

CABINET

17 May 2007

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 Busher, Evans and Higgins

Mr A Rickman (TACT)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Barratt, Bell, Hiscock and Jackson

1. **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

RESOLVED:

1. That the timetable of meetings for 2007/08 be agreed as set out on the agenda (and as contained in Report CAB1342, 15 November 2006).

2. That Cabinet meetings continue to commence at 10.00am.

2. **MINUTES**

Cabinet noted a correction to Minute 6, "Inclusion Cohesion and Equality Report" (CAB1457) of the 11 April 2007 meeting, where Councillor de Peyer was referring to the effects of educational *deprivation*.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above correction, the minutes of the previous meetings held on 28 March 2007 (less exempt items) and on 11 April 2007, be approved and adopted.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr A Rickman made a statement on behalf of himself and David Cruden as Chairmen of TACT. He stated that TACT's aims continued to be to retain the Council as landlord, remove negative subsidy from the Housing Revenue Account, and build new Council homes. TACT looked forward to working with the Council to achieve these aims.

On behalf of Cabinet, the Chairman thanked TACT for their contributions and welcomed the opportunity to continue to work together in the future.

Mr A Weeks spoke on behalf of the Winchester City Residents' Association on a number of issues concerning the use of Open Space funds for the Bar End Athletics Track, as summarised below. He expressed concern that the funding of this scheme would not leave any Open Space monies available for other projects within the town area. He believed that the University of Winchester would have gone ahead with the scheme without Council funding.

The Chairman corrected a number of the statements made by Mr Weeks, confirming that the University would not have progressed the Bar End Athletics track scheme without Council funding. The decision to proceed with the scheme had been supported by Town Ward Councillors from all parties, when the matter came before the full Council. In addition, Cabinet noted that should other appropriate schemes come forward which required funding, the Council had committed to find monies from alternative sources.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF PORTFOLIOS FOR THE 2007/08 MUNICIPAL YEAR**
(Oral Report)

Cabinet agreed to make the portfolio appointments set out below.

RESOLVED:

That the following arrangements for the allocation of Portfolios be agreed for 2007/08:

Economy & Tourism and Leader – Councillor Beckett
Performance & Communications and Deputy Leader – Councillor Hollingbery
Culture, Heritage & Sport – Councillor Stallard
Environment, Health & Safety – Councillor Pearson
Finance & Resources – Councillor Allgood
Housing & Communities – Councillor Coates
Planning & Transport – Councillor Wood

5. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Wood advised that the Planning Division were moving offices from Avalon House to Colebrook Street. In addition, during May the Division had achieved its targets regarding dealing with planning applications within a specified time and the number of complaints had greatly decreased. Cabinet requested that congratulations on these achievements be passed on to the appropriate staff.

Councillor Stallard reported on the Winchester District Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA), a joint initiative which had been formed as part of the Sport Development Strategy with other organisations, including the University. The Winchester District SPAA Website was now live.

Councillor Beckett advised that he had written to the Post Office expressing concern about the planned closure of the Winchester Central Post Office, and the lack of consultation on the proposals that had been carried out so far.

Councillor Allgood reported that the new Members' Rooms were operational in the Guildhall and thanked the staff involved for their work in achieving this.

6. **SCRUTINY REVIEW – GERSHON EFFICIENCY SAVINGS**
(Report CAB1463 refers)

Cabinet noted that the Report contained a recommendation that the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for performance, also be given the responsibility of driving forwards the efficiency programme. Councillor Allgood advised that each Portfolio Holder had responsibility for overseeing efficiencies in their area of work and he considered this was the best arrangement, with overall responsibility remaining with the entire Cabinet. Councillor Hollingbery agreed and added that his responsibilities included ensuring relevant and timely information was available to Portfolio Holders.

Cabinet therefore decided that Recommendation 1b) of the Report be not agreed. Cabinet also agreed that the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources be included in the consultation in recommendation 1c).

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Higgins expressed concern that the Report contained insufficient detail.

Councillor Beckett advised that additional information was contained in Report PS281 (Scrutiny Review – Gershon Efficiency Savings) which was considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee on 26 March 2007.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Principal Scrutiny Committee be thanked for its valuable work on this important issue.
2. That the recommendation from Principal Scrutiny Committee that responsibility for driving forwards the efficiency programme be given to the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for performance, be not agreed.
3. That the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources, consider the remaining recommendations of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and respond to that Committee no later than its meeting on 19 November 2007.

7. **ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET COMMITTEES AND INFORMAL MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUPS ETC 2007/08**
(Report CAB1459 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Evans queried whether the appointments formally held by the Labour Group would be available to the Liberal Democrats. If this was the case, the following additional nominations were put forward:

- Housing Options Appraisal Steering Group: Councillor Beveridge
- Supported Housing Informal Member/Officer Working Group: Councillor Izard
- Choice Based Lettings Informal Member/Officer Working Group: Councillor Higgins
- West of Waterlooville Forum: Councillor Fitzgerald (deputy)

The Chairman noted these nominations but advised that the vacancies would not necessarily be replaced.

In addition, Cabinet noted that since the Report was prepared, the following additional nominations had been received from the Independent Group and TACT representatives:

- Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee: Councillor Busher
- Housing Options Appraisal Steering Group: Four TACT representatives plus two deputy TACT representatives
- Supported Housing Informal Member/Officer Working Group: Councillor Hammerton
- Choice Based Lettings Informal Member/Officer Working Group: Councillor Hammerton plus two TACT representatives and one deputy TACT representative
- Air Quality Informal Member/Officer Working Group: Councillor Hammerton
- Climate Change Informal Member/Officer Working Group: Councillor Hammerton
- West of Waterlooville Forum: Councillor Chamberlain

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the following appointments be made for the 2007/08 Municipal Year (with terms of reference as set out in the report):

- (i) Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport (Councillor Wood) plus any two other Cabinet Members to be selected by the Corporate Director (Governance) in alphabetical rotation.
- (ii) Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee - Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport (Councillor Wood) plus Councillors Beckett, Hollingbery and Pearson.

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 Corporate Director (Governance) 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; and named members from the Liberal Democrats (3) and Independents (1) as follows: Councillors Beveridge, Cook, Sutton and Busher.
- (b) Ward Councillors, where appropriate.
- (iii) Housing Options Appraisal Steering Group -
Councillors: Coates, Hiscock and Tait
TACT Representatives: Four representatives and two deputies (names to be advised)
Officers: R Botham, G Cole, H Bone, A Garlick/L Alexander and C Broomfield

- (iv) Supported Housing Informal Member/Officer Working Group -
Councillors: Chapman, Coates, Hammerton, Hiscock and Pines.
TACT Representatives: Three representatives (names to be advised)
Officers: R Botham, S Tong, A Crosskey, L Curtis, R Boardman and F Sutherland.
- (v) Choice Based Lettings Informal Member/Officer Working Group -
Councillors: Chapman, Coates, Love and Hammerton
TACT Representatives: Two representatives plus one deputy (names to be advised)
Officers: A Palmer, D Cooper, O Fajuyitan
- (v) Air Quality Informal Member/Officer Working Group –
Councillors: Hammerton, Hiscock, Pearson, Saunders, Wagner and Wright.
Officers: (City Council) R Heathcock, A Jowsey, S Blazdell, P Tidridge, D Massey
(County Council) A Wren, P Fydall, K Travers and P Syddall
- (vi) Climate Change Informal Member/Officer Working Group –
Councillors: Pearson (Chairman), Hammerton, Huxstep and Wagner
Officers: T Kennard, F Tebbutt, C Griffith-Jones, P Tidridge, D Massey, S Opacic
- (vii) West of Waterlooville Forum –
Councillors: Chamberlain, Coates, Collin, Cooper, Hollingbery (Chairman) and Stallard
Deputies: Fitzgerald and Hiscock

8. **LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION – APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES**
(Oral Report)

Cabinet noted that Councillor Hollingbery was unable to attend the Annual Conference.

RESOLVED:

That the Leader of the Council (Councillor Beckett) and the two other Group Leaders (Councillors Busher and Evans) be appointed as the Council's representatives to the 2007 LGA Annual Conference (to be held 3 to 6 July 2007).

9. **ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES**
(Report CAB1460 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Busher queried the arrangements for the Winchester District Joint Consultative Committee (WDJCC) and in particular whether she, as Group Leader, was required to attend. The Chairman responded that this Committee was under review and further information would be supplied to Group Leaders once available.

Councillor Busher also advised that Councillor Goodall wished to be nominated as a representative on the Southampton University Court because of his background as an educationalist and lecturer in Politics, Sociology and Economics.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Evans advised that Councillor Hiscock had put his name forward for the University Court because the Winchester School of Art was situated within his Ward.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the following appointments to external bodies be made for the 2006/07 Municipal Year (deputies in brackets):

- (a) Bishops Waltham Sports Committee – Councillor Huxstep (Chamberlain)
- (b) Carroll Youth Centre – Councillors Tait (Collin)
- (c) Friends of Hyde Abbey Gardens – Councillor Nelmes
- (d) Hampshire & Isle of Wight Association of Local Authorities (HIOWA) – Councillors Beckett and Hollingbery
- (e) Hampshire County Council Annual Meeting with Parish & District Councils regarding public transport issues – Councillor Wood
- (f) Health for All Committee – Councillors Baxter, Collin and Hammerton
- (g) Live Theatre Winchester Trust Limited – Councillor Stallard
- (h) Local Government Association – Councillor Beckett (Hollingbery)
- (i) Local Government Association Rural Commission – Councillor Lipscomb (Hollingbery)
- (j) Local Government Association Urban Commission – Councillor Saunders (Huxstep)
- (k) Meadowside Leisure Centre User Group – Councillors Stallard and Anthony
- (l) National Parking Adjudication Joint Committee – Councillor Wood
- (m) Project Integra Management Board – Councillor Pearson (Coates)
- (n) Project Integra Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Wright (Wagner)
- (o) River Park Leisure Centre User Forum – Councillors Stallard and Stephens
- (p) Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Arts Forum – Councillor Stallard (Wood)
- (q) South East Employers – Councillor Godfrey (Cooper)
- (r) South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) – Councillor Beckett (Hollingbery)
- (s) Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee – Councillor Wood
- (t) South Downs Joint Committee – Councillors Lipscomb and Wood
- (u) Tourism South East – Councillor Evans (Stallard)
- (v) Tower Arts Management Committee – Councillor Tait (Verney)
- (w) Twyford Waterworks – Councillor Wagner (Sutton)
- (x) WCC/Serco Member Liaison Meeting – Councillors Allgood, Busher, Coates, Hollingbery, Pearson and Wagner
- (y) Winchester Allotment Holders' Society – Councillor Berry
- (z) Winchester and District Savers (WADS) – Councillor Johnston (Worrall – Observer)
- (aa) Winchester District Board of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CLRE) – Councillor Cooper
- (bb) Winchester District Joint Consultative Committee – Councillors Beckett and Evans plus Portfolio Holders relevant to the business on the agenda.

- (cc) Winchester Hampshire Action Plan (HAT) – Highways Meeting – Portfolio Holder for Planning & Transport (Wood) and Councillor Beveridge
- (dd) Winchester Housing Trust – Councillor Tait
- (ee) Winchester Inclusive Housing Forum – Councillors Love and Tait
- (ff) Winchester Indoor Sports Association (Lido Sports Club) – Councillor Sutton
- (gg) Winchester Road Safety Council Committee – Councillor Pearson (Verney)

2. That the following appointments to external bodies be made for period stated (deputies in brackets):

- (a) Age Concern (until 31 May 2008) – Councillor Berry (Cooper)
- (b) Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau (until 15 May 2008) – Councillor Busher
- (c) Havant and District Citizens Advice Bureau (until 30 May 2008) – Councillor Stallard
- (d) Relate (until 30 June 2008) – Councillor Saunders
- (e) Southampton University Court (until 31 May 2010) – Councillors Hiscock and Sutton
- (f) Swanmore Community Facilities Management Committee (until May 2008) – Councillor Weston (Pearson)
- (g) Trinity Centre Management Committee (until 30 June 2008) – Councillors Coates, Hiscock and Tait
- (h) Whiteley Community Association (until 30 May 2008) – Councillor Chapman (Anthony)
- (i) Winchester City Centre Management Limited (until 30 June 2008) – Councillor Beckett

10. **LOCAL SCHEME – HOUSING AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT**
(Report CAB1432 refers)

Councillor Coates declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this item as he was in receipt of a war pension and could possibly benefit from the Report's proposals. He withdrew from the room and took no part in the debate or decision.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the adoption of a local scheme, under Section 134 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, to disregard in full War Pension, War Disablement Pension and Guaranteed Income Payments for the purposes of calculating housing benefit entitlement be approved from 17 May 2007.

2. That the adoption of a local scheme, under Sections 139 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, to disregard in full War Pension, War Disablement Pension and Guaranteed Income Payments for the purposes of calculating council tax benefit entitlement be approved from 17 May 2007.

11. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for May 2007, be noted.

12. **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)
##	Review of Environment Team Client Side Staff) Information relating to any individual. (Para 1 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Personnel Committee Minute Extract) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. (Para 2 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Review of Environment Team Client Side Staff) 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)
##	Personnel Committee Minute Extract) 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)

13. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held 28 March 2007, be approved and adopted.

14. **REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT TEAM CLIENT SIDE STAFF**

(Report PER118 refers)

Cabinet considered the above Report regarding the budget implications of the proposed review of the Environment Team Client Side staff (detail in exempt minute).

15. **EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD 17 APRIL 2007**

(Report CAB1464 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the content of the minute extract from the Personnel Committee held 17 April 2007 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.00am.