

CABINET**10 December 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:

Councillor Barratt, Busher, Evans, Higgins, Jackson, Learney and Nelmes

Mr A Rickman (TACT)

1. MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 November 2008, less exempt items, be approved and adopted.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr A de Peyer addressed the meeting regarding the minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel (Report CAB1766 refers). He spoke as a representative of the Winchester Aircraft Group (WAG) and welcomed Councillor Pearson's efforts to increase representation from the Winchester area, on the Southampton Airport Joint Consultative Committee. He emphasised the impact of noise from aircraft routes on some parts of the Winchester District and suggested that representation on the Committee be increased to three.

Councillor Pearson clarified that the Winchester area was currently represented on the Joint Committee by himself and a representative from the Trades Council. He had contacted Eastleigh Borough Council requesting that this be increased and was awaiting a response. He suggested that WAG contact Eastleigh Borough Council directly and also take advantage of the public speaking period at the beginning of Joint Committee meetings.

Councillor Beckett thanked Mr de Peyer for his comments and advised that he would discuss this matter further with Councillor Pearson and respond directly by the end of the month.

Mr A Weeks (Winchester Residents' Association) also spoke under the public participation period regarding Report CAB1760 and his comments are summarised under the relevant agenda item below.

3. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Beckett reminded the meeting that the Council's annual staff awards (the Alfies) was taking place at lunchtime and all Members were welcome to attend.

Councillor Cooper congratulated Wickham on winning the regional category in the Village of the Year awards. He emphasised that this had been achieved through the local community working together. He suggested that the Leader write to Wickham Parish Council to pass on the Council's congratulations and to the various community groups involved. This was agreed.

Councillor Allgood reported that the Council had been notified of a 0.5% increase in the final Revenue Support Grant Settlement from the Government, which was the level that had been anticipated. He continued that consultations on the budget for 2009/10 were ongoing, including a recent meeting with the business community and also with Parish Council Chairmen that evening. Consultations would take place with the Local Strategic Partnership and an update report would be submitted to Cabinet on 14 January 2009. The final budget proposals would be reported in February 2009.

Councillor Allgood advised that the Head of Finance had attended a meeting with the creditors of Heritable Bank on 9 December 2008. The administrators had concluded that it was not possible to rescue the bank as a going concern. However, the feedback was promising and indicated that the Council could recover a substantial part of its investment.

Councillor Stallard reported that the Council had hosted the inaugural Winchester and District Sports Awards on 9 December 2008. The event had generated a good attendance and was well received by participants.

The Chief Executive advised that the Hampshire Recruitment Portal had been recognised as producing innovative work in the Corporate IT Forum's Real IT Awards. The Council was a member of the Portal which had proved very successful in recruiting new staff and had also achieved savings of approximately £25,000 per annum.

4. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET AND RENT SETTING**
(Report [CAB1769](#) and Addendum refer)

The Chairman agreed to accept the Addendum onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, in order that Cabinet could consider the comments made by TACT in reaching its decision.

Councillor Coates introduced the Report and emphasised the concerns relating to the impact of the current Housing Subsidy System. He noted that Cabinet, at the request of TACT, had previously stated it would consider delaying the current policy to sell up to 10 vacant dwellings per annum until the Government review was published. However, this was not considered to be feasible, having regard to the current significant shortfalls in the HRA budget.

In response to questions, the Head of Landlord Services confirmed that safety considerations would remain paramount in the repairs programme. In addition, those disabled adaptations considered to be urgent by the Council's occupational therapist would be carried out as a high priority.

The Head of Landlord Services advised that the Council was part of a consortium of local authorities lobbying the Government on the urgent need to change the current Housing Subsidy System. In addition, Councillor Coates had made representations to the Minister and TACT was actively involved in campaigning. It was noted that the report on the Government's review of the Housing Subsidy system was due in spring 2009.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Rickman (TACT) emphasised again comments made in the Addendum, that TACT could not support the Report due to the Government's system of negative subsidy, whereby tenants were asked to pay increased rents, but received a reduction in standards of service. He noted that other local authorities were facing similar difficulties due to the current system and TACT would continue to lobby the Government to seek to address this. Further to this, he advised that he had been voted onto the Committee at the national Defend Council Housing Conference.

The Chairman thanked Mr Rickman for his comments and for his efforts in seeking to change the current Government system.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Evans, Nelmes and Busher addressed the meeting and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Evans expressed concern that the proposals would lead to further delays in repairs being carried out. She queried whether the availability of garages for rent was being advertised and suggested that the poor condition of some garages could be deterring potential lettings. She requested clarification of the statements in paragraph 3.4 of the report which appeared to give conflicting information. Finally, she reminded Cabinet that the Liberal Democrat Group had never supported the current policy to sell up to 10 vacant dwellings per annum. In particular, the Group had concerns about the sale of

rural housing stock. However, it was accepted that sales were appropriate in some individual cases of high value property where expensive repairs were needed, for example as had occurred in Winchester.

Councillor Nelmes queried how the Council could have met the Decent Homes Standard, but still have approximately 2,000 properties which required replacement bathrooms or kitchens. She also expressed concerns about the high level of costs for such replacements. She agreed that the availability of vacant garages should be advertised, possibly in the Council's Perspectives magazine. With regard to vacant dwellings which the Council was unable to sell in the current market, she suggested that these be offered for sale by auction without a reserve price or on a reserve price set on the day. She expressed concern that these properties could deteriorate further whilst standing empty and suggested that they could be let out on a short term basis. Finally, she supported TACT in their campaign.

Councillor Busher also supported TACT and queried how much money had been paid to the Government under the current scheme. With regard to delays to repairs, she queried whether this affected any repairs previously advised to tenants and requested that Councillors be notified of any deferred repairs in their Ward. She also requested confirmation that regular checks of gas boilers would still be undertaken. Finally, she queried whether the Council offered any funding for tenants to undertake repairs themselves?

The Head of Landlord Services and Councillor Coates responded in detail to the comments made as summarised below.

With regard to paragraph 3.4 of the Report, the Head of Landlord Services clarified that, although the Council had estimated that £7 million was required in 2005, only £6.6m was available and the programme was reduced accordingly. Whilst this placed pressure on the programme, it did not affect plans for achieving the Decent Homes standard. However, at this time, whilst projections indicated that the programme was sustainable beyond 2010, the second "five year tranche" saw significant increases that could not be funded and this was why the Council had agreed to update the Housing Options process in 2008/09.

Councillor Coates advised that a large number of kitchens and bathrooms had been refurbished in the 1980s and, as such, many would be in need of replacement in the next five years. However, a property could still meet the Decent Homes Standard with an older kitchen or bathroom, provided it was in a reasonable state of repair and the current tenant was satisfied with it.

The Head of Landlord Services advised that each refurbishment was undertaken on an individual basis, having regard to the tenant's and technical requirements. The work was tendered annually and the Council did take advantage of discounts for bulk purchasing. He confirmed that the Council's costs were broadly in line with average costs for similar landlords when benchmarked against the Housing Quality Network.

The Head of Landlord Services stated that estate agents were not recommending sale by auction in current market conditions, although this would be kept under review. He advised that the majority of properties awaiting sale would require approximately £20,000 to £30,000 repairs to achieve a condition suitable for letting. Of the remaining vacant properties, consideration was being given to the option of letting on short term leases (via partner organisations to avoid creating secure tenancies), although this would affect their marketability.

The Head of Landlord Services confirmed that annual servicing of boilers would continue, with essential repairs/replacement carried out as before. All repairs currently advised to tenants would take place and Ward Councillors would be advised of alterations to future repairs programmes. He also advised that tenants could apply for decorating vouchers to undertake improvements themselves.

With regard to garages, the Head of Landlord Services stated that they were only guaranteed to be in a suitable condition for storing vehicles, which did not necessarily mean they would be completely weather tight. He confirmed that availability was advertised via flyers to all tenants and at nearby public locations. Further work was being undertaken to increasing this advertising, including the use of the Council's 'Perspectives' magazine.

At the conclusion of debate, Cabinet expressed concern about the current Government financing system and its impact on the Council and its tenants. It was noted that further consideration would be undertaken by the Housing Options Informal Member/Officer Working Group to take account of the outcome of the current Government review.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE HEAD OF LANDLORD SERVICES BE AUTHORISED TO IMPLEMENT THE HOUSING RENTS FOR 2009/10 INCREASE IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT GUIDELINE, AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF THE ABOVE REPORT, RESULTING IN AN OVERALL AVERAGE INCREASE OF 6.14%.

2. THAT THE RENT LEVEL IN 1 ABOVE AND THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE ABOVE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS BELOW BE USED TO DETERMINE THE DETAILED HRA BUDGET FOR 2009/10, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED TO CABINET AND COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY 2009.

3. THAT THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVISED BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2008/09 AS DETAILED IN PARAGRAPH 2 AND APPENDIX 1 OF THE ABOVE REPORT BE APPROVED.

4. THAT NO INFLATIONARY INCREASE BE APPLIED TO GARAGE RENTS TO ADDRESS THE FALLING DEMAND FOR UNITS IN SOME AREAS.

5. THAT THE INTERIM PROPOSALS TO SUSPEND ELEMENTS OF THE REPAIRS AND RENEWALS PROGRAMME AS DETAILED IN PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE ABOVE REPORT BE APPROVED.

6. 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 (5.5% + £2), AND THE HEAD OF LANDLORD SERVICES BE AUTHORISED TO IMPLEMENT THE CHANGES.

7. THAT THE HOUSING OPTIONS INFORMAL MEMBER/OFFICER GROUP BE REQUESTED TO RECOMMEND CLEAR PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK THAT ADDRESS THE CURRENT PROJECTED SHORTFALL IN MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS.

8. THAT THE CURRENT POLICY TO SELL UP TO 10 VACANT DWELLINGS PER ANNUM BE CONTINUED.

5. **UPDATED SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN**

(Report [CAB1760](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item due to his role as a County Councillor. Councillor Godfrey also declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as he was an employee of the County Council. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted.

Cabinet noted that Principal Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels had considered the Strategy and Corporate Business Plan and their comments were outlined in the Report. Cabinet had regard to these comments during their debate.

With regard to the comment from Principal Scrutiny Committee that the Strategy should not refer to outcomes that were unable to be resourced, it was noted that the Strategy was an aspirational document, which encompassed priorities that were only within the remit of the Council. However, the Council had a duty to provide community leadership, taking account of the role of partners who were aware of these priorities and provide assistance in achieving these, as far as possible.

In response to questions, the Head of Partnerships and Communication explained that the table on page 43-47 of the Strategy should specify that level 4 was 'low impact' and level 1 was 'high impact'. This error would be corrected prior to the Strategy's submission to Council on 9 January 2009.

The Head of Partnerships and Communication confirmed that the Strategy would be formally adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and the Council would encourage its partners to adopt their priorities. However, inevitably, individual partners decisions would be subject to their own budgetary restrictions. She confirmed that within the LSP, groups had been established with responsibility for each of the stated outcomes.

The Head of Partnerships and Communication noted that the Strategy was quite lengthy, due to the inclusion of an additional two appendices. She agreed that this format could possibly be reconsidered in the future.

With regard to specific questions raised concerning Whiteley and the impact of the South East Plan, Cabinet noted that these matters were being considered under the Local Development Framework process.

Mr A Weeks (Winchester Residents' Association) spoke during the public participation period and his comments are summarised below. He highlighted four main areas which he believed the Strategy should focus on:

- Global warming and the Council's commitment to reduce carbon emissions;
- Biodiversity;
- Sustainable development;
- European directives on the above.

He also considered that the Council had a duty to promote alternative means of transport and should not develop beyond the existing boundaries of Winchester Town.

With regard to the four points outlined above, Councillor Beckett stated that he considered these had been addressed within the Strategy.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Barratt and Learney spoke under this item.

Councillor Barratt expressed general concerns about the length of the Strategy and its use of aspirational statements, without ensuring that outcomes could be achieved. Specifically, she stated that the Strategy included a target to ensure adequate school places were available to meet the demand of new developments within Winchester Town. However, she emphasised that some Winchester primary schools were already over-subscribed. She also referred to her question at Council on 5 November 2008 where she had queried what steps were being taken to enable developers' contributions to be used towards educational provision.

Councillor Wood advised that he would respond directly to Councillor Barratt regarding primary school places. Councillor Allgood stated that the County Council published its school places plan every ten years and any concerns could be addressed to the Winchester Action Team.

The Corporate Director (Operations) advised that it had been intended to bring a Report to this Cabinet on developers' contributions for school places, but this had been delayed due to other matters arising concerning County Council contributions. It would be brought forward following further discussions with the County Council.

On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Learney spoke regarding the section on additional Cabinet priorities set out in the Corporate Business Plan. She requested clarification of the proposals regarding kerb-side glass collection, launching Winchester as a "litter free city" and improvements in enforcement of planning decisions. The proposal to reduce the Council's energy use by 10 per cent was not considered to be sufficiently ambitious.

Councillor Beckett advised that further details on these proposals would be forthcoming in due course.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE UPDATED SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY BE APPROVED, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 1 OF THE ABOVE REPORT.

2. THAT THE CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2009/10 BE APPROVED, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 2 OF THE ABOVE REPORT.

6. COUNCIL TAX BASE 2009/10

(Report [CAB1745](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood highlighted that in the current economic climate, the Council might have difficulties in maintaining its current collection rates of Council Tax.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE CALCULATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE REPORT FOR THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2009/2010 BE APPROVED.

2. THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (CALCULATION OF TAX BASE) REGULATIONS 1992, THE AMOUNT CALCULATED BY WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2009/2010 IS 47,282.09 PROPERTIES AT BAND D EQUIVALENT.

3. THAT THE AMOUNT CALCULATED AS THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR EACH PARISH WITHIN THE AREA OF WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL AND FOR WINCHESTER TOWN SHALL BE AS STATED IN APPENDIX C TO THE REPORT.

7. **NON-DOMESTIC RATES – RURAL SETTLEMENT LIST 2009/10**

(Report [CAB1744](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the list of Rural Settlements shown in Appendix A of the Report be approved for the year 2009/10.

8. **RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND UPDATE**

(Report [CAB1771](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood highlighted the statement on page 5 of the Strategy that risk should be managed and should not stifle innovation. In addition, he drew Cabinet's attention to the roles and responsibilities section on page 19 which emphasised all Councillors roles, in addition to those of Cabinet.

Cabinet noted that a further update of the Strategy would be carried out in Summer 2009.

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

RESOLVED:

That the updated Risk Management Strategy 2007 (Provisional Arrangements for 2008/09) be approved.

9. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

(Report [CAB1761](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the Publication Scheme set out in Appendix 1 of the Report be approved and that the Scheme be adopted with effect from 1 January 2009.

10. **WINCHESTER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – EXTENSION OF SAVED POLICIES**

(Report [CAB1759\(LDF\)](#) refers)

Members noted that a Report on the above subject had been under preparation at the time the papers for Cabinet were published. It was therefore suggested that the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee be given authority to make a decision on this item at its meeting on 16 December 2008, on behalf of Cabinet, in order that the recommendation be referred direct to Council on 9 January 2009.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons set out above.

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee be authorised to make a decision on CAB1759(LDF), Winchester District Local Plan Review – Extension of Saved Policies, for recommendation to Council on 9 January 2009.

11. **EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD 17 NOVEMBER 2008 (LESS EXEMPT EXTRACT FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD 24 NOVEMBER 2008)**

(Report [CAB1761](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the comments of Principal Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Business Plan had been taken into account under the relevant agenda item above. In addition, comments in relation to options for the General Fund Budget 2009/10 would be taken into account by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency as part of the ongoing budget process.

With regard to the concerns outlined under the Internal Audit Update item (Report PS350 refers), Cabinet requested that the Corporate Director (Governance) compile a list of areas where there was significant slippage in the implementation of high risk audit recommendations. This list should be supplied to the appropriate Portfolio Holders within two weeks and the Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee advised of the action taken.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of Principal Scrutiny Committee regarding the Sustainable Community Strategy and Updated Corporate Business Plan be noted.
2. That the comments of Principal Scrutiny Committee regarding consultation on the General Fund Budget be taken into account in further preparations for the General Fund Budget 2009/10.
3. That the Corporate Director (Governance) compile a list for the relevant Portfolio Holders of areas where there was significant slippage in the implementation of high risk audit recommendations.

12. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1765](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the comments of the Panel in relation to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Business Plan had been taken into account under the relevant agenda item above. In addition, comments in relation to options for the General Fund Budget 2009/10 would be taken into account by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency as part of the ongoing budget process.

Cabinet also noted that the concerns of the Panel in relation to the impact of “negative subsidy” had been raised during discussions under Report CAB1769 above.

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

RESOLVED:

- That the minutes of the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held 10 November 2008 be received and their contents be noted.

13. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report [CAB1766](#) refers)

With regard to the Panel’s concerns about the limited progress with the Street Scene Services Improvement Plan (Report EN71 refers), Cabinet requested that the Portfolio Holder for Environment progress this further.

In addition, with regard to the Out of Hours Informal Scrutiny Group’s (ISG) recommendations (Report EN69 refers), Cabinet agreed that the matters be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access and the Portfolio Holder for Environment, as appropriate.

With regard to the recommendations under the Major Outdoor Events ISG, Councillor Pearson advised that all the matters raised by the Panel were the

subject of ongoing work. The Corporate Director (Governance) suggested that a Portfolio Holder Decision Notice could be used to respond to these detailed points and this approach was agreed.

Cabinet noted that the comments of the Panel in relation to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Business Plan had been taken into account under the relevant agenda item above. In addition, comments in relation to options for the General Fund Budget 2009/10 and Capital Programme would be taken into account by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency as part of the ongoing budget process.

Cabinet discussed the request of the Panel to establish a Public Conveniences Provision Informal Scrutiny Group to consider the potential of an asset management plan for these facilities. Councillor Allgood reiterated concerns raised at the previous Cabinet meeting that there were already two possible ISGs involved in considering the Council's asset management and it was not a proper use of Council resources to establish a third. It was agreed that the Corporate Director (Policy) contact the Chairmen of Principal Scrutiny Committee and the relevant Panels to discuss this matter further, with a view to ensuring there was not any duplication of work.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the comments of the Panel regarding the Sustainable Community Strategy and Updated Corporate Business Plan be noted.
2. That the comments regarding consultation on the General Fund Budget and Capital Programme be taken in account in further preparations for the General Fund Budget 2009/10.
3. That the recommendations regarding the Out of Hours Informal Scrutiny Group's (Report EN69 refers) be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access and the Portfolio Holder for Environment, as appropriate.
4. That the recommendations regarding the Major Outdoor Events ISG (Report EN70 refers) be referred to the Portfolio Holder for Environment to respond to through the Portfolio Holder Decision Notice procedure.
5. That the proposal to establish an Public Conveniences Informal Scrutiny Group be deferred to enable further discussions to be held by the Corporate Director (Policy) with the Chairman of the Panel, together with the Chairmen of Principal Scrutiny Committee and Resources Scrutiny Panel.

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL

(Report [CAB1767](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the comments of the Panel in relation to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Business Plan had been taken into account under the relevant agenda item above. In addition, comments in relation to options for the General Fund Budget 2009/10 would be taken into account by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency as part of the ongoing budget process.

On behalf of Councillor Evans, the Chief Executive stated that she had disputed the accuracy of the minute in relation to the proposal that 10 per cent of the grant to the Theatre Royal be assigned to the Winchester Town Account.

Councillor Beckett stated that this was a matter for the next meeting of the Local Economy Panel to decide on whether the minute accurately reflected discussions.

With regard to the recommendation of the Panel in relation to the potential marketing of performances to associated parish councils, Councillor Stallard advised that this had been done.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the comments regarding consultation on the General Fund Budget and Capital Programme be taken in account in further preparations for the General Fund Budget 2009/10.
2. That the remaining minutes of the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held 18 November 2008 be received and their contents be noted.

15. **MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL**

(Report [CAB1768](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the comments of the Panel in relation to the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Business Plan had been taken into account under the relevant agenda item above. In addition, comments in relation to options for the General Fund Budget 2009/10 would be taken into account by the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency as part of the ongoing budget process.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the comments regarding consultation on the General Fund Budget and Capital Programme be taken in account in further preparations for the General Fund Budget 2009/10.

2. That the remaining minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Panel held 19 November 2008 be received and their contents be noted.

16. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE**

(Report [CAB1762](#) refers)

On behalf of Councillor Evans, the Chief Executive advised that she had requested that the last sentence of her statement on CAB1743(LDF) be deleted as she had not made these comments.

Cabinet noted that the minutes would be subject to approval at the next Committee meeting on 16 December 2008 at which time Councillor Evans correction could be made.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee held 12 November 2008 (as attached as Appendix A to these minutes) be received.

17. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE**

(Report [CAB1763](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item due to his role as a County Councillor. Councillor Godfrey also declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as he was an employee of the County Council. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted.

It was reported that Councillor Collin had queried why only 15 minutes had been allowed for public participation and why Councillor Mitchell was not recorded in the minutes as not having being permitted to speak?

In response, Councillor Wood (Committee Chairman) advised that the period for public participation was at the Chairman's discretion and he had, in fact, allowed approximately 25 minutes. However, he had written to Councillor Mitchell apologising for not permitting him to speak.

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

Councillor Jackson requested that the Council pursue the introduction of 20mph speed limits in areas across the District. She highlighted the potential links with the Sustainable Community Strategy and advised that the Cycling Touring Club (CTC) were campaigning for reduced speed limits.

Councillor Higgins reiterated the comments he had made at the Committee meeting that his Notice of Motion related to the whole District, whereas the officer's Report only dealt with the Winchester Town. In particular, there were a number of areas outside the centre of Winchester where he considered 20mph limits to be appropriate. Although he appreciated that the County Council had ultimate responsibility for imposing such limits, he requested that the City Council seek to encourage 20mph limits/zones.

During debate, Cabinet noted the resource implications of considering 20mph limits for the whole District and considered that it was sensible to give further consideration to trialling such limits in the areas suggested in the Committee's recommendations. However, if any Member had any specific areas which they considered appropriate for reduced speed limits, they should advise the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Access accordingly. The Portfolio Holder could then give further consideration to the feasibility of pursuing such limits.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee held 17 November 2008 (as attached as Appendix B to these minutes) be received.
2. That the recommendations in relation to a Winchester City Centre 20pmh speed limit be agreed as outlined below, subject to the inclusion of a third resolution (shown in italics):
 - a) That the implementation of a 20mph speed limit/zone for central Winchester be considered once the findings of the County Council's Traffic Management Study have been reported.
 - b) That the Council continue to encourage developers at Knowle and other new residential developments within the Winchester District to consider the shared space concept and 20mph zones in the design of road layouts.
 - c) *That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Access give consideration to the feasibility of any other areas put forward by Members for 20mph speed limit/zones.*

18. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for December 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))) Information in respect of) which a claim to legal) professional privilege could) be maintained in legal) proceedings. (Para 5) Schedule 12A refers)

##	Partnership, Scrutiny & Improvement Review)	Information relating to any individual. (Para 1 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Exempt Minute Extract from Personnel Committee)	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. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 November 2008, be approved and adopted.

22. **PARTNERSHIP, SCRUTINY AND IMPROVEMENT REVIEW**
(Report PER155 refers)

Cabinet considered the above exempt Report, which examined the opportunities for the reorganisation of certain Council functions, following staff vacancies and the consideration of associated factors. The Report was referred to Cabinet to consider the organisational development elements and resource implications of the proposed changes (detail in exempt minute).

23. **EXEMPT MINUTE EXTRACT FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD 24 NOVEMBER 2008**
(Report CAB1770 refers)

Cabinet considered the exempt minute extract from Personnel Committee held 24 November 2008 during their discussions of Report PER155 elsewhere on the agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minute extract from Personnel Committee held 24 November 2008 be noted.

24. **TENDER REPORT – TERM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR HEATING AND ASSOCIATED SYSTEMS**
(Report CAB1756 refers)

Cabinet considered the above Report which provided an update on progress on the carrying out of market testing and tendering process of the Council's Term Maintenance Contract for heating and associated systems and recommended award of the Contract (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 1.10pm

Chairman