

**CABINET****9 June 2010****Attendance:**

Councillor Learney -	<i>Leader and Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources (Chairman) (P)</i>
Councillor Bell -	<i>Portfolio Holder for High Quality Environment (P)</i>
Councillor Collin -	<i>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Winchester and Surrounds (P)</i>
Councillor Evans -	<i>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Rural Areas and Market Towns (P)</i>
Councillor Hiscock -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity (P)</i>
Councillor Thompson	<i>Portfolio Holder for Communities (P)</i>

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

Councillors Beckett, Coates, Pearson and Tait

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

Councillors Achwal, Banister, Barratt, Cook, Hammerton, Higgins, Love, Mitchell and Stallard

**1. MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES ETC**

Following the previous Cabinet meeting on 20 May 2010, the following appointments were agreed:

- a) South Downs National Park Authority  
That Councillor Wood remain as the Council's representative on the Authority for 2010/11 (with arrangements to ensure Councillors Learney and Evans are kept fully up-to-date on Authority issues).
- b) Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee  
That the two named representatives from the Conservative Group be agreed as Councillors Beckett and Jeffs.

The full membership of the Committee would therefore be:  
Leader (Chairman) plus Councillors Evans and Collin.  
In the event of any of the Standing Members not being available for a particular meeting, another member of Cabinet will be selected in alphabetical rotation by the Head of Democratic Services to substitute for the standing member.

In addition, the following standing list of Councillors be invited to attend and offer views at meetings of the Committee:

- (a) Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee (Councillor Johnston); and named members from the Conservative (2) as follows: Councillors Beckett and Jeffs. The Independent Group did not nominate a representative.
- (b) Ward Councillors, where appropriate.
  
- c) West of Waterlooville Forum  
That Councillor Phillips be appointed as the Deputy Member:  
The membership of the Forum would therefore be:  
Councillors: Collin (Chairman), Achwal, Clear, Cooper, Chamberlain, Evans and Stallard  
Deputies: Phillips (for any Member).
  
- d) Twyford Waterworks  
That Councillor Izard replace Councillor Henry as the Council's representative on the above.
  
- e) EHDC/WCC Joint Environment Services Committee  
That Councillor Thompson be appointed as a Deputy Member on this Joint Committee (Councillors Learney and Bell previously appointed as Members).
  
- f) Southampton Airport Joint Consultative Committee  
That, following a request from the Winchester Air Group (WAG), Sue Broadbent be appointed as the deputy to the WAG representative, Robin Tice.

RESOLVED:

That the various appointments to Cabinet Committees etc be agreed as outlined above.

## 2. MINUTES

Cabinet noted the comments from Councillor Evans regarding her appointment to Tourism South East.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 May 2010, less exempt items, be approved and adopted.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Deborah Ivory (Adams Henry) spoke regarding Winchester College and her comments are summarised under the relevant agenda item below (CAB2018 refers).

4. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Learney advised that the EU Official Journal notice had now been issued regarding the proposed joint Environment Services contract with East Hants District Council. She emphasised that the two authorities were working well together and sharing services would offer opportunities for efficiencies and savings. She reported that the notice included the potential for a food waste collection service and improved street cleaning.

Councillor Thompson advised that the new administration had decided to cease the sale of Council houses on estates with immediate effect. In addition, she had requested an urgent review of the turnaround of void properties.

Councillor Bell congratulated relevant officers on the Council's success in two additional car parks within the District achieving the "Park Mark" award. The two car parks were the South of Winchester Park and Ride and Tower Street car parks.

Finally, Councillor Learney advised that it was the last Cabinet Bob Merrett (Corporate Director (Policy)) would be attending before he left the Council. On behalf of Cabinet, she thanked Mr Merrett for all his work over the years and wished him well for the future.

5. **PORTFOLIO HOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Cabinet noted that the proposed revised Portfolio Holder responsibilities were set out on the reverse of the agenda. The Chief Executive advised that once agreed, these would be made available on the Council's Website.

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

RESOLVED:

That the new Portfolio Holder Responsibilities be agreed, as set out as an Appendix to the Minutes.

6. **CAPITAL EXPENDITURE OUTTURN 2009/10**

(Report [CAB2015](#) refers)

Councillor Learney drew Cabinet's attention to the significant items of expenditure outlined in the Report. She also emphasised the implications of the Capital Financing Requirement and stated that the Council would be seeking to adopt a more commercial approach to its property.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Coates stated that the sale of a small number of council houses over the previous three years had enabled additional expenditure on repairs and housing enablement. He hoped that the policy to sell certain “non-standard” council properties would continue, to enable additional funds to be made available to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). He also highlighted that he believed various commitments might have been made to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) which had not been included.

Councillor Learney responded that the proposed change in policy regarding sale of council homes would not prevent the sale of “non-standard” properties.

Councillor Thompson advised that she would check whether there were any outstanding commitments to RSLs which should be included. In addition, the Head of Finance advised that capital commitments must be disclosed in the Council’s annual Statement of Accounts. However, the Chief Executive highlighted that a distinction must be made between formally agreed commitments and previous discussions with RSLs, which might not now proceed because of lack of resources.

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

**RECOMMENDED:**

**THAT THE CARRY FORWARD OF CAPITAL BUDGET  
TOTALLING £3.296M FROM 2009/10 (AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX  
A OF THE REPORT) BE APPROVED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULE 7.9.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the capital expenditure and financing for 2009/10 be noted, including the implications on the future capital programme.

**7. REVENUE OUTTURN 2009/10**  
(Report [CAB2014](#) refers)

Councillor Learney congratulated officers on the Value for Money gains achieved and for their work in ensuring a balanced budget. She also thanked the previous Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency for his work in this area.

Councillor Learney emphasised that Government grants were likely to be reduced for the forthcoming year and an announcement was expected shortly. In addition, there was some concern regarding the lower levels of income from parking than had been expected and the impact of any possible changes in interest rates on requirements for external borrowing.

She highlighted that there was one new item of expenditure which would be funded from planned underspends, namely £10,000 for refurbishment of carpets in the City Museum. This was required in order to improve the facility's appearance and prevent any potential negative impact on external bookings.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Beckett, Coates and Pearson addressed Cabinet and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Beckett queried what measures would be put in place to enable regular financial monitoring by the new Cabinet. In addition, he asked whether there were other grants than those listed on page 4 of the Report? Finally, he requested clarification of the reasons for the current treatment of the MMI Provision.

Councillor Learney advised that the new Cabinet would continue to hold monthly meetings with senior officers, which would consider both financial and service level monitoring information.

The Head of Finance explained that the treatment of the MMI Provision had been the subject of a Report to Cabinet in April 2010 (Report [CAB1998](#) refers) where the current approach had been agreed. She confirmed that the table on page 4 of the Report listed the main Government grants, but there were a number of smaller grants awarded which were not listed there.

Councillor Coates supported the proposals to carry forward £700,000 to the HRA to fund the digital switchover programme. However, he expressed concern about any possible proposals to let "unfinished" void properties to tenants whilst enabling them to complete the necessary improvement works themselves. He also disputed whether the proposals to increase the turnaround of void properties would offer significant improvements in terms of additional resources available.

Councillor Thompson responded that she considered the savings of £100,000 to £200,000 in improving void turnaround were significant. She advised that she proposed to spend £9 million on repairs in the forthcoming year and would bring forward further proposals on the use of the carry forward to future Cabinet meetings.

Councillor Pearson raised a general query regarding the presentation of the Council's accounts, and in particular how the accounting for individual projects would be treated.

Councillor Learney stated that the new Portfolio Holder responsibilities listed their responsibilities for major projects. The Head of Finance advised that as part of the implementation of the upgrade to the finance system, financial management reports were being reviewed, so there was an opportunity for any new requirements to be specified.

The Chief Executive commented that the new Assistant Directors were currently working on change plans to meet the Council's agreed objectives.

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

**RECOMMENDED:**

**1. THAT THE CARRY FORWARD OF REVENUE BUDGET TOTALLING £585,028 FROM 2009/10 (AS DETAILED IN APPENDIX B OF THE REPORT) BE APPROVED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULE 7.9.**

**2. THAT THE CARRY FORWARD OF HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET TOTALLING £700,000 FROM 2009/10 (AS DETAILED IN PARAGRAPH 7.2 OF THE REPORT) BE APPROVED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULE 7.9.**

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the outturn position for: the General Fund; the Housing Revenue Account, and the Winchester Town Account be noted, as set out in the report.

2. That the actual Value for Money gains as set out in Appendix C of the Report be noted.

3. That the capital financing details as set out in Appendix G of the Report be noted.

4. That the transfers to/from the earmarked reserves be noted and the closing balances at 31 March 2010 be approved (as set out in Appendix F of the Report).

5. That the transfers to/from the Major Investment Reserve be noted and the closing balance at 31 March 2010 be approved (as set out in Appendix F of the Report).

8. **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP AREA BASED GRANT (ABG) 2009-2010**  
(Report [CAB1929](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the retrospective expenditure of ABG for 2009/10 be agreed as set out in the Report, for this year only.
2. Following the decision of the County Council to create a Local Flexibilities Grant as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the Report, that any future community safety related ABG be ring fenced for this purpose and any decisions on its expenditure be delegated in future years to the Portfolio Holder for Communities under the Portfolio Holder Decision Making scheme.
3. That the creation of an Earmarked Reserve for Community Safety Partnerships where funding can be held to support spending plans in future financial years be approved.

9. **WINCHESTER DISTRICT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010-2020 CONSULTATION DRAFT**  
(Report [CAB2017](#) refers)

Councillor Learney advised that the Strategy had been revised in order to make it shorter and more focussed. Its three key themes aligned with the new Portfolio Holder roles and those of the Assistant Directors. She emphasised that it was a consultation draft and the Council were seeking comments from its partners, councillors and the wider community. She added that its aim was to direct resources of partner organisations, and not just those of the Council itself.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Pearson and Beckett addressed Cabinet and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Pearson welcomed the revisions in general, but made a number of detailed points:

- Appendix 1, Page 10, Paragraph 3 - he did not consider the phrase “a diverse and sustainable natural environment” was readily understandable;
- Page 10, Paragraph 4 – should include a reference to rural businesses;
- Page 10, Paragraph 5 – welcomed the protection of townscapes, but should include reference to the protection of green areas within existing urban areas;
- Appendix 2, Page 1 – disputed that the District contained many “villages which closely reflect the agricultural traditions ...”. He

considered it was more accurate to emphasise the commuter nature of many villages.

- Appendix 2 – in general, it was not always clear what was a “vision” within the document.

The Assistant Director (Communities) noted comments regarding the presentation and style of language used in Appendix 2 and agreed that this could be re-examined to improve its clarity. The Chief Executive emphasised that the whole Strategy was presenting a vision for the District.

Councillor Beckett also welcomed the improved simplicity of the Strategy. He queried whether it would be revised to take account of any forthcoming Government announcements removing obligations on local authorities to provide certain functions. On a specific point, he expressed concern that Appendix 2, Page 5 did not include reference of the “knowledge economy”.

The Assistant Director (Economy) responded that the Community Strategy was a high level document, with more detailed Strategies supporting it. In this case, the Economic Strategy highlighted the importance of knowledge industries.

Councillor Learney advised that the Government were currently consulting local authorities on what functions they would like to have removed from their responsibilities. She requested that any suggestions be forwarded to the Chief Executive by the end of the week.

Councillor Evans queried why Wickham was no longer listed as a deprived area, on page 7 of Appendix 2. The Assistant Director (Communities) explained that although Wickham did appear in one index of deprivation, the other areas listed appeared in more than one category. However, the Council were aware that pockets of deprivation did exist in rural areas, such as those around Wickham and Colden Common.

Councillor Collin highlighted that the Index of Multiple Deprivation was only one tool in measuring such issues, and suggested that the consultation could be used to ask communities to flag up deprived areas, which might not necessarily correspond with parish or ward boundaries.

Cabinet agreed to an additional resolution (outlined below) to enable amendments to be made to the Strategy to take account of comments outlined above and any arising at Principal Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2010.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Community Strategy 2010-2020 be approved as a consultation draft, as set out at Appendix 2 of the Report.



2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to amend the Consultation Draft to reflect comments made above and at Principal Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2010, prior to its publication.

10. **UPDATE REPORT – WINCHESTER COLLEGE CAMPUS CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**  
(Report [CAB2018](#) refers)

Councillor Collin advised that he was proposing an amendment to the Report's recommendation, in addition to a second resolution which dealt with proposals to compile a new 'Vision for Winchester'. Councillor Learney added that Cabinet welcomed the production of such documents from significant stakeholders within the Town area, such as Winchester College. The proposed new 'Vision for Winchester' would be of particular significance with regard to the new Government's localism agenda.

Councillor Collin confirmed that the concerns raised by the previous Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access were addressed in the Report and the letter from Adams Henry, attached as an Appendix to the Report.

Ms Deborah Ivory (Adams Henry) advised that the Conservation and Development Framework had been developed as a result of a comprehensive study of the College and its land. It aimed to be a long-term Strategy which balanced the College's operational needs with its historic standing. The Framework and background documents were available on the College's Website and had been extensively consulted upon over the last few years, including separating presentations to the Winchester Town Forum and the City of Winchester Trust.

Ms Ivory emphasised that the College generated an approximate £20 million benefit to the local economy and made some of its buildings available for general public use outside term times and during the evenings. She explained that the College needed to develop to meet its changing requirements, but the Framework did not contain detailed proposals which would be contained within individual planning applications, if forthcoming. She stated that the College welcomed the opportunity to work with the Council in the future.

In response to concerns, the Head of Strategic Planning confirmed that the College's proposals regarding Blackbridge Yard were contrary to current planning policy, but this did not prohibit the College including it as an aspiration for the future.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That while not wishing to pre-judge the outcome of any future planning applications, the City Council welcomes the production

of the Winchester College Campus Conservation and Development Framework, including the consultation that has been undertaken in producing it, and acknowledges the importance of the College and its contribution to the City.

2. That the Portfolio Holder for Winchester and Surrounds liaises with the College in reviewing the Winchester Town Forum's Vision for Winchester to ensure that its plans can be taken into account.

11. **ADOPTION OF THE ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR THE WINCHESTER DISTRICT 2010-2020**  
(Report [CAB1972](#) refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beckett emphasised that two-thirds of the District's residents lived within rural areas and consequently he believed page 31 of the Strategy should include a statement regarding the encouragement of the diversification of rural businesses. With regard to the reference to the Silver Hill development, he emphasised the requirement to keep the situation under review in light of ongoing developments. On page 26 of the Strategy, he queried why the IBM Headquarters in Hursley was not listed. He highlighted the importance of knowledge-based industries to the District, particularly with regard to the removal of any reference of a possible knowledge park at Bushfield Camp.

The Assistant Director (Economy) confirmed that diversification of the rural economy was referred to in many parts of the Strategy, and IBM Hursley was also mentioned.

Councillor Hiscock stated that Cabinet recognised the importance of knowledge-based industries, but did not make particular reference to any specific site because it was considered further analysis was required as to suitability in terms of, for example, location and sustainability.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the Economic Strategy for the Winchester District, 2010 – 2020 be adopted, as attached at Appendix 1 to the Report, subject to any final minor amendments to be undertaken by the Assistant Director (Economy) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity.

12. **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2009/10**  
(Report [CAB2022](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Annual Governance Statement, as set out in Appendix A of the Report, be recommended for approval for its inclusion in the Statement of Accounts.
2. That the emerging issues and proposed actions/outcomes identified in Section 5 of Appendix A be noted and a monitoring report be considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee in six months time.

13. **GUILDHALL PROGRESS REPORT**  
(Report [CAB2021](#) refers)

Councillor Learney highlighted the success of the refurbishment programme to date, both in terms of keeping within set budgets and minimising disruption to users of the Guildhall.

The Head of Estates advised that the “secret rooms” referred to in the Report were located in the roof area, directly above the stairs, and were thought to have originally been utilised as a light-well for the stairs (prior to refurbishment in the 1980s). He stated that the work to develop these rooms could be undertaken in three phases and he was seeking Cabinet’s decision on which of these, if any, could proceed.

The Head of Estates advised that the work on the new Café should be completed by 29 June, with it opening on 2 July 2010.

Councillor Learney noted the future income potential of developing the new rooms, but in the current financial circumstances, Cabinet wished to undergo Phases 1 and 2, of development, with the final Phase 3 of fitting out subject to further discussions.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the progress on the refurbishment project be noted.
2. That Phases 1 and 2 of the development of the “Secret Rooms” should proceed, as outlined in the Report.

3. That a supplementary capital estimate of £77,000 (Phases 1 and 2) be approved, subject to the matter not being called in by Principal Scrutiny Committee.

4. That the Head of Estates be authorised to submit planning and such other applications for works to be undertaken for which statutory consent is required.

5. That the Head of Estates be authorised, where it is appropriate and cost effective to do so, to extend the work of the existing consultants team and to let the work of constructing the “Secret Rooms” to the existing contractors on site and a direction be made under Contract Procedure Rule 3.3(a) accordingly.

6. That a further report be submitted to Cabinet in due course on proposals for the use and fitting out of the “Secret Rooms” (Phase 3).

7. That it is noted that it is proposed to proceed with the works to repair the roof to the Walton Room, with the option that includes the installation of additional steel struts within the room, situated just below the existing steel trusses.

14. **JEWRY STREET CAR PARK FLINT WALL**  
(Report [CAB2019](#) refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the matter not being called in by Principal Scrutiny Committee:

In accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.3, a supplementary revenue estimate of £50,000 be approved; to be funded by a release of £42,000 from the Car Park Property reserve, and a release of £3,000 from the Major Investment Reserve, in order for the repairs to the flint boundary wall to be undertaken with the remaining required funding from existing budgets and from an external contribution (see para 3.1 of the report).

15. **COUNCILLOR AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT CABINET MEETINGS**  
(Report [CAB2023](#) refers)

Councillor Learney advised that the Report had been prepared at her request and the main change involved removing previously imposed restrictions on public speaking. The proposed new rules would enable the public to speak on any matter affecting the District at future Cabinet meetings. The Report did not propose any changes regarding Councillor participation.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Pearson and Tait spoke regarding this item.

Councillor Pearson pointed out that the heading of the current public participation procedure should be "How long may I speak for?"

Councillor Tait queried whether Councillors were required to register their intention to speak on an agenda item prior to the meeting itself.

Cabinet noted that the usual practice was for a Councillor to register immediately prior to the start of the meeting, but it was possible for Councillors to register before this time. In addition, Councillor Learney commented that Councillors could indicate a request to speak during the course of a meeting, in certain circumstances, although this was not the preferred practice.

Cabinet agreed that Councillors be reminded of the current and revised procedures via their weekly bulletin.

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

RESOLVED:

That the changes to the Public Participation procedure for Cabinet be agreed as set out in the Report.

16. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for June 2010, be noted.

17. **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.

18.



19. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20 May 2010, be approved and adopted.

20. **RESTRUCTURE OF LANDLORD SERVICES AND CORPORATE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

(Report PER174 refers)

Cabinet considered the above Report which set out proposals for the restructure of Landlord Services and Corporate Property Management (detail in exempt minute).

Cabinet noted that, at its meeting on 7 June 2010, Personnel Committee had approved its Recommendations as set out in the Report.

21. **RESTRUCTURE OF IM&T**

(Report PER173 refers)

Cabinet noted that, at its meeting on 7 June 2010, Personnel Committee had approved its Recommendations as set out in the Report.

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

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet note the cost savings from the new structure in 2010/11 and future years.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 12.00pm

Chairman

Appendix to Cabinet Minutes

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Areas of responsibility</b>	<b>Key Strategies</b>	<b>Key Projects/Programmes</b>
<b>Transformation and Resources</b>	Finance Organisational development Estates IT Revenues & Benefits Democratic Services Legal Services Customer Service Improvement & partnerships Project management Communications	Corporate Transformation plan Budget Financial strategy	Transforming Winchester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexible Resource Management</li> <li>• Collaborative working</li> <li>• Customer Excellence</li> <li>• Business Planning</li> <li>• Organisational culture</li> </ul> Silver Hill All IT projects in IT contract Corporate Accounting
<b>Economic Prosperity</b>	Economic development Culture Historic Environment Tourism	Community strategy Economic prosperity change plan	Leader programme RPLC/Meadowside 2012
<b>High Quality Environment</b>	Sustainability Environmental protection/health Landscape services Waste management Traffic & transport Planning DC & enforcement Building Control Parking	Community strategy LDF High Quality Environment change plan	Depot Services Contract WTAP Climate Change programme
<b>Communities</b>	Landlord Services Strategic housing management Community Safety Community Wellbeing Recreation and Sports Equalities	Community strategy HRA Business plan/budget Safe and strong communities change plan Community safety strategy Housing strategy	HRA Future Equalities CCTV Safeguarding
<b>Winchester &amp; surrounds</b>	LDF & place shaping – Winchester	LDF Housing strategy Vision for Winchester	Barton Farm
<b>Rural areas &amp; Market Towns</b>	LDF & place shaping– Rural areas & market Towns	LDF Housing strategy	West of Waterlooville Whiteley Push SDAs South Downs National Park