

CABINET

16 November 2005

Attendance:

Councillors:

Campbell (Chairman) (P)

Beveridge (P)
Collin (P)
Evans (P)
Hiscock (P)

Knasel
Learney (P)
Wagner (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Beckett, Davies and Mitchell

Mr A Rickman (TACT)

484. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Knasel.

485. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 12 October 2005, less exempt minutes, be approved and adopted.

486. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked/statements made.

487. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader reported on the outcome of a recent meeting of the Central Hampshire and New Forest Local Authorities ("Rest of Hampshire") Group of which she was Chairman. The meeting had discussed how the provision of 16,000 residential dwellings specified by the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) would be distributed over the next 20 years. Provision for 14,000 dwellings was already included within the Councils' Local Plans, leaving a shortfall of 2,000 to be allocated. At the meeting, it was unanimously agreed that the proposed allocation should be 1,000 within Test Valley Borough Council area, 200 within East Hants District Council, 600 within Winchester's District, 100 within the small section of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (included within the "Rest of Hampshire" area), and 100 within New Forest District Council's area. The number of dwelling proposed for Winchester District represented no change from the earlier proposal. This proposal

would now be submitted to the County Council for it to consolidate Hampshire's response to SEERA.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning stated that a public meeting would be held on 2 December 2005 in the Guildhall, Winchester regarding consultation on the new planning framework.

The Portfolio Holder also updated Cabinet on the outcome of the Winchester District Local Plan Committee held 15 November 2005, which had considered the Inspector's recommendations on the final two Chapters of the Local Plan. The Committee had agreed with the Officers' recommendation regarding development frontage. However, the Committee had disagreed with the Inspectors' recommendations regarding the requirement for the four 'Local Reserve Sites' to be released if the supply of housing did not meet the Structure Plan requirements. There would consequently be a further meeting of the Committee to be held on 9 December 2005, prior to consideration of the amended Local Plan at Cabinet on 14 December 2005.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport advised that tenders for both the Guildhall Catering and River Park Leisure Centre Refurbishment Contracts had now been received. Four consultation roadshows would be held on the Sports and Recreation Strategy. In addition, the forthcoming "Making Merry" weekend was being held in support of creative industries within the District and included a Craft Fair at Abbey House on 19 November 2005.

488. **ROLL FORWARD OF CORPORATE STRATEGY AND REVENUE BUDGET 2006/09 (UPDATE)**

(Report CAB1149 refers)

The Leader emphasised that the budget was only in draft form for consultation at this stage, although it was necessary for savings to be identified, in order to meet the shortfall in the revenue budget. The Report would be submitted to the four Scrutiny Panels for their consideration.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Davies stated that he considered the Scrutiny Panels required more detailed information than contained within the above Report, in order to make recommendations on the draft budget proposals. In response, the Leader advised that accompanying reports would be submitted to each Panel emphasising important areas and also outlining the background budget situation. In addition, Members would be asked to refer to the Council's Budget Book and relevant officers and Portfolio Holders would be present at the Panel meetings to answer any questions. One Member suggested that Portfolio Holders should contact the Chairmen of the relevant Scrutiny Panel(s) to ascertain if they required any specific information on the proposed budgets within their Service area prior to the meeting.

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

RESOLVED:

That the proposed changes to the draft Corporate Strategy and Revenue Budget be agreed as a basis for consultation with staff, Members and partner organisations over the autumn, on the understanding that the budget and Corporate Strategy will continue to be developed.

489. **BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC STRATEGY FOR HOUSING SERVICES 2005-2008**

(Report CAB1139 refers)

The Portfolio Holder for Housing congratulated the Communities Directorate Project Co-ordinator (Janette Palmer) on her work in producing the Strategy.

Members noted that the contents of this Strategy would provide a good foundation when the Council produced a Council-wide version in due course.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Strategy for Housing Services be approved.

490. **FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCAL PLAN CONSULTANCY**

(Report CAB1136 refers)

The Portfolio Holder for Planning advised that the two consultative meetings had already been arranged for 17 November 2005. Following the decision of the Winchester District Local Plan Committee on 15 November 2005 regarding the four 'Local Reserve Sites' (as outlined above), the Portfolio Holder had discussed with the Chief Executive whether the consultative meetings could be rearranged, but it had been agreed that the timetable was too restrictive to allow this. It was therefore considered that the consultation should take place and include discussion on the possible mechanism for 'triggering' the Reserve Sites. A final decision on whether these reserves should be identified would be made at a later stage.

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

RESOLVED:

That the virement of up to £20,000 be authorised from the Strategic Planning Division's 'Employees' and 'Transport' budget heads to the 'Supplies and Services (Consultancy)' budget head, to fund the appointment of consultants to produce Local Plan policies and Supplementary Planning Guidance in relation to the replacement of Proposal H.3 and the recommended Local Reserve Sites.

491. **CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – CASE FOR ACTION**

(Report CAB1143 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beckett expressed some concern that the Council's housing stock and commercial properties were not included within the programme, as he considered that there was scope for the Council to take action to reduce carbon emissions in this area. The Chairman noted his comments, but explained that the restrictive timetable set out by the Carbon Trust had resulted in it not being possible for the Council to compile data on these properties in time. However, this did not mean that the Council was not taking action in this area. For example, the Portfolio Holder for Housing explained that a replacement double-glazed window programme had been undertaken and there were future plans to

replace old boilers in some Council flats with more efficient models. It was proposed to include the housing and commercial properties within the Programme at a later stage.

Cabinet noted that the responsibility for carbon management fell to various Council Directorates. It was therefore proposed that one Cabinet Member be nominated to oversee the programme. Members agreed that the Leader be appointed as the new "Sustainability Champion".

The Director of Communities confirmed that awareness training on the Programme would be provided to Members and Council Officers shortly.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Case for Action be approved and it be agreed that the focus for early action will be leisure centres, offices, car parks, the Guildhall, transport and commuting, and therefore these areas be investigated in the next step of the programme.

2. That the strategic objectives in Section 6 of the Case for Action be agreed, and used to guide the next step of the process and feed into the Strategy and Implementation Plan (due at Cabinet on 7 February 2005).

3. That the Leader be appointed as a "Sustainability Champion" with responsibilities to include monitoring the Carbon Action Programme.

492. **EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**
(Report CAB1144 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beckett requested that it be emphasised in any publicity about the new obligations regarding emergency planning, that the City Council retained the duty to provide assistance and services in an emergency situation. The Chief Executive confirmed that this would be done.

The Chief Executive advised that since the Report was prepared, it had been clarified that the proposal was for a base price in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) which would increase by 2.5 per cent per annum from 1 April 2007.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health reported that a template for preparing an Emergency Plan would be distributed to Parish Councils.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Service Level Agreement between Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council for the delivery of the Emergency Planning Service under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 on behalf of the City Council for a three year period be agreed, on the basis set out in the Report and that the Chief Executive be authorised to settle the final terms in

consultation with the Director of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health.

493. **SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE MONITORING: CORPORATE STRATEGY**
(Report CAB1141 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beckett queried whether there was any explanation of the increase in the number of sick day taken by staff, particularly in June (as outlined in Appendix 2). The Chief Executive advised that the figures were sometimes distorted by the long-term sickness of one or two members of staff, but there were no concerns generally about the levels of sickness.

The Leader requested that Portfolio Holders discuss with Directors whether the indicators included within the Corporate Dashboard (Appendix 2 of the Report) should be changed.

With regard to meeting objective 4b) of Appendix 1, the Portfolio Holder for Healthy and Inclusive Communities stated that the “smiley face” for the second quarter was not completely justified because of delays in implementing the second pilot internet access scheme in Whiteley (the other pilot in Alresford was progressing well). The Chief Executive advised that there was a possibility of an alternative site being provided for a mobile access point in Whiteley which would be investigated further.

With regard to objective 10c) on the Customer Service Centre (CSC), the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources explained that telephone response times were below target, partly because of staff sickness and also because staff were attempting to answer questions when the call should have been diverted to another organisation. She stated that further expansion of the CSC had been put on hold until the difficulties had been addressed.

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

RESOLVED:

That the progress against the priorities agreed by the Council be noted.

494. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 18 OCTOBER 2005**
(Report CAB1145 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Rickman (TACT) raised concerns that tenants with special needs sometimes either refused support or were not offered the necessary assistance. He said TACT would raise this issue directly with the Council’s Housing Services Manager. In addition, Mr Rickman stated that Mr Gilbert-Wood was no longer able to be TACT’s representative on the Former Tenants Arrears Informal Scrutiny Group and a new nomination would be made following the next TACT meeting.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing noted Mr Rickman’s concerns regarding supporting tenants, but stated that it was sometimes difficult to help from a housing point of view. However, the City Council were discussing such issues with the County Council as it funded “supporting people”.

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 on 18 October 2005 be received.

495. **MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 19 OCTOBER 2005**
(Report CAB1146 refers)

Cabinet noted the concerns raised by the Scrutiny Panel regarding the staffing situation in the Customer Service Centre and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources comments on this subject are outlined under Report CAB1141 above.

Cabinet agreed to the proposal to establish an Informal Scrutiny Group to review lessons learnt from the Council's implementation of the E-Government programme, with one Member commenting that the Group should focus on priority service transformation and not just performance against the BVPI. In addition, Cabinet welcomed the proposal for a further report to the Panel on the possible need for an Informal Scrutiny Group to consider delivery of the Council's Benefits system.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Panel held 19 October 2005 be received and the recommendations contained therein be agreed.

496. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 20 OCTOBER 2005**
(Report CAB1147 refers)

The Portfolio Holder for Planning requested that the minute regarding the Planning Delivery Grant (PDG) be corrected to indicate that if funding was not available from the PDG, the position would have to be reviewed as part of the Council's wider consideration of the annual budget. Cabinet noted that this correction would be dealt with at the next meeting of the Panel on 29 November 2005.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held on 20 October 2005 be received.

497. **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL HELD 24 OCTOBER 2005**
(Report CAB1148 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held on 24 October 2005 be received.

498. **SMOKE FREE PREMISES – THE HEALTH BILL**
(Report CAB1150 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beckett queried whether the Smokefree Charter, which had been adopted at Council on 13 April 2005, gave sufficient authority for the first bullet point of the Report's recommendations; "that all premises licensed to sell alcohol be included in the smoke-free proposals."

The Chairman agreed that this point be checked after the meeting.
(Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the wording of the original Smokefree Charter agreed at Council on 13 April 2005 was checked and confirmed to include the necessary authority).

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

RESOLVED:

That whilst the broad Government initiative is welcomed, representations be made to the LGA and the MP, to seek improvements in the following areas:

- That all premises licensed to sell alcohol be included in the smoke-free proposals;
- That the training and resources implications for local government stemming from the enforcement of the new legislation be fully recognised by Government;
- That draft regulations are published at the earliest possible date to allow proper and widespread consultation.

499. **SILVER HILL - TIMETABLE**
(Report CAB1140 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Beckett and Mitchell spoke regarding this item. In response to a question from Councillor Beckett, the Director of Development confirmed that the formal submission had now been received from Thornfield Properties (as referred to in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.4 of the Report). The City Secretary and Solicitor advised Councillor Mitchell that all Councillors had been given guidance on the probity issues involved. In summary, the advice was that there needed to be a separation of roles. No Member who was to deal with the subsequent planning application at Planning Development Control Committee should participate in the prior consideration of the application for landowner approval for the detailed content of the proposed scheme.

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

RESOLVED:

That the timetable for meetings to consider the anticipated application for landlord's approval be agreed, confirming an invitation to Thornfield Properties plc to present their scheme to the special meeting of Cabinet on 12 December 2005.

500. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE HEALTH FOR ALL COMMITTEE**

Cabinet noted that the Health for All Committee had indicated that they no longer required an additional representative on the Committee and there was no need for an appointment to be made.

501. **CAPITAL FUNDING FOR MUSEUMS PROJECTS (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)**
(Report CAB1073 refers)

Cabinet noted that this Report would be submitted to Principal Scrutiny Committee on 5 December 2005 for it to consider whether it wished to exercise its powers of call-in, as it involved a supplementary estimate of over £50,000.

Members welcomed the proposal to display artefacts in the glass frontage of the Market Lane public toilets. One Member also requested that the principles of Carbon Management also be considered in the refurbishment of the museum.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed work to the roof of the City Museum, and the proposed scheme for a display of artefacts at Market Lane public toilets as illustrated in Appendix 3, be approved.

2. That, subject to the matter not being called in by Principal Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet authorises a supplementary estimate from the capital programme of:

- (i) £55,000 for new roof coverings and associated works at the City Museum, including professional fees, and
- (ii) £15,000 for the new window display at Market Lane Toilets.

3. That the financial appraisal supporting the re-roofing and associated works at City Museum, as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.

4. That the financial appraisal supporting the display of window display at Market Lane Toilets as set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

502. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Council's Forward Plan for September 2005, be noted.

503. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

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.

Minute Number	Item	Description of Exempt Information
500	Exempt Minutes of the Previous meeting) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). (Para 7 Schedule 12A refers).)) The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services. (Para 8 to Schedule 12A refers).)) Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services. (Para 9 to Schedule 12A refers).)
501	Capital Funding for Museums Projects - Exempt Appendix	
502	Depot Services Contract Six Monthly Monitoring & Performance) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). (Para 7 Schedule 12A refers).

504. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 October 2005 be approved and adopted.

505. **CAPITAL FUNDING FOR MUSEUMS PROJECTS - EXEMPT APPENDIX**
(Report CAB1073 refers)

The Director of Communities responded to questions regarding the suitability of the proposed appointment of the architectural consultant identified in the Exempt Appendix.

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

RESOLVED:

That a direction be made under Contract Procedure Rule 3.3(a) to allow the appointment of the architectural consultant identified in Exempt Appendix 4 on the basis set out therein for the provision of professional services in connection with the contract.

506. **DEPOT SERVICES CONTACT – SIX MONTHLY MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE**
(Report PS196 refers)

Cabinet noted that this Report had been considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 17 October 2005.

One Member suggested that the “Void Properties Returned Late” indicator be amended to include the number of days late and also the loss to the Housing Revenue Account.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the current levels of performance of the Contractor be noted and the performance continue to be closely monitored.
2. That the draft Action/Improvement Plan as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Report be approved.

The meeting commenced at 9.00am and concluded at 10.50am.

Chairman