

**CABINET**

**4 February 2009**

Attendance:

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

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Barratt, Higgins and Learney

Mr A Rickman (TACT)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Busher

Mr J Bond (TACT)

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1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 January 2009, less exempt items, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Lander-Brinkley and Mrs C Slattery addressed Cabinet regarding Local Reserve Sites (Report CAB1790 refers) and their comments are summarised under the relevant agenda item below.

3. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Beckett reported that both the Customer Services and Landlord Services Divisions had achieved Customer Services Excellence accreditation. On behalf of Cabinet, he congratulated the staff involved for this achievement.

Councillor Pearson updated Cabinet on the current situation regarding refuse collections, which had been delayed due to severe weather conditions over the last few days. He explained that it had not been possible for the refuse collection vehicles to operate safely on un-gritted rural or more suburban ice and snow covered roads. However, collections had now resumed.

Councillor Stallard advised that the Winchester City Museum had been awarded quality accreditation under a recognised national scheme. In addition, the Council had recently hosted the inaugural meeting of the Culture Conference which had attracted approximately 90 attendees. Finally, she reported that City Councillors had attended the event at Winchester Sports Stadium, Bar End. She reminded Members that the City Council had contributed £1 million to the cost of the project.

Councillor Cooper advised that HMS Southampton, which was based in Portsmouth, would shortly be finishing active service after 25 years. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Captain to pass on the best wishes of the Council.

With regard to the recent bad weather conditions, the Chief Executive advised that the Council had maintained a good level of service, with many members of staff being able to travel to work. Any staff unable to attend work because of the effects of the weather would be expected to take annual leave or make up the time for the period of their absence.

4. **BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2009/10**  
(Report [CAB1786](#) refers)

The Chairman agreed to accept the Report onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, in order that Cabinet could consider the contents and make a recommendation to Council on 19 February 2009. He emphasised the extensive consultation that had previously been carried out on the budget proposals, including an interim budget report to the last Cabinet meeting which had contained substantially the same proposals.

Councillor Allgood explained the difficulties facing the Council in putting forward a balanced budget, having regard to the current economic climate, reduced income and Government settlement. Extensive consultation had been undertaken on various options, including charging for Sunday parking in Winchester town centre. However, as a result of concerns raised by the business community, it had been decided not to pursue this option. With regard to the proposal for the Council to pay parish councils precepts in two instalments, Councillor Allgood confirmed that parish councils could contact the Council if this would cause them particular difficulties in the first year, and some had already done this.

Councillor Allgood then drew attention to Appendix C of the Report which contained the General Fund revenue projections. Although a balanced budget was proposed for 2009/10, the projections indicated a potential shortfall of

approximately £3.4 million in 2013/14. Consequently work would continue to achieve additional savings and the Council would aim for its expenditure to match its funding levels.

Members commented that two significant items of growth outlined in Appendix C related to contractual commitments and employee costs. It was noted that in the current year, significant savings had been achieved through vacancy management whilst retaining the same level of service, and it was expected this would continue. Cabinet would be liaising with the Chief Executive with regard to proposals for how further savings could be achieved. In addition, the Chief Executive highlighted that a number of contracts were due for renewal within the next few years and the Council would work to ensure these costs were reduced.

Councillor Beckett reported on a recent meeting with other Leaders from the South East region, at which the levels of Government funding towards concessionary travel had been discussed. He emphasised that the current funding levels resulted in a shortfall of £600,000 for the Council, whereas some other local authorities made a profit through the scheme. He would be maintaining pressure on the Government to amend the funding levels to address this inequity.

Councillor Allgood advised that for 2009/10, it was proposed that the level of Council Tax at Band D be set at £124.65, which represented a 3% increase.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney expressed concern that the late availability of the Report had not allowed adequate time for proper consideration. She requested clarification of the situation regarding funding of public conveniences, as she stated that the Town Forum had only agreed to make a contribution if all parish councils also did so.

Councillor Beckett apologised for the late availability of the Report, but emphasised that the contents of the budget had been widely consulted upon at previous meetings. He stated that Wickham Parish Council and New Alresford Town Council had advised that they would not contribute towards the costs of public conveniences within their parishes. However, the City Council's position would remain that it would provide only 50 per cent of that cost. In the event that matched funding from parishes was not forthcoming, the City Council funding would permit continued operation of the toilets for part of 2009/10. Thereafter, closure would take place. He highlighted that joint funding of public conveniences between second and third tier councils was common practice across the country, with parish councils being expected to meet the costs in full in some areas.

Cabinet thanked Councillor Allgood together with the Head of Finance and other officers for their work in producing the Report.

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

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. THAT THE FOLLOWING LEVEL OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND SERVICE BUDGETS FOR 2009/10 BE APPROVED:

	2009/10 £
<b><u>GROSS BUDGET FOR GENERAL FUND SERVICES</u></b>	<b><u>20,821,350</u></b>
<b>LESS</b>	
CAPITAL FINANCING	(6,620,113)
TRANSFERS TO /(FROM) RESERVES	(473,000)
CONTRIBUTIONS TO / (FROM) WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT	(18,438)
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>13,709,799</u></b>
<b>LESS CHARGES ON WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT</b>	<b>(807,857)</b>
<b><u>TOTAL CITY NET EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b><u>12,901,942</u></b>

2. THAT THE GROWTH, SAVINGS AND INCREASED INCOME, AS SET OUT IN APPENDICES D1, D2, E1 & E2 OF THE REPORT, BE APPROVED.

3. THAT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME SET OUT IN APPENDICES G1-G3 OF THE REPORT BE CONFIRMED.

4. THAT THE POLICY AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED BY THE COUNCIL ON 14 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 £826,295 BE TREATED AS SPECIAL EXPENSES UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 IN RESPECT OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN AREA (APPENDIX K OF THE REPORT).

5. THAT THE COUNCIL TAX FOR THE SPECIAL EXPENSES IN THE WINCHESTER TOWN AREA AT BAND D BE SET AT £57.68 FOR 2009/10.

6. THAT THE BALANCES ON THE COLLECTION FUND CALCULATED AT 15 JANUARY 2009 OF £149,241 DEFICIT FOR COUNCIL TAX FOR THIS COUNCIL, BE APPROVED.

7. THAT THE LEVEL OF COUNCIL TAX AT BAND D FOR CITY COUNCIL SERVICES FOR 2009/10 BE SET AT £124.65.

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

9. THAT THE INFLATION INDEX IN THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME BE APPLIED FOR 2009/10.

5. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2009/10**  
(Report [CAB1797](#) refers)

Cabinet noted that the meeting of Social Issues Scrutiny Panel scheduled for 2 February 2009 had been postponed and would now meet on 12 February 2009. Comments from the Panel would therefore be considered when the Report was debated at Council on 19 February 2009.

Councillor Coates drew Cabinet's attention to paragraph 4.1 of the Report which highlighted that the negative subsidy for 2009/10 would be £9,093,000 – 44% of rental income. Details regarding possible changes to Government financing had not yet been announced and any alterations would not be introduced in time to affect the 2009/10 budget.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Rickman (TACT) mentioned the Prime Minister's recent speech where he implied that resources could be available to local authorities to build new council houses. However, it was unclear how this could be achieved in practice. TACT were continuing to campaign for the Government to address the current situation regarding negative subsidy and he would be attending the Council Housing Group Inquiry on 25 February 2009. In conclusion, TACT could not support the Report's proposals, but would continue to work with the Council to address the situation regarding Government subsidy.

Councillor Beckett thanked Mr Rickman for his comments. He advised that the Council were monitoring the Government's announcements carefully.

In response to questions, the Head of Landlord Services advised that the forthcoming HRA Business Plan 2009/10 would outline those elements of the programme which would be carried out.

Councillor Coates clarified that the proposed spend on disabled adaptations of £400,000 had been reduced from the current year's budget of £550,000, but had increased from spending in previous years of £200,000. In addition, it was proposed that the surplus on the 2009/10 HRA budget of £98,760 be retained to meet any increased demand in disabled adaptations or boiler replacements.

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

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT SUBJECT TO CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS FROM THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL, THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REVISED BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2009/09 AND BUDGET FOR 2009/10 BE APPROVED, AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX 1 OF THE REPORT.**

6. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009-2010**

(Report [CAB1785](#) refers)

The Chairman agreed to accept the Report onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration. However, due to its late availability, it was proposed that the Report's contents be noted and Councillor Allgood be requested to give it further consideration and make comments directly to Council on 19 February 2009.

Cabinet noted that Council had agreed a Revised Investment Strategy 2008/09 at its meeting on 7 January 2009 (Report CAB1754 refers). The Head of Finance advised that the above Report recommended that the Council continue the more cautious approach outlined in the revised strategy. However, the Council was required to agree a Strategy for 2009/10 before the start of the new financial year.

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

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009/10 BE CONSIDERED AS SET OUT IN REPORT CAB1785, INCLUDING:-**

- THE ADOPTION OF THE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND LIMITS FOR 2009/10 TO 2011/12 (AS DETAILED IN THE REPORT);**
- THE MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) STATEMENT WHICH SETS OUT THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON MRP;**
- THE INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2009/10 CONTAINED IN THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, AND THE DETAILED CRITERIA INCLUDED IN APPENDIX A OF THE REPORT.**

**SUBJECT TO FURTHER COMMENTS FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO COUNCIL.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Report be noted and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency be requested to consider further and submit comments directly to Council on 19 February 2009.

7. **REVIEW OF CAR PARKS CHARGES 2009/10**

(Report [CAB1796](#) refers)

Councillor Wood reiterated the decision not to introduce Sunday parking charges, as had been explained under consideration of Report CAB1786 above. The Report therefore proposed fairly minor increases to weekday

parking charges and parking waivers/bay suspensions. There was no proposal to increase park and ride charges.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Barratt stated that she considered it to be illogical that this Report was considered after the budget proposals had already been agreed. She also queried why residents' parking permits were not included within the Report and requested that this matter be brought back to a future Cabinet.

Councillor Beckett emphasised that the budget proposals were being recommended to full Council for approval. In response to questions, the Corporate Director (Operations) clarified that, if the Council decided to alter parking charges as part of its consideration of the budget report, this could not be done until after public notices had been issued, and consequently could not be introduced for the start of the financial year.

Councillor Wood stated that a meeting had been held with residents regarding parking permits, at which participants had indicated they were reasonably content with the current system, having regard to the constraints due to lack of on-road parking spaces in some areas. In addition, the matter had been considered by the Environmental Scrutiny Panel.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the parking charge increases be agreed for implementation as from 1 April 2009, as set out in the Report.
2. That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to give public notice of the variation in charges as set out in the Report, under Sections 46A and 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

**8. CAR PARKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10**  
(Report [CAB1789](#) refers)

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the car parks capital programme for 2009/10 be approved as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Report, in accordance with Financial Regulation 6.4 (release of capital expenditure), subject to Council approval of the overall budget, and that the indicative programme for 2010/11 be noted as a basis for planning and preparing future works.

2. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure 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 Access.

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

9. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCESS PLAN AND SOUTH WINCHESTER PARK AND RIDE**

(Report [CAB1794](#) 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.

Councillor Wood advised that the first stage of the County Council's Traffic Management Study was expected shortly. Once it was available, it was proposed to convene a Members' seminar to present the consultants' initial findings.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that work on the South of Winchester Park and Ride would begin shortly.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Higgins welcomed the report and the proposed Members' seminar. He suggested that the Council also arrange a stakeholder meeting on the Traffic Management Study. With regard to the second park and ride service, Councillor Higgins requested that the Council seek to ensure work was completed prior to the start of work on the Silver Hill development. In addition, careful consideration was required regarding the route of park and ride buses into the town centre from the south site. There was a need to balance the requirements of passengers wishing to enter the town centre as quickly as possible, and those wishing to travel down Romsey Road to the hospital or prison. He mentioned the use of the M3 to Bar End as a possible approach. He also suggested that the option of allowing park and ride ticket holders to use other buses travelling along Romsey Road should be reconsidered.

Councillor Beckett thanked the Councillor for his comments and advised that all issues raised would be considered further at the appropriate time. Councillor Wood stated that all options regarding park and ride bus routes would be considered. The Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that a report on the options would be brought to Cabinet before tenders were sought. Cabinet noted that the Traffic Management Study was being produced by the County Council, but further consideration would be given to how the public would be consulted on its contents.



With regard to the old railway viaduct path into the town centre, the Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that discussions were ongoing with the County Council and Sustrans about the possibility of this becoming a cycle route.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the progress being made on the Winchester Town Access Plan be noted.
2. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure seeks to arrange a Members' seminar with the County Council and their consultants in order to consider the next stage of the Traffic Management study for Winchester, and a report be made to the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee on the proposed way forward.
3. That the City Council's support in principle be confirmed for the provision of a second park and ride service south of Winchester and that the Head of Access and Infrastructure be authorised to enter into further discussions with the County Council on the City Council taking the lease for the new site.
4. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure reports back to Cabinet on the heads of terms for the lease and an evaluation of the financial implications of running the second park and ride service.

10. **HOUSING SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS IMPROVEMENTS**  
(Report [CAB1788](#) refers)

Members queried what progress had been made in encouraging Southern Water and possibly other water companies to adopt works. The Corporate Director (Operations) agreed to investigate this matter further.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Head of Landlord Services, be authorised to progress the programme for 2009/10 as outlined in the report, subject to funding being included in the Capital Programme.
2. That in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 (iv), authority be given for release of expenditure for the Schemes set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Report.

3. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure be given delegated authority to make minor adjustments to the programme (including the bringing forward of identified reserve schemes) to meet the maintenance and operational needs of the City Council Sewage Treatment Works as required in consultation with the Head of Finance and Head of Landlord Services.

11. **COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2009/10**  
(Report [CAB1779](#) refers)

Councillor Pearson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this item as he was a trustee of Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau. He left the room and took no part in the debate or decision on this grant only.

Councillor Stallard declared personal (but not prejudicial) interests as due to her Portfolio Holder's role, she was an observer on both the Theatre Royal Board and Havant and District Citizens Advice Bureau. Councillor Coates declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as he was on the Trinity Centre Advisory Committee. Councillor Wood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as he was a trustee of Hampshire Youth Options. Councillor Cooper declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as the Council's nominated representative on the Stanmore Combined Group. All four Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted.

Councillor Cooper proposed an additional recommendation to restore grants to the Winchester Festival and Bishops Waltham Festival in addition to distributing a further £2,000 to organisations whose recommended grant level for 2008/09 was lower than 2009/10. This was agreed, as set out under Recommendation 6 below.

The Head of Partnership and Communications confirmed that a proposed grant related to Age Concern (Winchester), rather than the national organisation, and agreed to clarify this in future reports.

Councillor Cooper emphasised the wide range of organisations proposed to be awarded funding, both in terms of the services provided and location across the District. He advised that £11,000 of the 2009/10 grants reserve had been ring-fenced to be awarded, if required, to Winchester and Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureaux to offer debt counselling services.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney drew attention to correspondence sent to Councillors from the National Childbirth Trust (Winchester) which was not being recommended to receive a grant. On a general point, she suggested that the Report give further details about reasons for refusal.

The Head of Partnership and Communications explained why some organisations were not being recommended for funding and confirmed that she could provide full details to Members if requested. Cabinet requested that

future reports include more explanation about why an organisation was being refused funding.

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

RESOLVED:

That subject to Council approval of the 2009/10 budget provision:

1. The Community Revenue grants approved by Winchester Town Forum for 2009/10 be confirmed, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report.

2. The following grant awards for 2009/10 be approved, from the revenue grants budget, on condition that each organisation enters into clearly defined service level agreement with appropriate performance targets:

(i)	Age Concern (Winchester)	£1,500
(ii)	Bishops Waltham & Meon Valley CAB	£42,463
(iii)	Bishop's Waltham Festival	£2,000
(iv)	Carroll Youth Centre	£5,500
(v)	Deaf Plus	£850
(vi)	Hat Fair	£30,108
(vii)	Havant & District CAB	£1,400
(vii)	Homestart Meon Valley	£11,300
(ix)	Homestart Winchester and Districts	£4,500
(x)	Keystone - Winchester Churches Housing Group	£5,000
(xi)	KIDS	£1,500
(xii)	Nightshelter -Winchester Churches	£3,600
(xiii)	Relate Winchester	£3,450
(xiv)	Signature Care and Support	£4,000
(xv)	Stanmore Combined	£450
(xvi)	The Olive Branch	£875

(xvii)	The Trinity Centre, Winchester	£90,169
(xviii)	Winchester & District Mencap	£500
(xix)	Winchester & District Young Carers Project	£1,900
(xx)	Winchester Area Community Action (WACA)	£104,946
(xxi)	Winchester CAB	£122,964
(xxii)	Winchester Detached Youth Work Project	£7,000
(xxiii)	Winchester Festival	£1,300
(xxiv)	Winchester Live at Home Scheme	£5,400
(xxv)	Winchester Mayfest	£900
(xxvi)	Winchester Rent Deposit Scheme	£1,000
(xxvii)	Winchester Rural Youth Theatre	£7,500
(xxviii)	Winchester Savers	£7,000
(xxix)	Winchester Youth Counselling	£2,325
(xxx)	Winnall Community Association	£3,500
(xxxii)	Winnall Rock School	£4,500
(xxxii)	YMCA - Fairthorne Group	£1,500

3. A sum of £21,000 be set aside, as agreed at the 9 July 2008 Cabinet, towards the replacement arts programme following the closure of the Tower Arts Centre. This, together with an allocation of £4,000 from the Winchester Town Forum, will provide a total of £25,000 in order to match fund the County Council's contribution of £25,000. This agreement will remain in place until 2010-2011 when it will be reconsidered.

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

- (i) Emmaus Hampshire
- (ii) National Childbirth Trust – Winchester
- (iii) SCRATCH
- (iv) Vitalise
- (v) Winchester Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling

5. The decision of the Chief Executive (taken under Section A.2 of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers), to make an emergency grant of £20,000 (including a contribution of £5,000 from Winchester Town Forum) to Hampshire & Isle of Wight Youth Options to support the delivery of youth work at King Alfred Youth Activity Centre, Winnall, as detailed in paragraph 1.5 of the report, be noted.

6. The grants for the Winchester Festival (£1,500) and Bishops Waltham Festival (£500) be restored to the same level as in 2008/09 and that a further £2,000 be distributed by the Head of Partnership and Communication, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety, to those organisations whose recommended grant level for 2009/10 was lower than last year.

12. **COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL AWARDS 2009/10**  
(Report [CAB1780](#) refers)

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

**RESOLVED:**

That subject to Council approval of the 2009/10 budget provision:

1. The allocation of £9,000 for the 2009/10 Community Chest grant programme be approved.

2. The following capital grants for 2009/10, subject to compliance with the conditions of grant currently in force and any additional conditions specified in Appendix 1:

(i)	Alresford & District Community Association	£3,600
(ii)	Cheriton Village Hall Committee	£5,000
(iii)	East Stratton Village Hall	£10,000
(iv)	New Alresford Town Trust (Eel House)	£2,000
(v)	Winchester Dramatic Society (Chesil Theatre)	£20,000
(vi)	Winchester Lido Sports Association	£5,400

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

- (i) New Alresford Town Council (West Street Project)
- (ii) Weeke Community Association

13. **PLANNING (ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT) GRANTS 2009/10**  
(Report [CAB1792](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as a member of the South Downs Joint Committee. Councillor Beckett declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as he was a member of Compton and Shawford Parish Council which was involved with proposals for preservation of the River Itchen. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted.

In response to questions, the Head of Environment confirmed that Service Level Agreements would be in place for all the organisations being recommended funding by the start of the new financial year.

Some Members expressed concern about the situation regarding St Faith's Meadow and, in particular, any proposal to remove trees. The Head of Environment confirmed that he was involved in discussions with the Wildlife Trust and Natural England on this matter. It was therefore agreed that the suggested grant of £7,000 only be awarded if the Head of Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, was satisfied with the proposals and that they would have the discretion to make the award to another body, if appropriate.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That (subject to appropriate budgetary provision being provided) the following planning grants for 2009/10 be approved:

- (i) Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre - £8,040
- (ii) South Downs Joint Committee (formerly East Hampshire AONB) - £11,300
- (iii) Hampshire Wildlife Trust (wardening of Winnall Moors and St. Faith's) -£10,500
- (iv) British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (for local environment projects) - £5,500
- (v) Itchen Navigation Project £10,000 (£10,000 per annum for five years, this being year four of a total contribution of £50,000)

2. That the balance of £750 be used in 2009/10 to fund small biodiversity project grants funded through the Council's Community Chest scheme.

3. That a grant to Hampshire Wildlife Trust (restoration of St. Faiths Meadow) of £7,000 be awarded, subject to proposals being approved by the Head of Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and that they would have the discretion to make the award to another body, if appropriate.

14. **MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM HELD 13 JANUARY 2009**  
(Report [CAB1795](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Winchester Town Forum held 13 January 2009 be received.

15. **DRAFT ASSESSMENT OF NEED FOR LOCAL RESERVE SITES**  
**RELEASES**  
(Report [CAB1790](#) refers)

Councillor Pearson declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as he was the Council's representative on the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and there was a representative of this body present at the meeting who had registered to speak. He remained in the room, spoke and voted.

The Head of Strategic Planning clarified that Annex A of the Report's Appendix was based on information with a base-date of April 2008. He emphasised that the forthcoming Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) would take account of all sources of housing supply.

Some Members questioned whether it would be possible to remove the status of the four 'Local Reserve Sites' if no longer required and/or were now unsuitable. The Head of Strategic Planning advised that the sites were part of the Local Plan which could not be amended, but which was gradually being replaced by the Local Development Framework (LDF) process. The Development Allocations document will be able to make or revise site allocations and would follow in the LDF process after the Core Strategy.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney welcomed the recommendation not to release the reserve sites. However, she highlighted that there was a current planning application in relation to Francis Gardens, Winchester. Therefore she considered that the Council should have clear policies to protect against unwanted development.

Councillor Beckett responded that the Report concluded that it was not necessary for any of the Reserve Sites to be released at the current time. In addition, the LDF would also have to identify sites considered suitable for development, should they be required.

Two members of the public spoke regarding this item and their comments are summarised below.

Mr Lander-Brinkley (Chairman of Denmead Parish Council) welcomed the Report's recommendations, but spoke in opposition to the designation of Little Frenchies Field as a Local Reserve Site, which he stated was in a flood plain. He mentioned that a developer had recently indicated that they intended to submit a planning application for the site. The Parish Council had contacted Winchester College (who owned the site) with regard to the possible purchase or lease of the area to be used for open space land. In conclusion, Mr Lander-Brinkley advised that the Parish Council had responded to the LDF 'Issues and Options' consultation promoting the designation of an alternative site, closer to the centre of Denmead.

Mrs Slattery (Council for the Protection of Rural England and Save Barton Farm Group) welcomed the Report and its endorsement of the Council's policy in relation to Local Reserve Sites, in addition to the ongoing SHLAA. She requested that the LDF strategic reserve sites be offered the same protection. The CPRE had consistently opposed the designation of Little Frenchies Field as a reserve site. Finally, she welcomed the commitment to invite comments from stakeholders and interested parties before any decision was taken about whether it was necessary to release any Local Reserve Sites next year.

In response, Councillor Beckett reminded the meeting that the concept of Local Reserve Sites had been introduced by the Local Plan Inspector. The Head of Strategic Planning advised that the LDF consultation had invited participants to submit ideas for alternative sites and these would be considered as part of the process of producing the Development Allocations document.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Head of Strategic Planning be given delegated authority to make minor editorial changes to the 'Assessment of the Need for Local Reserve Site Release & Land Availability Assessment 2009', in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access, prior to its publication, including any minor changes resulting from the completion of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).
2. That the results of the draft 'Assessment of the Need for Local Reserve Site Release & Land Availability Assessment 2009' (Appendix 1) be noted and that the document be published for consultation, along with the SHLAA.



16. **CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN – THIRD QUARTER MONITORING**  
(Report [CAB1787](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That progress with the delivery of the Council's Business Plan be noted.

17. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS AND PARISH REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE**  
(Report [CAB1793](#) refers)

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

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE (10 MEMBERS) BE ESTABLISHED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL ON 22 APRIL 2009 THE APPOINTMENT OF FOUR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS AND FOUR PARISH REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR THE 2009/10 AND 2010/11 MUNICIPAL YEARS.**

18. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for February 2009, 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)
##	Lower Gardens Denmead Compulsory Purchase Order	) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. (Para 5 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Review of Design, Print & Office Services	) Information relating to any individual. (Para 1 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Minute Extract from Personnel Committee held 15 January 2009	) 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 14 January 2009, be approved and adopted.

22. **REVIEW OF DESIGN, PRINT & OFFICE SERVICES**

(Report PER158 refers)

Cabinet considered the above Report, which detailed proposed changes to the Council's Design, Print and Office Support services (detail in exempt minute).

23. **MINUTE EXTRACT FROM PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD 15 JANUARY 2009**

(Report CAB1791 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the minute extract from Personnel Committee held 15 January 2009 be noted.

24. **LOWER GARDENS DENMEAD COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER**

(Report CAB1798 refers)

Cabinet considered the above Report which contained a proposal regarding a compulsory purchase order in relation to Lower Gardens, Denmead (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 1.00pm

Chairman