

**CABINET****9 July 2008****Attendance:**

Councillor Beckett -	<i>Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy and Tourism (Chairman) (P)</i>
Councillor Allgood –	<i>Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency (P)</i>
Councillor Coates –	<i>Portfolio Holder for Housing (P)</i>
Councillor Cooper –	<i>Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety (P)</i>
Councillor Godfrey –	<i>Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development (P)</i>
Councillor Pearson –	<i>Portfolio Holder for Environment (P)</i>
Councillor Stallard -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Sport (P)</i>
Councillor Wood –	<i>Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access (P)</i>

**Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:**

Councillors Barratt, Evans and Nelmes

**Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:**

Councillors Achwal and Berry  
Mr J Bond (TACT)

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**1. MINUTES**

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Evans thanked Cabinet for the proposals regarding amended representation on the Meadowside Leisure Centre Users Forum and the Whiteley Community Association, as detailed below. However, she emphasised that Councillor Johnston remained disappointed that he had not been appointed as the representative on the Winchester and District Savers organisation. The Chairman agreed to respond to Councillor Johnston directly within the next week.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 4 June 2008, be approved and adopted.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr M Tod spoke regarding the proposals for future funding of the Towers Arts programme and his comments are summarised under the relevant item below (CAB1685).

### 3. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader reported that he had recently attended the Local Government Association annual conference. A fringe meeting of District Leaders had agreed to support a motion from Waverley District Council regarding the negative effect of housing subsidies. He would report on the response to this motion once received.

### 4. **HOUSING STRATEGY** (Report [CAB1686](#) refers)

Councillor Godfrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Council employee. He remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Coates advised that it was proposed to amend the second bullet point under ‘Other Priorities for Action’ on page 7 of the Housing Strategy to the following:

“To ensure an adequate housing supply to support the local economy and meet local needs, including enabling affordable housing to be provided on rural exception sites.”

In response to questions, the Head of Strategic Housing stated that he would investigate further the supporting information to the statement that New Alresford was the second largest settlement in the District. He would also ensure a reference to Denmead was included.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Nelmes and Evans spoke regarding this item and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Nelmes expressed concern about the apparent reliance on broadband as a means of accessing housing services, emphasising that not everyone had access to a computer. The Head of Strategic Housing responded that the Choice Based Lettings scheme would consider alternative means of access and an equalities impact assessment would be undertaken which should highlight any potential issues.

Councillor Evans requested that the map on page 4 of the Strategy include reference to Whiteley. In addition, she disputed the statement that “the District is well served by transport links” as she believed this was not the case in all areas. With regard to future Council house stock options (page 39), she requested clarification of the statement which appeared to suggest the disposal of a greater number of vacant dwellings.

The Chairman responded that page 39 included a list of possible options that would be considered, but any decision to increase disposal of vacant dwellings would be brought back to Council. With regard to transport links, he agreed to the addition of the word “some” immediately before “transport links” and to the

deletion of the reference to “national bus connections”. The Head of Strategic Housing added that the quality of the maps would improve and would reference Whiteley once the final document was produced.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Housing Strategy be adopted, subject to amendments outlined above and any revisions that may need to be agreed by the Portfolio Holder for Housing, under the portfolio holder decision making scheme, following validation and publication of the Equality Impact Assessment, and following consideration of the Travelling Show People Accommodation Assessment by Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee.

5. **TENANT PARTICIPATION COMPACT**  
(Report [CAB1690](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the proposed Compact be endorsed, subject to minor editing changes to be approved by the Head of Landlord Services, in consultation with the Portfolio for Housing and the Chairs of TACT.

6. **FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2009/2010 TO 2013/14**  
(Report [CAB1663](#) refers)

In response to questions, the Head of Finance advised that there was nothing to indicate at this stage that the level of Revenue Support Grant (RSG) from the Government would change from the 0.5 per cent indicative increase currently advised. However this would not be confirmed until the autumn. The Chairman commented that the current RSG level resulted in a decrease in real terms of approximately 3 per cent, at the present rate of inflation.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Financial Strategy 2009/2010 – 2013/14 be approved, including the key principles to be applied to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account budgets for 2009/10.

7. **CAPITAL STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME 2008/09 – 2013/14**  
(Report [CAB1680](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Councillor. Councillor Godfrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Council employee. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Allgood advised that the Strategy would be reviewed in the autumn, at which time the possibility of reclassifying types of projects would be examined.

Councillor Pearson requested that it be clarified which other Council Strategies the list of projects under paragraph 7 of the Strategy related to (for example, which related to climate change). It was agreed that this suggestion would be considered further in the autumn.

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

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT THE CAPITAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME BE APPROVED.**

RESOLVED:

That the Capital Strategy and Capital Programme be reviewed in autumn 2008 and a further report be brought to Cabinet at this time.

8. **ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008**  
(Report [CAB1659](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood advised that the outcome of the second phase of the property surveys would be brought to Cabinet in December 2008. It was likely that a third phase affecting minor properties would be also being necessary and the report would identify the funding needed for this to be undertaken.

Councillor Wood queried how the Council monitored the return on its property investments. The Head of Estates indicated that there was no longer a national performance indicator although the asset valuations that are undertaken do include a return on capital. The overall return for the principal holdings is, however, not reported due to the wide variety of the Council's holdings. He also explained that the majority of holdings were in the form of leaseholds and the Council had limited opportunities to change them. However, when there was a significant event in the lease (such as the property becoming vacant or the lease was up for renewal), the opportunity was taken to review the situation. He also emphasised that the Council held

properties for particular statutory purposes and was not a trading property company. Following further discussion, the Chairman agreed to investigate further the feasibility of adopting a policy on review of property holdings and monitoring income.

In response to further suggestions, the Head of Estates agreed to include reference in the list of projects outlined in 3.1 of the Plan to work currently in progress, when the list was next updated.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Nelmes and Evans spoke regarding this item and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Nelmes stated that she believed it was necessary to provide public conveniences in North Walls Recreation Ground and suggested that such facilities could be attached to the North Walls Pavilion.

The Chairman agreed to consider this suggestion further at the time the Programme considered the replacement of the Pavilion.

Councillor Evans requested feedback on the proposals for the future of Meadowside Leisure Centre.

The Chairman advised that its future was under informal review and was dependant on a number of other factors such as developments in Whiteley. Councillor Stallard stated that the new Leisure Centre Manager was being proactive in consulting with local residents as to their requirements from the Centre. She agreed to keep Councillor Evans up to date with any developments.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Asset Management Plan 2008 be approved.

9. **BACKWARD LOOK ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2007/08**  
(Report [CAB1682](#) refers)

Councillor Godfrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Council employee. He remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Pearson raised a query regarding the recycling figures detailed on page 5 of the Statement. The Chief Executive agreed to investigate and respond to Councillor Pearson directly.

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

RESOLVED:

That the content of the Annual Efficiency Statement for 2007/08 be noted.

10. **FORMER LAUNDRY SITE, GORDON ROAD, WINCHESTER – DESIGN BRIEF**

(Report [CAB1670](#) refers)

Councillor Wood spoke in support of the Report and suggested an amendment to the recommendations to emphasise that the Council favoured a mixed use scheme. This was agreed.

In response to questions, the Head of Planning Control advised that if approved, the Design Brief would be regarded as a material consideration for any related planning application and also inform any pre-application discussions. He clarified that the Brief did not change or override adopted Local Plan policy.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Barratt and Nelmes spoke regarding this item and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Barratt expressed concern that almost one year's budget allocation for design guidance had been spent on preparing this particular Brief and queried how any future requests for design guidance would be dealt with. She also queried how the Council decided when a Design Brief was required, as she did not consider that this site was markedly different to a number of other sites. Finally, Councillor Barratt asked when was a Brief produced by the Council, as opposed to the Developer?

In response, Councillor Beckett advised that the £15,000 annual budget allocation for design guidance was an estimate as to what would be required. If it was decided that an additional Design Brief was required in 2008/09, the Cabinet would consider a request for a supplementary estimate. Whether a Design Brief was required in any particular circumstance was a matter for Cabinet to decide.

Councillor Nelmes queried where the initial request for a Design Brief had been made and disputed the importance of the site, as it was not visible from the main road. She also asked why it was necessary for two consultation meetings to be held.

In response, the Chairman advised that Councillor Hiscock had requested the Design Brief. He also considered that the site was important, for example because of its relationship with the Conservation Area. He explained that one consultation meeting had been arranged by the developer and one by the Council's consultants.

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

RESOLVED:

That the design brief and its conclusion favouring a mixed use scheme be endorsed and it be agreed that it shall be used for the purposes of guiding and informing planning applications for the site's redevelopment and in the assessment of such applications.

11. **FUTURE FUNDING – TOWER ARTS CENTRE PROGRAMME**  
(Report [CAB1685](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Councillor. Councillor Godfrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Council employee. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Stallard confirmed that service level agreements (SLAs) would be agreed between the Council and proposed recipients of the funding. These SLAs would be reviewed at the end of the first year.

The Head of Cultural Services emphasised the recent developments in cultural provision, summarised in paragraph 2.3 of the report, which had been taken into consideration in working up the proposals.

The Chairman welcomed the proposals and also thanked the Winchester Town Forum for their funding support.

In response to questions, the Head of Cultural Services advised that it was proposed to allocate a one-off payment of £5,000 to The Tower to fund an autumn launch event. Other funding proposals would be reviewed at the end of the year prior to agreeing future allocations. She emphasised that it was unusual for such arts venues to make a surplus, particularly in their first year, but she was discussing with the County Council the possibility of keeping a separate account for the ring-fenced fund and any surpluses could then be returned to this fund.

It was emphasised that the report proposed funding to enable the continued provision of a programme of music and other activity based on The Tower, but also encompassing different venues across the City. It was not to subsidise any of these venues and the SLAs would prescribe in more detail which elements of events could be included.

Mr M Tod thanked the Council for its assistance in maintaining activity at The Tower. However, he was concerned that less than 50 per cent of the allocated funding from the County Council and the City Council would be spent at The Tower, with a significant element allocated to events at the Winchester Discovery Centre. He considered that the net effect of this was a complete withdrawal of funding by the County Council to The Tower. In addition, he highlighted that the funding for 2008/09 would be for a seven month period,

whereas the same funding was expected to sustain The Tower for the whole twelve months of the following year. Mr Tod also queried whether the promised dialogue with users of The Tower had been carried out.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Evans expressed regret, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group about the County Council's decision to remove funding for The Tower. She also thanked Councillor Stallard and the Head of Cultural Services for their work in bringing together the proposals outlined in the Report. She expressed some concerns regarding the potential use of funding for venue overheads and also queried what support would be offered to the new Tower Manager.

In response to questions raised, Councillor Stallard confirmed that the use of funds would be carefully monitored. The Head of Cultural Services advised that extensive discussions had been held with Centre users at the time of the transfer to Kings School and further consultation was already scheduled. With regard to the same level of funding being used for a longer period in year two, the Head of Cultural Services explained that this should be possible as it was anticipated year one would build a solid base of ticket buyers for future years.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposals outlined in Paragraph 2 of the Report be approved.
2. That the sum of £25,000 ring fenced for The Tower Arts Centre in 2008/09 be released, outside the established revenue grants process, in order to fund these proposals.

12. **2012 GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES: A FRAMEWORK FOR WINCHESTER**  
(Report [CAB1684](#) refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Evans requested confirmation that the activities would include the rural areas and not just be Winchester Town based.

The Head of Cultural Services confirmed that rural areas would be involved.

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



## RESOLVED:

1. That the draft 2012 Framework be approved as a consultation draft, subject to any minor amendments being agreed by the Head of Cultural Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport.

2. That consultation on the 2012 Framework takes place as outlined in Paragraph 4 of the Report.

13. **COMMUNITY REVENUE AND CAPITAL GRANTS – REVIEW OF GRANT PROCESS**

(Report [CAB1681](#) refers)

Councillor Wood expressed concern that the proposed wording of Recommendation 3 suggested to organisations that an annual uplift in line with the RPI would automatically be agreed, whereas the financial situation of the Council might prevent this. Following discussion, it was agreed that the reference to RPI be removed and also the wording be clarified to emphasise that an uplift would be considered each year, but not be guaranteed. It was noted that this amendment also required a corresponding change to paragraph 5.2 of Appendix 1 of the Report.

Councillor Wood also believed that the definition of which organisations could be awarded key client status was too restrictive. It was, therefore, agreed that the wording under Paragraph 3 of Appendix 1 of the Report be amended by deleting the word “must” and substituting with “should normally”. The new sentence would read “To be eligible for consideration organisations should normally ...”

Councillor Pearson queried why the Report did not include reference to participatory budgeting. The Corporate Director (Governance) advised that this was a proposal arising from the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and further details were not available from the Government at the time the Report was prepared. However, its inclusion could be considered further when Members had further information on the Government’s proposals.

Councillor Cooper advised that it was proposed to bring a further report to Cabinet in September 2008 which would examine the remaining grants awarded by the Council, including those to the Theatre Royal. This review could also examine the Government guidance on participatory budgeting. This was agreed.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the process for selection of key clients be approved, as detailed in Appendix I of the Report and amended above.
2. That the principle of setting a guaranteed base level of funding for the next round of key clients (1 April 2010, to 31 March 2013) be agreed.
3. That the principle of an annual uplift for the next round of key clients (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013) would be considered in an annual review for the duration of the three year agreement. This will be reviewed at the end of that three year period.
4. That the change in criteria for Capital Grant Award and Revenue Grant Awards be approved, as well as an additional statement within the Community Chest criteria to support the 2012 Framework.
5. That the process for administering and monitoring the Planning (Environment Improvement) Grants in line with the Community Revenue Grants be approved.

14. **TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)**  
(Report [CAB1683](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the basis for the letting of the contracts, as outlined in Appendix A and B of the Report, be approved and the “key dates” in the tender process shown in Appendix C be approved.
2. That a Direction be made under Contracts Procedure Rule 2.1 to permit the evaluation of tenders on the basis of 40% price: 60% quality.
3. The Head of Landlord Services (in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance) be authorised to compile a shortlist of tenderers (based on responses to the PQQ) for the two term maintenance contracts, issue invitations to tender to those companies selected, and prepare an evaluation matrix to be used to assess the two tenders.
4. In relation to the Term Maintenance Cleaning Contract, that the additional works and schemes listed in Appendix E of the Report be approved.
5. That further reports on the evaluation of both tenders received be submitted to Cabinet on 10 December 2008.

15. **MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM HELD 18 JUNE 2008**  
(Report [CAB1691](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Winchester Town Forum held 18 June 2008 be received.

16. **EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD 9 JUNE 2008**  
(Report [CAB1692](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the minutes requested that Cabinet consider a supplementary revenue estimate in 2008/09 for higher external Audit fees. Councillor Allgood advised that Report PS334 to Principal Scrutiny Committee had explained that this estimate was necessary in case the fees were higher, but it was hoped that the full sum might not be required.

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

RESOLVED

That the minute extract from Principal Scrutiny Committee held 9 June 2008 be received and the supplementary revenue estimate in 2008/09 for the higher external Audit fees of £7,960 be agreed.

17. **APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES**

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined on the agenda sheet.

RESOLVED:

That the following changes to appointments to External Bodies be agreed:

- a) Meadowside Leisure Centre Users Forum – Councillor Achwal appointed as Observer for the 2008/09 Municipal Year (in addition to Councillors Stallard and Anthony as representatives)
- b) Whiteley Community Association (until 30 May 2009) – Councillor Achwal to replace Councillor Cooper as deputy representative (Councillor Anthony to remain as representative)

18. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for July 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>
##	Upper Brook Street Car Park	) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Lower Brook Street Car Park	
##	Term Maintenance Contracts – Exempt Appendix	)
##	Upper Brook Street Car Park	) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. (Para 5 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Lower Brook Street Car Park	
##	Restructure of Design & Print	) Information relating to any individual. (Para 1 Schedule

##	Exempt Minute Extract from Personnel Committee	)	12A refers)
		)	
		)	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. (Para 2 Schedule 12A refers)
		)	
		)	Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority. (Para 4 Schedule 12A refers)

21. **UPPER BROOK STREET CAR PARK - WINCHESTER**  
(Report CAB1688 refers)

Cabinet considered the above Report which set out proposals regarding the future use of the car park (detail in exempt minute).

22. **LOWER BROOK STREET, WINCHESTER - LONG LEASEHOLD INTERESTS**  
(Report CAB1687 refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Councillor. Councillor Godfrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a County Council employee. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Cabinet considered the above Report which set out proposals regarding the Council's interests in a number of properties in Lower Brook Street, Winchester (detail in exempt minute).

23. **RESTRUCTURE OF THE DESIGN AND PRINT UNIT**  
(Report PER149 refers)

Cabinet considered the above Report which set out financial proposals regarding the restructure of the Design and Print Unit (detail in exempt minute).

24. **TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS – EXEMPT APPENDIX**  
(Report CAB1683 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the information contained in the Exempt Appendix to the Report be noted.

25. **MINUTE EXTRACT FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (EXEMPT APPENDIX)**  
(Report CAB1692 refers)

Cabinet noted that this minute extract related to the decision required in Report PER149 above.

RESOLVED:

That the minute extract from Personnel Committee held 16 June 2008 be received.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 1.50pm.

Chairman