

CABINET

15 November 2006

Attendance:

Councillor Beckett – *Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy and Tourism* (Chairman) (P)

Councillor Allgood – *Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources* (P)

Councillor Coates – *Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities* (P)

Councillor Hollingbery – *Portfolio Holder for Performance and Communications* (P)

Councillor Pearson – *Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Safety* (P)

Councillor Stallard - *Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport* (P)

Councillor Wood – *Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport* (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Beveridge, Busher, Hiscock, Learney and Rees

Mr A Rickman (TACT)

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11 October 2006, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

3. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements made.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION**

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Wood be appointed as the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation for the remainder of the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

2. That, as Portfolio Holder, Councillor Wood's appointment to the following bodies be confirmed for the remainder of the 2006/07 Municipal Year:

- (i) Hampshire County Council Annual Meeting with Parish and District Councils re: Public Transport Issues
- (ii) National Parking Adjudication Joint Committee
- (iii) Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee
- (iv) Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee – Chairman

3. That, as former Portfolio Holder, Councillor Lipscomb continue as the Council's representative on the following bodies for the remainder of the 2006/07 Municipal Year:

- (i) Forest of Bere and Eversley Joint Members' Working Group
- (ii) South Downs Joint Committee
- (iii) LGA Rural Commission

5. **BUDGET MONITORING AND EFFICIENCY OVERVIEW TO SEPTEMBER 2006**
(Report CAB1356 refers)

Councillor Allgood drew the attention of Members to the Gershon savings outlined in Appendices 4 and 5 of the Report and suggested that monthly monitoring reports be submitted to Cabinet on this information.

The Director of Finance responded to questions regarding these Appendices and, in particular, explained the difference between "cashable" and "non-cashable" savings. She advised that where a monetary figure had not been included, officers had not yet been able to provide estimates of savings, or these savings had not yet been verified. However, she was reasonably confident that the savings included in the Report could be achieved.

The Chief Executive emphasised that the Government had indicated that it was likely to be setting more ambitious efficiency savings targets for Councils to achieve. He welcomed the suggestion that Cabinet receive regular update reports, in addition to the current monitoring already undertaken by Corporate Management Team.

In response to questions, the Director of Development explained the reasons for the overspend in the Development Services budget at this half year point, as outlined in paragraph 8 of the Report.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the half-year financial position of the Council be noted.
- 2. That regular monitoring reports be submitted to Cabinet on the Annual Efficiency Statement and expected efficiency gains.

6. **GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2007/08 - CONSULTATION**
(Report CAB1353 refers)

The Chairman agreed to accept this item onto the agenda, as a matter requiring urgent consideration, in order that the budget proposals could be considered by Cabinet prior to being submitted for wider consultation.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Hiscock welcomed the capital growth bid for provision of additional community facilities at Knowle, but queried whether this differed from the proposal agreed by Cabinet in April 2006.

Cabinet noted that the budget proposals would be submitted to Principal Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels and their comments would be welcomed.

However, Members should be aware that Cabinet would not agree a rise in Council Tax levels above inflation, so any proposed growth bids from these bodies must be supported by an indication of where the corresponding amount of savings would be found.

On behalf of Cabinet, the Chairman thanked the Director of Finance and her team for the amended presentation of the budget figures, which significantly improved the comprehension of the Report.

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

RESOLVED:

That consultations be held on the current budget proposals in the context of the draft Corporate Strategy and the current projection of the Council's financial position.

7. **DISPOSAL OF VACANT DWELLINGS (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)**
(Report CAB1336 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr A Rickman (TACT) and Councillor Busher spoke regarding this item.

Mr Rickman reiterated TACT's comments as outlined in paragraph 9 of the Report.

Councillor Busher expressed concern about the effect on rural communities of selling Council houses in these areas. She emphasised that affordable housing in rural areas was already at a premium and reminded Members that the Planning Development Control Committee attempted to restrict over-development of rural housing, to ensure smaller properties were retained. In addition, the Council's response to the South Downs Joint Committee later on the agenda also stated that rural houses should not be enlarged, in order that they remained affordable.

In response to TACT's comment in paragraph 9.2(a) of the above Report, Councillor Coates stated that a report would be submitted to the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel on sources of funds for building more properties. With regard to the comment in 9.2(c), he emphasised that the Council did currently maintain their housing stock to a good standard.

In response to Councillor Busher, the Director of Communities confirmed that there was a demand for rural Council houses, such as the ones it was proposed to dispose of. However, the cost of bringing the particular homes listed in the Report up to an acceptable standard was prohibitive and capital would be released for investment where demand was greater. In addition, he mentioned that sometimes Council tenants in rural areas felt isolated because of the lack of easy access to facilities.

Following discussion, Cabinet acknowledged the concerns raised by Councillor Busher regarding the loss of affordable homes in rural areas, which would be taken into account, along with the other issues identified in the Report, as the proposed programme of small-scale disposal was developed.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT A SMALL SCALE PROGRAMME OF VACANT DWELLING DISPOSALS BE ESTABLISHED, WITH NO MORE THAN A MAXIMUM OF 10 VACANT PROPERTIES DISPOSED OF IN ANY ONE FINANCIAL YEAR, BEING EITHER:-

(A) VOID PROPERTIES WHERE THE ESTIMATED REPAIR/IMPROVEMENT COSTS EXCEED £8,000 OR

(B) HIGH VALUE PROPERTIES (NORMALLY NON-STANDARD STOCK) WHICH HAVE A HIGH ASSET VALUE COMPARED TO A RELATIVELY LOW INCOME STREAM DUE TO RENT RESTRUCTURING.

2. THAT ALL RECEIPTS GENERATED FROM THE VACANT DWELLING DISPOSALS BE REINVESTED IN THE HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME ELEMENT OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME, WITH 50% OF ALL SUCH RECEIPTS BEING USED TO FUND NEW BUILD PROGRAMMES AND 50% BEING USED TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS TO EXISTING STOCK.

3. THAT THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL STRATEGY, HOUSING STRATEGY AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN ALL BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THIS APPROACH.

4. THAT THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION BE AMENDED TO PERMIT THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES TO AUTHORISE DISPOSALS OF UP TO 10 VACANT DWELLINGS IN ANY FINANCIAL YEAR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED POLICY AND THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STRATEGY.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the approval of the policy set out in the above recommendations, it be approved that 34 Lower Brook St, Winchester, 7 The Goodens, Cheriton and 2 Westwood View, Kilmeston be offered for sale on the open market, in line with the above proposals.

8. **STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: PUBLIC RESPONSE TO THE SUBMISSION DRAFT**
(Report CAB1345 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That all the responses received on the Council's Submission SCI be noted and it be indicated to the Planning Inspectorate that, in order to inform the Inspectorate's examination of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, Cabinet accepts and would support minor changes to the Submission SCI, as set out set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

9. **ESTABLISHMENT OF CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE**

(Report CAB1346 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beveridge spoke in support of the proposals outlined in the Report, but emphasised the necessity to retain a degree of flexibility regarding the involvement of non-Committee Members in discussions, depending on the business of each meeting. He reported that the nominations for Councillors to be invited from the Liberal Democrat Group were himself, together with Councillors Cook and Sutton.

The Chairman agreed with the request that flexibility about procedures of involving other Councillors and interested groups be retained.

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

RESOLVED:

1. (a) That a Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee be established with a membership of four Cabinet Members.

(b) That the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport (Chairman) and Councillors Beckett, Hollingbery and Pearson be appointed as the standing members of the Committee.

(c) That in the event of any of the standing members not being available for a particular meeting, then another member of Cabinet, selected in alphabetical rotation by the City Secretary and Solicitor, may substitute for the standing member.

2. That the standing list of councillors invited to attend and offer views at meetings of the Committee be as follows:

(a) Chairman of the Planning (Development Control) Committee; and named members from the Liberal Democrats (3), Independents (1) and Labour (1) as follows: Councillors Beveridge, Cook, Sutton, Busher and de Peyer.

(b) Ward Councillors, where appropriate.

3. That the terms of reference of the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee be agreed as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the Report.

4. That a report be made to the first meeting of the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee to enable it to determine the procedures to be adopted for its meetings – the report having regard to the practices currently adopted by the West of Waterlooville Forum, as set out in Appendix 1, and the comments outlined above.

10. **THE SOUTH DOWNS MANAGEMENT PLAN - CONSULTATION DRAFT (UPDATED REPORT)**

(Report CAB1355 refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a Member of the South Downs Joint Committee. He remained in the room, spoke and voted.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beveridge queried whether the wording of Recommendation 3 implied a conflict between the two objectives of protecting outstanding landscape and achieving sustainable growth. He suggested the words "to balance" be replaced to emphasise that there was not any such conflict. Councillor Beveridge also suggested that the South Downs Joint Committee be supplied with information held by the Council relating to the recent experience involving the Motorcross event at the Matterley Estate.

Councillor Hollingbery declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a friend of the owner of the Matterley Estate and left the room at this point and took no further part in the debate or decision in respect of this item.

In response to the comments made by Councillor Beveridge, the Director of Development stated that the Council would supply relevant information regarding the Motorcross event to the Joint Committee, if so requested. However, he did not consider that the wording of Recommendation 3 required amendment, as it did not suggest any conflict.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the South Downs Joint Committee be thanked for this opportunity to make comments on its draft South Downs Management Plan, advises the Committee that in general terms the City Council supports the Management Plan's 'vision', key ambitions and policy responses (set out in Appendix A and Appendix B to the previous Report CAB1325) and confirms the Council's willingness to incorporate the relevant principles from the Plan in its emerging Local Development Framework documents.

2. That notwithstanding the above, the Joint Committee be urged to consider making further adjustments to the form and layout of the Plan, in order to achieve a shorter and simpler document which makes greater use of appendices and begins with an executive summary.

3. That the draft Plan's policy response for the protection of this outstanding landscape be broadly endorsed but, nevertheless, suggests adjustments are made to balance this approach with provisions that support the need for sustainable growth and change, to meet the needs of local people and business.

4. That the draft Management Plan's policies for a buoyant local economy be supported, but it be requested that the Plan should make a clearer policy provision for addressing and managing all forms of tourism, and other visits to the South Downs, as part of any integrated marketing strategy.

5. That it be proposed that the issues arising from a lack of affordable housing be given greater prominence in the Management Plan and that further measures be considered to address the problem of affordability, together with those associated economic and social problems which are having an increasingly harmful effect on rural communities in the South Downs.

6. That the Plan should make it clear that, in the event of a National Park being confirmed, the Joint Committee expects planning provision for affordable housing, for both key workers and residents of the Park, to be made within the Park's boundaries.

7. That the Planning Guidelines be supported, as updated and revised, but requests that the Joint Committee reconsiders the issue of applying precise standards (such as in regard to restricting the extension of residential properties in rural areas), as the parameters chosen may not be consistent with those adopted by the various local planning authorities.

11. **AUDIT COMMISSION INSPECTION – SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**
(Report CAB1327 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Rees and Hiscock spoke regarding this item.

Councillor Rees supported the approach outlined in the Report and requested that the Council further examine the links between sustainability and climate change. He made the following specific suggestions:

- Further consideration of developing links with other Councils on this matter, possibly by establishing some type of Forum to allow ideas to be shared;
- Investigation of whether additional support and/or advice was available from external organisations, such as the Local Government Association;
- A briefing for Councillors should be arranged on sustainability and its links with climate change;
- More information supplied on the role of the Local Strategic Partnership regarding sustainable issues.

Councillor Hiscock agreed with the comments made by Councillor Rees and also queried what priority was being given to this area in the current budgetary cycle. For example, in Report CAB1353 considered above, the revenue growth bid for a Biodiversity Officer was considered to be the lowest priority, below a growth bid for an additional Conservation Officer.

In response, the Director of Communities advised that the Council was already taking action regarding biodiversity, which was not dependant upon a growth bid. In addition, events were planned for 2007 to increase both Member and Officer awareness of the issues outlined in the Report.

Councillor Pearson stated that he was recommending that a sub-group of the Council's Senior Management Team be established to consider sustainability issues.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That, in principle, it be agreed that the emerging Community Strategy becomes the Council's Sustainability Strategy once finalised.
2. That progress on the Audit Commission's recommendations be noted and that further reports on the resource implications be brought forward in the current budgetary cycle.

12. **REVIEW OF REVENUE GRANT PROCESSES**

(Report CAB1340 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney requested that the review should also have regard to the funds distributed under the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Scheme. Councillor Stallard confirmed this would be included.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That an Informal Member/Officer Group be established, as detailed in paragraph 2.5 of the Report, to consider presentations from prospective key clients for the period 2007-2010 and make recommendations to Cabinet.
2. That the membership of the Informal Member/Officer Group be as follows:

Councillors: Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport (Chairman), Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, Councillors Evans, Goodall and Pines.
Officers: Two officers to be nominated by the Director of Communities.
3. That the new SLA format outlined in Appendix 3 of the Report be adopted for key clients from 2007/08.
4. That further investigation take place into the possibility of three-year funding agreements for key client organisations, with the findings reported back to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

13. **COMPACT WITH THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR - UPDATE**

(Report CAB1339 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Rees welcomed the Report but regretted the lack of progress made to date. He requested closer scrutiny of the role and work of the Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) and the community/voluntary sector in general, and that an update Report be submitted to Cabinet on the Action Plan as soon as possible.

The Chairman disagreed that little progress had been made and mentioned the proposals for wider consultation outlined in Report CAB1340 and the budget paper above as two specific examples.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Hollingbery be identified as the 'Compact Champion'.

2. That the Compact Action Plan included as Appendix 1 to the Report be approved.

14. **ACCESS AND INFRASTRUCTURE – REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE**
(Report CAB1343 refers)

Cabinet noted that this Report had been withdrawn.

15. **MEMBERS' CHARTER - REVISION**
(Report CAB1337 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Beveridge, Busher and Hiscock spoke regarding this item.

Councillor Beveridge requested that the information to be supplied by the Planning Division should be available electronically wherever possible. In particular, he suggested that information regarding Planning Appeals should be made available on the Council's Website.

Councillor Busher welcomed the Report but mentioned that some aspects did not always work well in practice, for example advance notification of major schemes to be carried out by other service agencies in a Councillor's Ward.

Councillor Hiscock reported the comments made by Councillor Evans who was unable to attend the meeting. She requested that Ward Councillors be informed of correspondence with Parish Councils where the Council was requesting a particular issue to be raised at a Parish Council meeting.

In response, the City Secretary and Solicitor suggested that appropriate wording to reflect Councillor Evans concerns could be included under the General Ward Member Support Section (a) as follows and the word "parishes" be added to the list of bodies in (b):

Revised Wording of General Ward Member Support Section (a): "*Copies of correspondence with parish councils involving changes to services or facilities or requesting that any matter be raised at a parish council meeting.*"

One Member requested that the monthly circulation of planning enforcement lists be added under the Planning Division section. The Director of Development stated that IT difficulties prevented this at the current time, but it could be achieved shortly.

With regard to the proposal that Councillors be notified of any Anti-Social Behaviour Order granted against a resident of that Ward, Cabinet noted that this should be moved from the "Landlord Services Division" to the "Community Development Division" and stipulate that it only related to Orders in the public domain.

With regard to the comments made by Councillor Busher, the Chief Executive acknowledged that practice varied with different service agencies, but the Council would endeavour, particularly through its Access and Infrastructure Division, to improve information provided.

As a general comment, Cabinet agreed that as much information as possible should be supplied electronically to Members rather than in paper form. In addition, it was acknowledged that the Charter could not list every single item of interest to Councillors, but instead Officers needed to have particular regard to the importance of keeping Ward Councillors informed.

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

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE MEMBERS' CHARTER BE APPROVED AS SET OUT IN REPORT CAB1337 AND AS AMENDED ABOVE.

16. **PROPOSED TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2007/08**

(Report CAB1343 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Hiscock reported the comments made by Councillor Evans who was unable to attend the meeting. She requested that if it was agreed to change the usual date of the February 2008 Council, the Planning Development Control Committee scheduled for the same day should also be changed. This was agreed.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the February 2008 Council be scheduled for Thursday 21 February 2008 and the relevant Planning Development Control Committee date be altered to accommodate this.

2. That subject to the above amendment, the Timetable of Meetings for 2007/08 be approved as set out in the Appendix to the Report.

(Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was arranged that the Planning Development Control Committee originally scheduled for Thursday 21 February 2008 be changed to Wednesday 20 February 2008.)

17. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

(Report CAB1335 refers)

With respect to the appointment to the Winchester and District Savers (WADS), the Chairman reported that a nomination had been received from Councillor Johnston and both he and Councillor Clohosey had been involved in the organisation in a private capacity. He suggested that Councillor Worrall attend as an observer.

Regarding the Hampshire County Council Winchester Hampshire Action Team (HAT) – Highways Meeting appointment, nominations had been received from Councillors Beveridge, Busher and Rees. Cabinet agreed that, in addition to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, Councillor Beveridge be appointed.

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

RESOLVED:

That the following appointments to outside bodies be made:

- (a) Winchester and District Savers (WADS)
(for the Municipal Year)
Councillor Worrall (Observer)
- (b) Winchester Hampshire Action Plan (HAT) – Highways Meeting
(for the Municipal Year)
Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport and Councillor Beveridge

18. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE**
(Report CAB1338 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beveridge requested that the minute relating to the proposed increase in residents' parking permit fees be corrected, to indicate that he did support the proposed lower increase of £22, but in doing so recognised that the review of charges would have to be carried out earlier than if the increase was to £24.

Cabinet noted that this correction would be included in the minutes of the Committee as attached as Appendix A of the Cabinet minutes.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee held 27 September 2006 (as attached as Appendix A to the Minutes, amended to take account of above correction) be received.

19. **MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM**
(Report CAB1341 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Rees (Chairman of the Town Forum) drew Cabinet's attention to the concerns raised by some Councillors regarding the proposed funding of the Outdoor Sports Centre at Bar End.

The Chairman reiterated his comments made at the Forum meeting, that a method of financing any other suitable future open spaces projects of a modest nature in the town would be considered. He requested that a report on the operation of this alternative financing be submitted to the next Cabinet and a future Winchester Town Forum meeting. In addition, the Chief Executive suggested that some information on this issue could be supplied to the next Forum meeting on 22 November 2006.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Winchester Town Forum held 12 October 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be noted.

2. That a report be submitted to the next meeting of Cabinet on alternative funding of any modest open space projects in Winchester Town.

20. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report CAB1349 refers)

Members noted that the Panel's comments on the Draft Corporate Strategy and the Draft Community Strategy would be considered in reports on these documents to be submitted to a future Cabinet.

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 17 October 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be noted.

21. **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report CAB1350 refers)

Members noted that the Panel's comments on the Draft Corporate Strategy and the Draft Community Strategy would be considered in reports on these documents to be submitted to a future Cabinet.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held 18 October 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be noted.

22. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report CAB1351 refers)

Members noted that the Panel's comments on the Draft Corporate Strategy and the Draft Community Strategy would be considered in reports on these documents to be submitted to a future Cabinet.

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 23 October 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be noted.

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

(Report CAB1352 refers)

Members noted that the Panel's comments on the Draft Corporate Strategy would be incorporated in a report on this document to be submitted to a future Cabinet.

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 25 October 2006 be received and the recommendations contained therein be noted.

24. **EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

(Report CAB1354 refers)

Members noted that the Panel's comments on the Draft Corporate Strategy and the Draft Community Strategy would be incorporated in reports on these documents to be submitted to a future Cabinet.

With regard to the recommendation that the process for awarding contracts for housing planned maintenance be reviewed, Cabinet noted that a report would be submitted to a future Cabinet on the modernisation of processes of awarding contracts which would take account of this comment.

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

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the extracts from the minutes of Principal Scrutiny Committee held on 16 October 2006 be noted.

25. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the future items for consideration, as set out in the Forward Plan for November 2006, be noted.

26. **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>
##	Disposal of Vacant Dwellings – Exempt Appendix) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)

27. **DISPOSAL OF VACANT DWELLINGS – EXEMPT APPENDIX**
(Report CAB1336 refers)

Cabinet considered the information contained in the exempt appendix detailing the property valuations for the three vacant Council dwellings listed in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the information contained in the exempt appendix be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 12.25pm

Chairman

CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE**27 September 2006**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Lipscomb (Chairman) (P)

Beckett (P)

Hollingbery (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Beveridge and Learney

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Hiscock and Mather

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 19 January 2006 (CAB1326 (TP) refers) be received.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms S Foster (resident of St Peters Street, Winchester) stated that, in summary, there were only seven spaces for Zone M permit holders in St Peters Street. These spaces were heavily oversubscribed as residents from four other zones were entitled to use the spaces, along with any other driver using the payment meters between 8am and 6pm. As a consequence, the spaces were rarely available for St Peters Street residents. This problem was compounded as it was often difficult to park in other Zone M areas, that the timing of the metered spaces made them unsuitable for most residents and that the number of dwellings did not equate to the available spaces even before taking into account visitors' parking.

In response to Ms Foster's comments, the Director of Development agreed to investigate her concerns and correspond accordingly.

Ms M Gardiner spoke regarding residents' car parking at Clifton Terrace (Zone J). In summary, she suggested that the parking spaces at Crowder Terrace should be made available to residents in the evenings, once employees of the businesses that use the spaces had left.

In response to Ms Gardiner's comments, the Director of Development agreed to investigate her concerns and correspond accordingly.

Mr Bradfield spoke on Report CAB1305 (TP). He suggested that the proposed discount for environmentally friendly cars could not be justified, as the raison d'être of the parking permit charges was that they were self financing and were not a means to encourage the use of more environmentally friendly cars. The charge for the permits

should therefore be related solely to the costs of the scheme, regardless of the type of vehicle it was applied to. He also added that, when parked and not in use, the emissions of a vehicle were irrelevant.

The Committee agreed to consider Mr Bradfield's concerns during their consideration of the Report, as set out below.

3. **PROPOSED INCREASE IN RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMIT FEES, WINCHESTER**
(Report CAB1305 (TP) refers)

Councillor Hollingbery declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in this item as the owner of a car, although he did not live in one of the parking zones and benefit from the scheme.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney spoke with regard to this item as one of the Ward Councillors for Littleton and Harestock. She underlined the importance that the scheme should remain self financing, as she considered it unfair if residents outside the parking zones were asked to subsidise a scheme that prohibited them from parking in Winchester. She was therefore concerned that the proposed increase in the charge to £22 from the current charge of £20 (as opposed to the £24 charge that had been recommended by the previous administration) could be insufficient to make the scheme self financing.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beveridge spoke as one of the Ward Members affected by the Scheme. Councillor Beveridge also declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in this item as a residents' parking permit holder. He spoke in support of the principle that the scheme should be self-financing and that the increase should be to the £24 charge. He explained that the greater increase could mean that the scheme would not require reviewing for a longer period. Councillor Beveridge also spoke in support of the discount for environmentally friendly vehicles and suggested that these could be based on engine size, which often equated to smaller cars that were less intrusive to Winchester's narrow streets.

In response to Members' questions, the Director of Development confirmed that the £22 charge had been recommended, rather than the earlier officers' recommendation of £24, because of a re-calculation of the parking budget. As the Report had been written further into the financial year, officers had been able to more accurately estimate the budget in regard to money received from Penalty Charge Notices and renewals of residents' permits, in addition to a reduced expenditure from lower than expected staff costs. It was from this re-calculation, that officers assured Members that it was likely that the £22 charge would self finance the scheme. However, the Director also stated that if the scheme did fall into deficit, Members would be advised to adjust the charge accordingly. It was noted that if the budget returned to the original estimate, the £22 charge was likely to result in a £10,000 deficit over the £24 charge.

During debate, the Committee agreed that the smaller increase to £22 as set out in the Report should be applied. Members acknowledged that although the increased charge was not excessive in comparison with the yearly cost of running a car, the percentage increase of the £24 charge had been of concern to some residents.

The Committee therefore agreed that, since the purpose of the scheme was to be self financing, an increase above that which was predicted to balance the budget could not be justified.

The Committee also discussed in detail the issues raised by Mr Bradfield and noted that, although the scheme was intended to be self-financing, the overarching

Corporate Strategy encouraged sustainability and improving the air quality in Winchester which justified the discounts for environmentally friendly vehicles.

RESOLVED:

1. That the fee for residents' and visitors' first parking permits be increased from £20.00 per annum to £22.00 per annum.
2. That discounts for environmentally friendly vehicles in Vehicle Excise Duty Bands A and B of 75% and 50% respectively be introduced as advertised.
3. That the City Secretary and Solicitor be authorised to make the necessary Order.

The meeting commenced at 2.30pm and concluded at 3.20pm

Chairman