, Hiscock, Hammerton and Pines
 TACT Representatives: Three representatives (names to be advised)
 Officers: R Boardman, R Botham, A Crosskey, L Curtis, S Tong, B Merrett, F Sutherland

Its Key Tasks are:

- To review the classification of service provided at each sheltered scheme to take account of the reducing demand for sheltered housing and the Supporting People service review to be completed by Hampshire County Council;
- To determine a consistent level of mobile support provision across all schemes and in particular those declassified as part of this review and now receiving "floating support services" (non-residential);
- To complete a detailed review of service costs and service charges (in addition to support charges);
- To review future options for vacant scheme manager flats;
- To review options for ensuring that all remaining category 2 units are filled, including potential incentives and assistance for tenants who may wish to move as well as publicity and other policies to encourage more prospective tenants;
- To determine the ideal category 2 provision and completing a detailed asset management plan for all schemes to ensure that the service can meet future need and tenant aspirations.

There is a requirement for the Group to be reappointed for 2007/08 with revised Officer membership as follows: *R Botham, S Tong, A Crosskey, L Curtis, R Boardman, F Sutherland.*

At the time this report was prepared, the Conservative Group are not proposing any changes to the membership. The Liberal Democrat Group wish to nominate Councillor Hiscock plus one other Councillor (name to be confirmed).

2.4 Choice Based Lettings Informal Member/Officer Working Group

The Membership for 2006/07 was:

Councillors: Chapman, Coates, Hammerton, Love and Rees

TACT Representatives: One representative

Officers: A Palmer, D Cooper, O Fajuyitan

Its terms of reference are as follows:

“To investigate how a Choice Based Lettings scheme could be applied to Winchester’s circumstances taking into account the following factors:-

- (i) How the scheme might improve customer choice and transparency.
- (ii) How the scheme is structured in order to ensure that priority is given to applicants in greatest housing need.
- (iii) How vulnerable and excluded groups can have their interests protected in a choice based lettings scenario. What support can and needs to be provided to ensure equality of access.
- (iv) How transfers can be incorporated in a more choice based approach.
- (v) How applicants are assisted in understanding the process and play an active part in vacancy selection.
- (vi) How rural areas cope with the challenge of effective communication with customers.
- (vii) How the housing allocation teams can move from the role of ‘gatekeeper’ to facilitator.
- (viii) How systems can be effectively changed to move decision making from the partnership to the individual customer.
- (ix) How ICT can be developed to support Choice Based Lettings scheme, but at the same time, being accessible to customer.
- (x) How detailed feedback on re-housing outcomes can be facilitated.
- (xi) How cross boundary lettings scheme could work.”

There is a requirement for this Group to be re-established in 2007/08 to continue its work.

At the time this report was prepared, the Conservative Group are not proposing any changes to the membership. The Liberal Democrat Group wish to nominate Councillor Love plus one other Councillor (name to be confirmed).

2.5 Air Quality Informal Member/Officer Working Group

The Group's Terms of Reference are: 'To develop the air quality action plan in accordance with current guidance issued by DEFRA.'. Its Membership for 200/07 was as follows:

Councillors: de Peyer, Hammerton, Hiscock, Pearson, Saunders, Wagner and Wright.
Officers: (City Council) R Heathcock, A Jowsey, S Blazdell, P Tidridge, D Massey
(County Council) A Wren, P Fydall, K Travers and P Syddall

It has been agreed that future meetings of the Group be held bi-annually with progress on the Plan additionally reported to the October cycle of Environment Scrutiny Panel.

At the time this report was prepared, the Conservative Group are not proposing any changes to the membership. The Liberal Democrat Group wish to nominate Councillors Hiscock, Learney and Wagner.

2.6 Climate Change Informal Member/Officer Working Group

This Group was established by Cabinet on 13 September 2006 (Report CAB1316 refers). Its terms of reference are:

- Oversee the development of the Climate Change Plan for the Winchester district;
- Champion the issue of Climate Change within the City Council, with its partners and with the communities of Winchester;
- Ensure that the issue is tackled in a cross-cutting way;
- Use our influence to tackle cross-boundary issues;
- Ensure that the actions within the Climate Change Plan are practical, realistic, resource accountable and within the district.

Its membership for 2006/07 was agreed as follows: Councillors Pearson (Chairman), de Peyer, Hammerton, Huxstep and Wagner.

It is recommended that this Group be re-established in 2007/08 to continue its work.

At the time this report was prepared, the Conservative Group are not proposing any changes to the membership. The Liberal Democrat Group wish to nominate Councillors Beveridge and Wagner.

2.7 West of Waterlooville Forum

The Forum's Membership for 2006/07 was:

Councillors: Chamberlain, Collin, Cooper, Hollingbery (Chairman), Rees and Stallard
Deputies: Clohosey and Hiscock

Havant Borough Council Councillors: Blackett, Moss, Smallcorn, Tarrant,
Deputies: Hunt and Kennedy

Hampshire County Councillors: McIntosh and Allgood
Deputy: Beagley

Its terms of reference are set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Forum met once in 2006/07 and it is recommended that it be re-established for 2007/08 to continue its work on community development in the Major Development Area.

At the time the report was prepared, the Conservative Group are not proposing any changes to the membership, but are nominating Councillor Coates as a deputy. The Liberal Democrat Group wish to nominate Councillors Collin and Hiscock (name of deputy to be advised).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

When deciding which Cabinet and Informal Member/Officer Working Groups to appoint, the Cabinet needs to ensure that these are supporting work towards the Council's agreed Corporate Priorities.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Cost associated with Member meetings.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

File held in the Democratic Services Division

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – West of Waterlooville Forum Terms of Reference

APPENDIX ONE**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The creation of a Major Development Area at West of Waterlooville offers challenges and opportunities.

The opportunities include:-

- A chance to form a vibrant, caring and sustainable community;
- The ability to house people who are in need of affordable, good quality housing;
- The opportunity for the three local authorities to work together in a model example of community leadership;
- Integration of the MDA with existing communities, in particular Waterlooville Town Centre, and the surrounding countryside

The challenges include:-

- Determining the types of community facilities (such as community centres, local shops, schools, and recreation facilities) which will be required to promote and engender a spirit of community amongst the new residents;
- Ensuring that the new community has the necessary facilities and infrastructure in place, at appropriate phases throughout the development;
- Dealing with the issues which arise out of the fact that the MDA is to be built across the districts of Winchester City and Havant Borough;
- Creating a sense of community amongst the residents of the MDA, who will be coming together for the first time, and whose primary common interest is a new home in the MDA;
- Learning from the experience of other MDA developments

Many of these issues will be shaped by the two Local Planning Authorities, as part of the decision-making process to determine any planning applications which are submitted to progress the MDA. However, the issues will, in many cases, involve other functions of the various local authorities involved.

The principal purpose of the Forum is to assist these bodies in dealing with these challenges, and ensuring that these opportunities are achieved.

In order to do this, the Forum shall:-

- Discuss the issues which arise out of these opportunities and challenges;
- Advise the relevant decision-making authorities on these issues;
- Consider the infrastructure and facility requirements;
- Review progress reports on planning applications.

The Forum will meet in public and shall, so far as possible, seek to engage fully with the public. There may be occasions where there is a need to meet in private, due to matters of confidentiality and commercial sensitivity.

Constituent Authorities and membership

The Forum shall comprise representatives from:-

- Hampshire County Council (2 representatives)
- Havant Borough Council (4 representatives)
- Winchester City Council (6 representatives - including chairman of the Forum)

Method of Working and Voting Rights

All representatives are expected to use their best endeavours to reach conclusions by general consensus. Where any voting representative on the Forum requires a formal vote to be taken, this shall be on a show of hands by those voting representatives present and voting. [Only the representatives of Hampshire County Council, Havant Borough Council, and Winchester City Council will have the right to vote.]

Chairman

The Chairman of the Forum shall be appointed by Winchester City Council.

Quorum

The Forum will be quorate if five voting representatives are present.

Administration

Winchester City Council's City Secretary and Solicitor shall be responsible for administering the Forum, calling meetings, and recording proceedings.

Public Participation

Public participation will be permitted at the Chairman's discretion, in accordance with the Forum's adopted public participation procedure.

Public Participation Procedure

General

1. There will be a period of 10 minutes maximum at the beginning of each forum meeting when the Chairman will invite the public, including local interest groups, to raise any general matters of interest and/or matters relating to the work of the Forum. Detailed matters related to agenda items will not be accepted at this point, as there will be an opportunity for these comments to be heard later in the meeting (as set out above). As is the usual practice for general public participation, however, officers and Members may not be able to immediately

respond at the meeting to points raised by the public where these relate to non-agenda items.

Consideration of Individual Agenda Items

2. After an officer has introduced an agenda item, the Chairman will invite public participation on matters relating to that agenda item. At this point, a period of ten minutes (subject to extension at the Chairman's discretion) will be allowed for public comments. During this period, members of the public, including local interest groups, will be able to object, support or ask questions directly relating to the agenda item and contents of the officer report.
3. An individual speaker will be limited to a maximum of three minutes per agenda item. Where a number of members of the public wish to speak, they will be encouraged to agree the allocation of the maximum ten minute period for public participation. The Committee Administrator will assist in this process before the start of the meeting. The Chairman will retain a general discretion to manage the public speaking process, and may limit individual speakers to less than three minutes, or take other steps necessary in order to maximise public participation in an appropriate way. The extension of the total 10 minutes limit allowed for the public to discuss an agenda item will be at the discretion of the Chairman.
4. There will be no further opportunity for the public to comment on an agenda item once the period of public participation has ended even if the prescribed period has not been reached. The subsequent discussion, consideration and decision on the matter is then passed to Forum Members.
5. Members and Officers will not provide an immediate response to public comments raised from the floor. All comments and queries will be noted and the Chairman will invite Officers and/or Members to respond to specific points during the round table debate and discussion amongst Forum members that follows.
6. Members of the public should wherever possible contact the Committee Administrator before the start of the meeting (preferably by telephone or email prior to the day of the meeting), so that as many people who wish to speak can be accommodated during the public participation sessions.

Non-Forum Members

7. Once the period of public participation has drawn to a close, there will be an opportunity for elected Members who are not on the Forum (e.g. Ward Members or relevant Portfolio Holders) to speak in advance of general discussion and debate amongst Forum members, at the Chairman's discretion. This may include any Councillors from Havant Borough Council, Winchester City Council or Hampshire County Council.

Forum Debate and Vote

8. The Chairman will subsequently invite questions and open the discussion and debate to all Members of the Forum and will invite officers and/or Members to respond to any public comments raised from the floor. Where appropriate, a vote will be taken to reach a formal recommendation on the agenda item.