

CABINET

13 February 2008

Attendance:

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

Councillor Allgood – *Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources*

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*

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

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Beveridge, Busher, Hiscock, Jackson and Verney

Mr A Rickman (TACT)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Barratt and Learney

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Allgood and Stallard.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 January 2008 be approved and adopted.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no statements made or questions asked.

4. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader welcomed to the meeting two representatives from the Standards Committee, Mr P Smith and Mrs L Bannister, who were attending various Council meetings in order to monitor proceedings and report their findings back to the Committee for discussion.

Councillor Wood advised that the road works which had resulted in the closure of a section of Romsey Road, Winchester had now been completed, six weeks ahead of schedule. He acknowledged that these works had caused difficulties to road users, but had been essential and action had been taken to try to minimise disruption.

Councillor Wood reported that the electronic parking message signs were in place and would be operating shortly.

5. **CORPORATE STRATEGY 2008-2013**
(Report [CAB1616](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the Strategy had previously been considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels, and almost all the proposed amendments from these meetings had been included in the revised document (as attached as Appendix 2 to the Report).

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

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE CORPORATE STRATEGY FOR 2008-2013 BE APPROVED, AS ATTACHED AS APPENDIX 2 TO THE REPORT.

6. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2008/09**
(Report [CAB1610](#) refers)

In response to questions, the Head of Landlord Services confirmed that the level and uncertainty of Government subsidy caused significant difficulties to the Council, particularly regarding the housing maintenance programme. Although it was possible to balance the budget in the short term, this would become increasingly difficult in the long term. He continued that the HRA Business Plan which would be produced in March 2008, would include details of the Stock Condition survey which revealed that the Council was significantly under-investing in its stock. It would be possible to achieve the Decent Homes standard by 2010, but maintaining this level would become increasingly hard to achieve.

The Head of Landlord Services advised that the Business Plan would propose an interim position for the Council with regard to these pressures. A more detailed consideration of options available would be presented once the Housing Options project had been completed.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr A Rickman spoke on behalf of TACT. He reported on the recent presentation to Government by TACT, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities and the Head of Landlord Services, in which concerns relating to rent restructuring and negative subsidy were put forward. He stressed that TACT believed that Government's position was unjust as it resulted in rising rents with more money being paid back to the Government. In conclusion, Mr Rickman advised that TACT would continue their campaign for the Government to alter its position.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rickman for his comments.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT HOUSING RENTS FOR 2008/09 INCREASE IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT GUIDELINE, WHICH ASSUMES A BASIC INCREASE IN CURRENT ACTUAL RENTS OF 4.4%, PLUS ONE QUARTER OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CURRENT AND FORMULA RENTS UNDER RENT RESTRUCTURING.
2. THAT THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVISED BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2007/08 AND BUDGET FOR 2008/09, AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX 1 OF THE REPORT BE APPROVED.
3. THAT WEEKLY GARAGE RENTS FOR TENANTS WHO ALREADY RENTED GARAGES PRIOR TO APRIL 2007 BE INCREASED TO £7.50 (BEFORE APPLYING THE ANNUAL RENT INCREASE TO ALL GARAGES SET OUT IN RECOMMENDATION 4 BELOW) AND THAT ALL GARAGE RENTS BE CHARGED OVER A 52 WEEK PERIOD.
4. THAT ALL GARAGE RENTS BE INCREASED BY 5% FOR INFLATION.
5. THAT ALL SERVICE CHARGES CONTINUE TO BE BASED ON ACTUAL COSTS INCURRED, BUT THAT ANY INDIVIDUAL INCREASES BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME CAPPING RULES AS FOR DWELLING RENTS (4.4% + £2).

7. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 TO 2012/13

(Report [CAB1607](#) refers)

The Chairman highlighted that the proposed carry forward of £2.814 million for 'purchase of property' had arisen due to a lack of property investment opportunities in the current market climate. In addition, £1.03 million was a proposed carry forward in relation to Tower Street, as works had not yet been completed by the County Council.

In response to questions, the Head of Finance confirmed that the revised estimate for improvements to the Abbey Gardens public toilets was a total of £250,000, which had resulted in a growth bid of £100,000. The Chairman advised that he had requested that the possibility of reducing the expenditure required for this project be investigated further.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised cash flow for schemes in the 2007/08 capital programme be approved and the projected carry forward of £4.9m be noted.
2. That the capital growth bids included in the budget be confirmed for consideration by Council (as part of CAB1629 below).

8. **BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2008/09**
(Report [CAB1629](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that this Report was not notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item, onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, in order that Cabinet's recommendations could be submitted to Council at its meeting on 21 February 2008.

Cabinet noted that this Report would also be considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 February 2008.

The Chairman advised that a breakdown of the items included within the £50,000 listed in Appendix E of the Report as "Miscellaneous Income and Savings" could be provided, if required. However, in summary these related to various small items of income and savings which had arisen from recent service reviews.

Councillor Coates expressed concern that recent reorganisations in the Council had not always resulted in adequate resources being reallocated to meet new requirements. In particular, he highlighted the funding required for Parish Plans and various consultations to be undertaken in response to, for example, the Children's Act and the Older Person's Strategy.

In response, the Chief Executive advised that in practice the Council sought to fund any such shortfalls by means of virements from other budget heads throughout the year. In the current budget climate, this was considered to be a more appropriate response than putting forward formal budget growth items. In addition, Cabinet noted that there was already a £15,000 budget within the Performance Division specifically allocated for the purpose of carrying out consultations.

The Chairman agreed to consider further the particular issue of funding for Parish Plans and report accordingly directly to the Council meeting on 21 February 2008.

Cabinet agreed to an additional Recommendation 11 as outlined below in order to allocate LABGI funds.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Busher and Hiscock spoke on this item, and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Busher expressed concern that Paragraph 14.4 of the Report appeared to imply both staff redundancies and reduced levels of services. She requested clarification of the timescale for these proposals. On a separate matter, Councillor Busher queried why the risk to the Council of the Government rejecting its Local Development Framework (LDF) Plan was not included in Appendix A.

In response, the Chairman advised that Paragraph 14.4 referred to savings already substantially achieved or planned, and listed in Appendix E of the Report, as a result of fundamental service reviews already undertaken. He confirmed that the Council's efficiency programme was ongoing, with more service reviews planned for the forthcoming year. In addition, the Council would look at opportunities of joint working with other local authorities. The Chief Executive emphasised that any staff affected by current savings proposals had already been informed.

With regard to the question about the LDF process, Councillor Wood and the Corporate Director (Policy) highlighted that the risk of the Development Plan being rejected as a whole were considered to be slight and not appropriate for inclusion in

this Report. Recent Government changes had resulted in more opportunity for the Council to discuss the Strategy with the Inspectorate before submission. In addition, the Council had paid particular attention to the requirements of the 'tests of soundness'.

On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Hiscock expressed concern about the late availability of the Report which had meant the Group had not had adequate time to prepare its response. He queried whether the Head of Finance had adequate resources within her Division to meet the Council's requirements.

In response, the Head of Finance advised that recent changes in the Accountancy Team had created resource pressures and caused delays in preparing the Report. However, new staff would shortly be appointed which should ease these difficulties.

The Chief Executive added that he believed the resources within the Accountancy Division were now sufficient, but the situation would be kept under review. He thanked the Head of Finance and her Division for their work in producing this Report and apologised for its late availability.

The Chairman highlighted that the vast majority of the information in the Budget Report had been published in November 2007 and had been submitted for consultation to Principal Scrutiny Committee and the four Scrutiny Panels. In addition, he emphasised that the Report would be debated at the Council meeting on 21 February 2008.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE LEVEL OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR 2008/09 BE AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>2008/09</u>
	£
<u>GROSS BUDGET FOR GENERAL FUND SERVICES</u>	<u>20,471,320</u>
LESS	
CAPITAL FINANCING	(6,644,220)
TRANSFERS TO/(FROM) RESERVES	(452,000)
CONTRIBUTIONS TO/(FROM) WINCHESTER TOWN	27,420

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>13,402,520</u>
LESS CHARGES ON WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT	770,700)

<u>TOTAL CITY NET EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>12,631,820</u>

2. THAT THE GROWTH, SAVINGS AND INCREASED INCOME, AS SET OUT IN APPENDICES D AND E, BE APPROVED.

3. THAT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME SET OUT IN APPENDIX G OF THE REPORT BE AGREED.

4. THAT THE POLICY AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED BY THE COUNCIL ON 14TH JULY, 1999 (MIN 186 REFERS) BE CONFIRMED TO TREAT ALL EXPENSES OF THE COUNCIL AS GENERAL EXPENSES OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED AND ITEMISED IN THE WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT. IN CONSEQUENCE OF WHICH THE SUM OF £743,280 BE TREATED AS SPECIAL EXPENSES UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 IN RESPECT OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN AREA, APPENDIX K.

5. THAT THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE SPECIAL EXPENSES IN THE WINCHESTER TOWN AREA AT BAND D BE SET AT £55.04 FOR 2008/09.

6. THAT THE BALANCES ON THE COLLECTION FUND CALCULATED AT 15 JANUARY 2008, OF £53,239 DEFICIT FOR COUNCIL TAX FOR THIS COUNCIL, BE APPROVED.

7. THAT THE COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D FOR CITY COUNCIL SERVICES FOR 2008/09 BE £121.05.

8. THAT PARISH COUNCIL TAXES BE NOTED AS IN APPENDIX L.

9. THAT THE INFLATION INDEX IN THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME BE APPLIED FOR 2008/09.

10. THAT THE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME CONTINUES TO OPERATE FROM 9AM WHEN THE NATIONAL SCHEME IS INTRODUCED ON 1 APRIL 2008.

11. THAT A PROJECTS FUND FOR 'WINCHESTER HERITAGE, LOCAL ECONOMY AND FUTURES', TOTALLING £50,000 BE ADDED TO THE GROWTH LIST FOR INCLUSION IN THE BUDGET, TO BE FUNDED FROM THE LABGI RESERVE.

9. **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL LAND AT WILLIS WAYE, KINGS WORTHY, LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX**

(Report [CAB1624](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the developers were currently proposing to provide the required open space land off-site. However, Members considered that a strong preference should be stated for the provision of open space land within the site itself, in accordance with Council policy. It was agreed that authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, to determine this point.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr A Rickman (TACT) drew Cabinet's attention to the TACT comments as contained in the Report at Paragraph 11. In particular, TACT regretted that the development of Council housing had not been proposed and that TACT would continue to raise this issue with Government. He requested the support of the Council on this matter.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rickman for his comments and agreed that Cabinet would give further consideration to whether it could offer further support to TACT in its campaign to the Government.

On a separate issue, the Corporate Director (Governance) confirmed that the nominated TACT representatives should received exempt reports, relating to housing matters.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That, subject to planning consent being granted for the proposed development, the disposal of the freehold interest in the area of the land at Mount Pleasant, Headbourne Worthy, as marked on the plan in Appendix 1 of the Report, at the price detailed in the exempt appendix of the Report be approved, subject to terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Estates.

2. That the Head of Landlord Services be authorised to take appropriate action to terminate any tenancies of garages affected by the scheme.

3. That the principle of re-investing 100% of the capital receipt in affordable housing be approved in principle and the Head of Landlord Services report to Cabinet in March 2008 with proposals as part of the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.

4. That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, to determine whether the open space play area should be provided within the proposed development site, rather than on the existing open space on Willis Way, taking account of Cabinet's strong preference for on-site provision of open space land, in accordance with planning policy and the parameters of site valuation outlined in Appendix 2.

10. **CAR PARKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME**
(Report [CAB1627](#) refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beveridge welcomed the proposed investments in car parks, but stated that this should be considered in the context of wider strategies, such as the Town Access Plan and introduction of Park and Ride to the South of the town. Both might impact upon the requirement for car parks within Winchester and he suggested that it was important that funds were not allocated to car parks that might not be required in the longer term.

The Chairman noted his comments, but highlighted that the new Park and Ride would not be open for at least two years. The current programme of works was appropriate and a number of the items related to small scale health and safety works which were necessary at this stage.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the programme for 2008/09 as outlined in the Report be approved and that the indicative programme for 2009/10 be noted as a basis for planning and preparing future works.

2. That the Corporate Director (Operations) be given delegated authority to make minor adjustments to the programme, in order to meet maintenance and operational needs of the District's car parks throughout the year, as required in consultation with the Head of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport.

3. That a report on the programme be submitted on an annual basis setting out progress and recommending future priorities.

11. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCESS PLAN CONSULTATION**
(Report [CAB1628](#) refers)

The Chairman queried why the consultation did not make specific reference to the direction of traffic flow in Parchment Street. The Corporate Director (Operations) responded that it was not appropriate to include specific references to specific streets at this early stage of consultations. Following discussion, it was agreed that a specific reference to Parchment Street would be included in the supporting text to the questionnaire on the Access Plan.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Jackson and Beveridge spoke on this item and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Jackson made a number of detailed comments regarding the Report, including the following points:

- a query as to why the Community Street Audits were not appended.
- the importance of adequate consultation taking place and the possibility of linking in with the Local Development Framework (LDF) process. For example, she mentioned whether the possibility of a western by-pass would be considered.
- the importance of linking in with plans for Silver Hill.
- with regard to the proposed consultation, concern that the length of time and notice given was inadequate.
- the requirement to give high priority to cyclists in developing plans.
- reconsideration of the proposal for a 20 mph speed limit in the town.

Councillor Beveridge also expressed concern about the adequacy of the proposed consultation arrangements and hoped that additional dates could be arranged if demand proved it necessary. He considered that the phrasing of some of the questions was too wide to generate meaningful results. He believed it would be more helpful to provide suggested solutions to some of the current problems, from which consultees could select their preferred option.

In response, Councillor Wood stated that, at this first stage of the consultation, the aim was to ask people what their various issues were on this matter, to gather evidence and get general opinions. The Council would issue their proposals at a later stage in the consultation process, following the assessment of the public comments

made at this first stage. He believed that a number of Councillor Jackson's detailed points should be submitted in response to the proposed consultation.

With regard to the possibility of more linkage with the LDF process, the Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that the two processes were running in parallel, but he would give further consideration to widening the exhibition materials. He confirmed that the Community Street Audits could be included as part of the exhibitions and that an additional consultation meeting could be organised, if demand indicated it was required.

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

RESOLVED:

That the form and content of the forthcoming consultation on the Winchester Town Access Plan, as set out in the Report, be agreed, subject to the comments outlined above.

12. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS, HIGH STREET AND ST GEORGES STREET, WINCHESTER**
(Report [CAB1626](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That informal consultation be undertaken on the proposals as detailed in Appendices C and D to the Report and that the results be reported back to Cabinet for future consideration.

13. **A FRAMEWORK FOR WINCHESTER'S EVENING ECONOMY**
(Report [CAB1621](#) refers)

In response to questions, the Head of Cultural Services confirmed that the impact of the Silver Hill development on retail activity within the town and its potential to impact on activities in the areas around Upper High Street and Jewry Street had been investigated.

Councillor Pearson acknowledged that community safety issues had been considered in the framework regarding activities in the evening. He also queried whether the health and safety aspects of proposed events in the evening had been taken into account.

The Chairman noted this point and requested that the Head of Cultural Services investigate the possibility of obtaining funds from evening events to meet the health and safety costs.

Councillor Pearson also queried whether the licensing of buskers should be considered. The Corporate Director (Governance) stated larger scale performances required licensing, but buskers had not been subject to specific licensing control in the past, as there were issues about how it could be managed and controlled. In addition, the resources within the Licensing Section were currently inadequate to administer such a scheme. Cabinet agreed that there was not a need for such a

scheme at the moment, but requested that the matter be kept under review as the work highlighted in the Framework for the Evening Economy was developed.

In general, Cabinet welcomed the Report and believed that the Council should aim to achieve the Gold package, as outlined in the Appendix to the Report. Members also requested that, if possible, proposals be introduced as quickly as possible, with possibly a trial during the summer months.

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

RESOLVED:

That the framework document in principle be approved, to provide guidance for the plans of partner organisations and a basis for the City Council's own strategic and business planning processes.

14. TREASURY MANAGEMENT
(Report [CAB1599](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that this Report was not notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item, onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, in order that Cabinet's recommendations could be submitted to Council at its meeting on 21 February 2008.

The Head of Finance responded to detailed questions about the Council's policies on investments as summarised below.

Whilst confirming that the level of investment in banks and building societies, at which the Council's assets were completely guaranteed by the Government was approximately £30,000, the Head of Finance stated that the Council's investment limits were higher than this as it would be difficult to find a sufficient number of investments at such a low level.

The Head of Finance confirmed that the Council would consider using different means of investing, such as money markets. However, an ongoing difficulty faced by the Council was finding products prepared to accept the relatively low sums invested by the Council for short term periods. Longer term investments were generally not possible because of the uncertainty about the Council's capital programme.

Members asked whether the contract for external advice to the Council on investments provided value and Cabinet requested that this matter be considered further at a future date.

Following discussion, Cabinet agreed that the Treasury Management Strategy, as set out in the Report be recommended to Council for approval.

Cabinet then discussed Recommendations 2 and 3 of the Report.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Verney addressed the meeting and expressed concern about the proposal to dispose of the Council's investment in the Local Authorities Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT). He considered that the property market had levelled out and was likely to remain flat for the year, therefore it was preferable for the Council to retain its investment at this time.

The Chairman queried whether if a decision was made to dispose of this investment, at what level would the receipt be made (i.e. at the current level, or at a future level at the end of the six month's redemption period). The Head of Finance advised that it was not known whether it would be at the future, unknown, level but it would be possible for the Council to set a minimum level, below which the transaction would not take place. However, Cabinet considered that there was not sufficient information for a decision whether to dispose of the LAMIT to be made at the current time.

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

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2008/09, AS SET OUT IN REPORT CAB1599 BE APPROVED, INCLUDING:

- **THE ADOPTION OF THE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND LIMITS FOR 2008/09 TO 2010/11;**
- **THE MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT WHICH SETS OUT THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON MRP;**
- **THE TREASURY PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS, AND**
- **THE INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2008/09 CONTAINED IN THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, AND THE DETAILED CRITERIA INCLUDED IN APPENDIX B.**

RESOLVED:

1. That the decision be deferred as to whether to dispose of the Council's investment in the Local Authorities Mutual Investment Trust (LAMIT) until a future date when more information is available.

2. That it be noted that the Head of Finance, under delegated powers, would redeem the £50,000 Association of District Councils (ADC) debenture holding, when considered appropriate.

15. **COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL AWARDS 2008-2009**
(Report [CAB1612](#) refers)

Councillor Hollingbery declared a personal, but not prejudicial, interest due to his involvement in the Alresford District Association. He 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.

The Chief Executive reported Councillor Evans' support for the proposed grant to Wickham Community Centre (Councillor Evans was unable to attend the meeting).

With regard to the grant request for £300,000 from the Chesil Theatre, the Chairman advised that he would write to the Theatre's treasurer advising that the request would be considered in due course and suggesting that it reconsiders the size of the grant

required, having regard to the total funds available to the Council for such grants. Cabinet agreed that this matter would be reconsidered at its meeting in June 2008.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That a carry forward of £17,560 be approved from unspent capital grant awarded in previous years towards new applications in 2008/09.

2. That consideration of the application from the Chesil Theatre be deferred to the June 2008 Cabinet meeting.

3. That, subject to approval by Council of the 2008/09 capital budget provision, the following capital grants for 2008/09 be approved, subject to compliance with the conditions of grant currently in force and any additional conditions specified in Appendix 1:

(i)	Alresford & District Community Association	£12,500
(ii)	Boarhunt Memorial Hall Planning & Management Committee	£28,000
(iii)	Crawley Village Hall Trust	£2,750
(iv)	Durley Memorial Hall	£2,840
(v)	East Stratton Village Hall	£20,000
(vi)	Hursley Parish Hall Management Committee	£10,000
(vii)	Meon Hall	£1,500
(viii)	Wickham Community Association	£15,590
(ix)	Winnall Community Association	£4,380

4. That Cabinet expresses regret that it is unable to support the following applications:

- (i) Soberton Parish Council
- (ii) St. Peter's Soberton Church Extension
- (iii) Winchester Judo & Martial Arts Club
- (iv) Winchester Lido Sports Association

16. **COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2008-2009**
(Report [CAB1611](#) and [Addendum](#) refer)

Councillor Pearson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the proposed grant to Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau, as he was a trustee of the Bureau. He left the room during consideration of this grant only.

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 Head of Partnerships and Communications confirmed that one of the proposed grants was to Age Concern Winchester, not Hampshire.

The Chief Executive referred to a request from Councillor Evans, that Cabinet reconsider the recommendation not to award a grant to the Wickham Festival. She had emphasised that the free day entry for Wickham residents was an inclusive opportunity for residents from the more deprived areas of the District. She had requested that if the Council granted a licence for the Festival, Cabinet reconsider the grant request from reserve funds.

The Chief Executive confirmed that there were health and safety concerns relating to the Wickham Festival and, as such, the Council had not granted it a licence. Councillor Coates advised that one of the reasons for recommending refusal of a grant was the lack of a licence, but he had also had regard to the large turnover of the Festival and the other opportunities for participating in similar activities nearby. The Head of Partnerships and Communications confirmed that the grant request related specifically to the offer of free days entry to Wickham residents.

Following further discussion, Cabinet agreed that authority be jointly delegated to the Portfolio Holders for Housing & Communities and Culture, Heritage & Sport to determine whether to award a grant to Wickham Festival from the grant reserves, should it be successful in obtaining a licence, and subject to the usual grant conditions.

In response to questions regarding the Hat Fair, the Head of Partnerships and Communication confirmed that previous years' concerns regarding the accounts had all be satisfied. In addition, since April 2007, the Hat Fair was accounted for as a separate body to the Attic Theatre. It was already supplying quarterly financial reports and it was confirmed that no grant would be paid until all of the required information had been supplied including the relevant financial statements.

Councillor Hollingbery requested that all bodies receiving grants from the Council, either revenue or capital, make this clear on any publications produced by them, including letter head etc. The Head of Partnerships and Communications confirmed that organisations were encouraged to do so, but requiring it on all documentation would be inappropriate with regard to the smaller grants awarded.

Members queried why grants to the Theatre Royal were not included within the annual consideration of grants. In addition, it was considered that the provision of the Winchester Centre be included.

The Head of Finance confirmed that the provision of the Winchester Centre and rent received for this provision could be included in the annual grant Report for completeness.

The Chief Executive explained that when the grant was first awarded to the Theatre Royal, the Council decided it should be deal with separate to other grants. However, it was subject to discussion under the wider budget process. Following discussion, Cabinet requested that information on how grants to the Theatre Royal were dealt with should be included in this report next year.

In response to questions, the Corporate Director (Operations) confirmed it was intended in the future to bring all Council grants for consideration by Cabinet in one Report (for example, including planning and environmental grants).

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

RESOLVED:

That, subject to Council approval of the 2007/08 budget provision:

1. The grants approved by Winchester Town Forum for 2008/09 be noted, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the Report.

2. The following revenue grant awards for 2008/09 be approved, from the approved revenue grants budget, on condition that each organisation enters into clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets:

(i)	Winchester Citizens Advice Bureau	£123,254
(ii)	Winchester Area Community Action (includes LSP grant of £2,000)	£104,946
(iii)	Trinity Centre	£86,602
(iv)	Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau	£42,463
(v)	Hatfair	£30,425
(vi)	Homestart Meon Valley	£12,000
(vii)	Streetreach – Winchester Detached Youth Project	£8,000
(viii)	Winchester and District Savers	£7,500
(ix)	Winchester Rural Youth Theatre & Dance	£7,500
(x)	Winchester Churches Housing Group (Keystone)	£6,000
(xi)	Winchester Live at Home Scheme	£6,000
(xii)	Carroll Youth Centre	£5,500
(xiii)	Winnall Community Centre Playscheme	£5,000
(xiv)	Winnall Rock School	£5,000
(xv)	Homestart Winchester & Districts	£4,500
(xvi)	Signature Care and Support (Victoria House)	£4,500
(xvii)	Relate	£4,000
(xviii)	Trinity Women's Centre	£3,694

(xix)	Nightshelter (Winchester Churches)	£3,600
(xx)	Winchester Festival	£2,800
(xxi)	Winchester Youth Counselling	£2,750
(xxii)	Bishops Waltham Festival	£2,500
(xxiii)	Winchester Young Carers	£1,900
(xxiv)	KIDS – Winchester Snaps	£1,500
(xxv)	Age Concern (Winchester)	£1,500
(xxvi)	Havant & District Citizens Advice Bureau	£1,480
(xxvii)	Winnall Youth Club	£1,400
(xxviii)	Olive Branch (The)	£1,000
(xxix)	Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme	£1,000
(xxx)	Deaf Plus	£1,000
(xxxi)	Winchester Mencap	£1,000
(xxxii)	Winchester Folk Festival (WinMAD)	£900
(xxxiii)	Wickham Youth Club	£900
(xxxiv)	Stanmore Combined	£500

3. An additional amount of £21,000 be set aside, together with the £4,000 allocated by the Winchester Town Forum, so that the City Council can provide a total of £25,000 to match fund the County Council's funding to provide grant aid to enhance arts programming in Winchester, following changes to the former Tower Arts Centre.

4. Regret be expressed that Cabinet is unable to support the following applications:

- (i) King Alfred Youth Activity Centre
- (ii) Leonard Cheshire Disability
- (iii) SCRATCH
- (iv) Vitalise
- (v) Winchester City Fairtrade Network

5. Authority be jointly delegated to the Portfolio Holders for Housing & Communities and Culture, Heritage & Sport, to determine whether to award a grant to Wickham Festival from reserves, should the Festival be successful in obtaining a licence, and subject to the usual grant conditions.

6. The allocation from the revenue grant budget of £10,000 for 2008/09 for the Community Chest programme be approved.

7. The grant budget be increased by up to an additional £9,674, for 2008/09, to be funded from the grant reserve, to provide a total grant budget of £525,574.

17. **CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL METHOD**

(Report [CAB1615](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Corporate Sustainability Appraisal methodology be approved for use in the development of Council strategies, policies and plans.

2. That the Corporate Director (Policy) determines any departures from the need to adopt this approach for particular strategies, policies and plans.

3. That its use also be encouraged throughout the Winchester District Strategic Partnership.

18. **EFFICIENCY UPDATE – ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

(Report [CAB1609](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that this Report would also be considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 February 2008.

Cabinet requested that the actions taken in response to the recommendations of PricewaterhouseCoopers be reported to a future Cabinet meeting. It was agreed that this could be done as part of the next Efficiency Update Report.

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

RESOLVED:

That the progress at Quarter Three 2007/08 against the Annual Efficiency target and the findings of the PwC review of efficiency arrangements be noted.

19. **CREATING STRONG, SAFE AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES**

(Report [CAB1625](#) refers)

Councillor Hollingbery advised that there was likely to be resource implications regarding the Government's new requirements on collecting information on performance.

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

RESOLVED:

That the emerging agenda for change be noted and the priorities submitted for consideration as part of the Local Area Agreement be confirmed.

20. **ARMY CADET FORCE OF HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT – PROPOSED BOND OF FRIENDSHIP**

(Report [CAB1618](#) refers)

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

RECOMMENDED:

THAT A BOND OF FRIENDSHIP BE AWARDED TO THE ARMY CADET FORCE FOR HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT, IN RECOGNITION OF ITS VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY AND THAT, TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENT, A PARADE BE HELD ON SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2008.

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

(Report [CAB1608](#) refers)

Councillor Coates reported that he, Councillor Stallard and the Corporate Director (Policy) had met to give further consideration to these proposals, and they believed that the Report's recommendations should be supported.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council agrees to participating in the project at level 2 (as referred to in the Report);

2. That the terms of the transactions contemplated by the Transaction Document are approved in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Additional Documents and any ancillary or related documents to which the Council is expressed to be a party are resolved to be approved under section 4 in accordance with the Council's Constitution and that all such documents (with such amendments as may be made and agreed and approved by the action of execution in accordance with these resolutions) and all such ancillary or related documents be executed, delivered and performed on behalf of the Council;

3. That authority be given to any one or more of the following officers:

- Stephen Whetnall, Corporate Director (Governance)
- Howard Bone, Head of Legal Services
- Bob Merrett, Corporate Director (Policy)
- Simon Eden, Chief Executive

to approve sign and/or dispatch and/or deliver the Transaction Document, the Additional Documents, all other documents and/or notices to be approved, signed and/or dispatched or delivered by the Council under/or in connection with the documents listed above and, by the act of so doing, to agree and approve any amendments made to such document; and

4. That the Corporate Director (Governance) be authorised to certify the names and signatures of the authorised signatories set out in Resolution 2 above.

5. That the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record of this meeting in advance of the next Cabinet meeting on 5 March 2008.

22. **EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD 21 JANUARY 2008**
(Report [CAB1623](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the extract from the minutes of Principal Scrutiny Committee held 21 January 2008 be received and the contents regarding the Bapsy Bequest be noted.

23. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE HELD 22 JANUARY 2008**
(Report [CAB1622](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee held 22 January 2008 be received (as attached as Appendix A to these Minutes).

24. **MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM HELD 15 JANUARY 2008**
(Report [CAB1617](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the Forum's recommendations regarding the budget had been incorporated within the overall Budget Report considered above (Report Cab1629 refers).

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 15 January 2008 be received.

25. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1630](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held 23 January 2008 be received and their contents be noted.

26. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1631](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the Panel's recommendations regarding Pay on Foot system would be referred to the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee at its meeting on 19 February 2008.

In addition, the request to establish an Informal Parking Liaison Group should also be referred to the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee to consider when it determined how any future review of the Winchester Town residents Parking Scheme should be undertaken.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held 28 January 2008 be received and the request to establish an Informal Parking Liaison Group be referred to the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee.

2. That the remaining minutes be noted.

27. **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1632](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held 29 January 2008 be received and their contents be noted.

28. **MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1633](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Panel held 30 January 2008 be received and their contents be noted.

29. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

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

30. **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.

31. **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>
##	Disposal of HRA Land at Willis Waye, Headbourne Worthy – Exempt Appendix) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Procurement of Risk Management and Insurance Services)
-)

32. **DISPOSAL OF HRA LAND AT WILLIS WAYE, KINGS WORTHY– EXEMPT APPENDIX**

(Report CAB1624 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Exempt Appendix to the Report be noted.

33. **PROCUREMENT OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE SERVICES**
(Report CAB1619 refers)

The Corporate Director (Policy) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this item as a member of his family worked for one of the organisations involved. He left the room during its consideration.

Cabinet considered the above Report which recommended a course of action for procurement of the risk management and insurance services (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 1.35pm.

Chairman