

CABINET

16 January 2008

Attendance:

Councillor Beckett – *Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy and Tourism* (Chairman) (P)

Councillor Allgood – *Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources* (P)

Councillor Coates – *Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities* (P)

Councillor Hollingbery – *Portfolio Holder for Performance and Communications* (P)

Councillor Pearson – *Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Safety* (P)

Councillor Stallard - *Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport* (P)

Councillor Wood – *Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport* (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Beveridge and Learney

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Barratt, Higgins, Hiscock and Humby

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2007, less exempt items, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no statements made or questions asked.

3. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Leader or Portfolio Holder announcements.

4. **FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL REPAIRS, DECORATIONS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS**

(Report [CAB1598](#) refers)

Under the Council's Constitution, Access to Information Procedure Rules (Rule 15.1 General Exception), this was a Key Decision, which had not been included in the Forward Plan. Under this procedure, the Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee had been informed.

The Corporate Director (Governance) advised of a correction to paragraph 3.1 of the Report to clarify that tenders would be sought through Constructionline, rather than by advert.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That, in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule 3.3a, authorisation be given to seek tenders through Constructionline (paragraph. 3 of the Report, as corrected above, refers) and to evaluate the tenders received in accordance with the price:quality (40:60) scoring matrix, as detailed in Appendix A of the Report.

2. That, in consultation with the Head of Finance, five year framework agreements be awarded to the two contractors that offer the best price:quality mix as determined by the scoring matrix.

3. That the framework terms be negotiated and agreed with the two successful contractors, and that the detail of these frameworks be agreed in consultation with the Head of Legal Services.

5. **REVIEW OF CAR PARK CHARGES 2008/09**
(Report [CAB1597](#) refers)

In response to questions, the Head of Access and Infrastructure explained how the proposed system would allow payment for car park charges by mobile phone and credit card. He confirmed that if the original payment had been made via phone, it was possible for the customer to extend the period of parking by phone as well.

The Corporate Director (Governance) added that the Order proposing the introduction of payment by mobile phone/credit cards had been advertised and any comments in response would be considered by the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee at its meeting on 19 February 2008.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Learney and Beveridge addressed Cabinet regarding this item.

On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Learney requested further information of the effects of last year's increase in Park and Ride charges. In addition, she spoke against the proposal for a 25% increase in the charge for one hour's parking at the River Park Leisure Centre (RPLC). She considered that to prevent deterring users of RPLC, the one hour charge remain the same, but the all-day parking be increased to be in line with those at Tower Street car park. She believed that this would better fulfil the original intentions behind introducing charges at RPLC car park to deter commuter parking.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Learney for her comments and agreed that a reply regarding the effect of Park and Ride charge increases be supplied outside of the meeting. With regard to charges for parking at RPLC, Councillor Wood responded that the proposal was to increase the hourly charge by 10 pence only. He stated that the use of the car park would be monitored and the possibility of increasing the charge for long stay parking would be investigated if it appeared to be a problem.

Councillor Beveridge spoke against the proposal to retain 30 minutes free on-street parking and noted that the County Council also recommended its removal. In addition, he believed that there were inconsistencies in how much charges would be increased. He suggested that the principles behind parking charges be included in the Report as a reminder of what the Council was seeking to achieve.

The Chairman noted these comments and advised that these issues would be considered as part of the forthcoming review of the Winchester Access Plan.

Councillor Wood highlighted that, with Park and Ride car parks currently operating at approximately 80 per cent capacity, it would not be appropriate to aim to encourage many more people to use these car parks at the current time. However, this would be reviewed once the new Park and Ride to the South of the City was opened.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the parking charge increases as set out in the above Report be agreed for implementation as from 1 April 2008.

2. That notice of intention to make an order varying the Winchester City Council (Barfield and St. Catherine's View) (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2003 to permit coaches to use St. Catherine's View car park and introduce a charge therefore be advertised and the Head of Legal Services be authorised to make the order if no objections are received.

3. That public notice of the variation in charges set out in the Report (other than for St. Catherine's View) be given under Section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

6. **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 IMPLEMENTATION – PARKING REGULATIONS**

(Report [CAB1600](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as he was a County Councillor and the County Council had an agency agreement with the City Council with regard to this matter. He remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Band 2 (as specified in the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (Guidelines on Levels of Charges) (England) Order 2007) be adopted by the City Council, in respect of all Penalty Charge Notices issued under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 as from 31 March 2008, and the Head of Legal Services be authorised to publish the adopted level of charges, in accordance with the requirements of the Secretary of State.

2. That notice of intention to make orders varying the existing on-street, off-street, and Park and Ride parking orders to reflect the changes introduced by the Traffic Management Act 2004 be advertised and the Head of Legal Services be authorised to make the orders if no objections are received.

3. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into any necessary changes to the existing agency agreement with Hampshire County Council as a consequence of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

7. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007**
(Report [CAB1591](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that this Report would be considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2008.

In response to questions, the Corporate Director (Governance) confirmed that the Council would have to consider the possible introduction of a directly elected Mayor. However, he emphasised that the provisions of the Act on leadership and electoral matters would have a phased introduction and would not be brought into effect until 2011 for the City Council.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the above Report, and its likely impact upon future work programmes, be noted.
2. That Principal Scrutiny Committee and the Standards Committee be asked to recommend appropriate changes to their procedures to take account of the Act, as further information by way of regulations and statutory guidance becomes available during 2008.
3. That further consideration be given to the options for council leadership and electoral cycles in the 2009/10 Municipal Year, to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place in accordance with the statutory timetable for the May 2011 elections.

8. **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PARISH HUBS AND CLUSTERS**
(Report [CAB1601](#) refers)

Councillor Pearson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this item as a trustee of Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). He left the room during consideration of matters relating to the proposed Bishops Waltham Local Access Point and did not speak or vote thereon.

Cabinet noted that the Report would be considered by Personnel Committee at its meeting on 3 March 2008, with regard to the proposal to increase staffing levels by 0.6 FTE to provide additional staffing of Local Access Points for the next three years.

Cabinet were advised of a correction to the resource implications table set out on page 12 of the Report. The estimated costs should be reversed between New Alresford Police Station and Bishops Waltham CAB (i.e. the total expenditure for Bishops Waltham CAB for 2008/09 should have been £19,231 and New Alresford, £10,429).

In response to queries, the Head of Partnership and Communications explained that the additional revenue figure related to a proposed £9,000 payment towards the lease of Well House, Bishops Waltham as a joint venture with the CAB. The CAB had approached the Council with the suggestion of co-locating their service and the Local Access Point at Well House and it was believed this offered opportunities and the ability to offer complementary services to the community at the same site.

However, Members expressed concern that it should be emphasised to the CAB that any Council contribution towards the costs of the lease would be dependant upon the success of the Local Access Point. If it was decided to not continue with the Local Access Point, then the Council would vacate the building.

Following discussion, Cabinet agreed, it should be stressed to CAB that the Council remaining at the premises and any funding it provided was dependant upon the success of the Local Access Point. It was noted that the lease proposed was for a period of seven years, with a break clause after three years. It was agreed that authority to agree the terms of the lease be delegated to the Head of Partnership and Communications, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Learney and Beveridge spoke regarding this item.

On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Learney supported the general concept of working closer with the rural communities. However, she suggested that only one Local Access Point location be introduced at this stage and a decision as to whether to introduce additional Local Access Points be made following experience. Councillor Learney also queried why the proposal had not been included as a growth bid and as such had not been subject to the scrutiny process. With regard to partnership funding, she made the general point that partners might be reluctant to offer funds once the project was up and running and it might be preferable to seek money up-front.

In response, the Chairman advised that initial funding was from a £60,000 budget provision which had been unspent and was not a growth bid. He also believed that the New Alresford pilot provided sufficient experience to trial Hubs in three locations.

Councillor Beveridge also welcomed the proposals in general, but expressed concern that it would create another tier of local government. In addition, he stated that proposing additional Council offices in rural locations was inconsistent with the Council's policy of reducing overall office accommodation.

In response, the Chairman stated that he did not consider the proposals to introduce an additional layer of local government, just an alternative means of accessing existing services. In addition, the Chief Executive emphasised that the plans were to introduce access points in the rural communities, with a City Council presence, not new offices with associated support staff.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the new approach towards 'Hub' communities and their 'clusters' of surrounding communities be approved.
2. That Local Access Points with an 'enhanced offer' are created:
 - (i) In New Alresford (in consultation with New Alresford Town Council), the Local Access Point is moved away from the site of the pilot (Arlebury Park) to a more central location at the Police Station.

- (ii) In Bishops Waltham, a new Local Access Point is created at Well House, taking advantage of the unique opportunity to co-locate with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).
 - (iii) That the Council enters into negotiation with Bishops Waltham Parish Council and Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau in respect of Well House, which might include entering into a lease if this is deemed the best option. If so, that the terms of the funding arrangement or lease for up to a 3 year period are negotiated and agreed by the Head of Partnership and Communication, in consultation with the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources and Head of Estates.
 - (iv) In Whiteley suitable accommodation be identified where an interim Local Access Point can be established. A further report will be made to Cabinet when this has been achieved.
3. In the longer term, that:
- (i) In Whiteley consideration be given to replacing the interim Local Access Point (see above) with one developed jointly with Whiteley Parish Council in a dedicated unit provided as part of the proposed redevelopment of Whiteley Retail Village.
 - (ii) Once the new Local Access Points are up and running, further Local Access Points with an 'enhanced offer' in other key Hubs are investigated with a further report to Cabinet detailing options and costs.
 - (iii) Once the work with key hubs is underway, Local Access Points with a 'core offer' only are explored for communities identified as 'local Hubs' and possibly outlying Winchester Town neighbourhoods with a further report to Cabinet detailing options and costs.
4. That a growth bid be considered as part of the 2008/09 budget process for additional revenue costs in 2009/10 of £18,194 and a base budget increase with effect from 2010/11 onwards for annual recurring revenue costs of £32,128 (at 2010/11 levels), subject to a two-year post-implementation review of the efficacy of the established Local Access Points.
5. That the current part-time fixed term post of Rural Towns Development Officer be extended for a further year (08/09) using LABGI funding of £27,000.

9. **TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE: SALIX FUNDING**
(Report [CAB1604](#) refers)

The Corporate Director (Policy) clarified that it was not necessary for the Council to allocate £150,000 in its Capital Programme at this stage.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That it be agreed in principle to make an application to Salix Finance for funding of future infrastructure projects in the Council's estate, up to a maximum interest free loan from Salix of £150,000.

2. That the Leader in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Finance & Resources and Environment, Health and Safety, be granted authority under the portfolio holder decision-making scheme to:

- (a) finalise the funding submission;
- (b) agree the initial programme of compliant capital projects for inclusion in the capital programme;
- (c) agree a rolling programme of further compliant capital projects from the Capital Programme, within the scope of any approval granted by Salix Finance.

10. **ADOPTION OF SOUTH DOWNS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

(Report [CAB1602](#) refers)

Both Councillors Allgood and Wood declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests in respect of this item as they were both members of the South Downs Joint Committee. They remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Under the Council's Constitution, Access to Information Procedure Rules (Rule 15.1 General Exception), this was a Key Decision, which had not been included in the Forward Plan. Under this procedure, the Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee had been informed.

With regard to Paragraph 2.2 of the Report, Councillor Wood clarified that the Council contributed to the funding of the AONB Project Officer and was not the sole funding body.

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

RESOLVED:

That the City Council's support for the policy issues and key aims contained in the final draft version of the South Downs Management Plan be reaffirmed and the Plan be adopted, as a material consideration in the exercise of the City Council's planning function.

11. **PRIMARY CARE FACILITIES (SOUTH WEST HANTS LIFT)**

(Report [CAB1608](#) refers)

Cabinet agreed that this item be deferred to the following meeting on 13 February 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be deferred to the next Cabinet meeting on 13 February 2008 for consideration.

12. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1592](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held 26 November 2007 be received and their contents be noted.

13. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1593](#) refers)

Members noted the Panel's comments regarding the Corporate Strategy and agreed that these be referred to the next Cabinet meeting, where the Corporate Strategy update would be considered.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held 27 November 2007 be received and their contents be noted.

14. **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1594](#) refers)

Members noted the Panel's comments regarding the Corporate Strategy and agreed that these be referred to the next Cabinet meeting, where the Corporate Strategy update would be considered.

Councillor Allgood advised that he would give further consideration to the Panel's comments regarding seeking more ambitious savings in relation to Design and Print.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held 4 December 2007 be received and their contents be noted.

15. **MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1595](#) refers)

Members noted the Panel's comments regarding the Corporate Strategy and agreed that these be referred to the next Cabinet meeting, where the Corporate Strategy update would be considered.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Panel held 5 December 2007 be received and their contents be noted.

16. **MINUTES OF CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE**
(Report [CAB1605](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee held 6 December 2007 be received (attached as Appendix A to these Minutes).

17. **MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM**
(Report [CAB1606](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood advised that at this stage, there were no changes to advise the Forum that Cabinet might propose that would affect the Town Account,

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Winchester Town Forum held 21 November 2007 be received.

18. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Councillor Allgood advised that the Capital Programme 2008/09 would now be submitted to the next Cabinet meeting on 13 February 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the future plans for consideration, as set out in the Forward Plan for January 2008, be noted.

19. **DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER THEIR DELEGATED POWERS**

RESOLVED:

That the decisions taken by Portfolio Holders under their delegated powers since the last Cabinet meeting, as set out on the agenda sheet, be noted.

20. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. 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>
##	Exempt minutes of the previous meeting) Information relating to the) financial or business affairs of) any particular person (including) the authority holding that) information). (Para 3 Schedule) 12A refers)

21. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 December 2007 be approved and adopted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.55am

Chairman