

CABINET**30 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, Higgins and Learney

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Beveridge and Sutton

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no questions asked or statements made.

2. LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced new arrangements with regard to Councillor representation and public participation at Cabinet, which would be introduced from the next meeting on 20 June 2007. He explained that the changes were proposed in order to improve the focus and efficiency of meetings. Representations from both Councillors and the public would normally only be permitted on agenda items and would be heard at the time the item was discussed, and not at the start of the meeting (as was the current practice for public participation). Public participation would continue to be limited to three minutes per person and there would be no time limit for Councillor participation.

3. FORWARD LOOK ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2007/08

(Report CAB1469 refers)

The Head of Revenues responded to questions regarding the definition of cashable and non-cashable savings. She also advised that although no savings were currently listed under 'Culture and Sport', this section had contributed significant savings in 2006/07 and before. Councillor Stallard added that work was underway within this Division to identify additional efficiencies in 2007/08. In addition, the Chief Executive highlighted that a significant amount of savings made by this and other Divisions were listed under "other cross-cutting efficiencies".

Councillor Allgood advised that Cabinet would monitor progress against the Statement through quarterly reports to both Cabinet and Principal Scrutiny Committee. In addition, he and the Leader and other Portfolio Holders would receive

monthly briefings. He requested that these monitoring arrangements be formally approved by Cabinet. This was agreed.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the content of the Annual Efficiency Statement for 2007/08 be noted.
2. That the monitoring arrangements against progress on the Efficiency Statement, as set out in the Report, be endorsed.

4. **EQUALITY POLICY AND ACTION PLAN AND DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME AND ACTION PLAN**
(Report CAB1468 refers)

The Head of Organisational Development advised that the Plan would be reviewed annually, with a major review undertaken every three years. She confirmed that this work could be undertaken in-house. It was anticipated that the programme of Equality Impact Assessments would be available in September 2007 and, at this stage, more information regarding the likely resource implications would also be known. Cabinet requested that a further Report be submitted outlining the three year estimated costs of the Scheme, in advance of the annual review. This was agreed.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney welcomed the Disability Equality Scheme, but noted that it should have been in place by December 2006. She considered that the Action Plans were not sufficiently focussed on outcomes. In addition, it was important that the Equality Impact Assessments be undertaken before the Council made any significant changes to its services. For example, she stated that the Choice Based Lettings initiative had been shown to disadvantage disabled people. Councillor Learney stated that there was a potential conflict in bringing forward the two Plans outlined in the Report at the same time, as it was lawful to discriminate in favour of disabled people to improve outcomes. Finally, she requested that the Council appoint a Disability Equality Champion.

In response, Councillor Hollingbery advised that the Action Plans did contain measured outcomes and identified both a Member and Officer Champion. The Head of Organisational Development confirmed that positive action would be taken to help individuals to achieve equality of opportunities.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the revised Equality Policy and Action Plan be approved.
2. That the Disability Equality Scheme and the Action Plan be approved.
3. That a further Report be submitted outlining the three year estimated costs of the Scheme, in advance of the annual review.

5. **OFF-STREET CAR PARK CHARGES 2007/08 FURTHER AMENDMENTS**
(Report CAB1462 refers)

Councillor Wood advised that the proposed trial of a 'pay by phone' system would not involve any cost to the Council, as it would be operated by a private company, which would charge the user around 10 to 20 pence per transaction.

In response to questions, the Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that the introduction of a facility allowing payment by credit card would become more relevant as car parking charges increase. The proposed trial of the 'pay by phone' system would give some indication of the likely demand for such a scheme. Cabinet requested that any requirement for additional funding be submitted in time for it to be considered along with other capital programme items for 2008/09.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Higgins welcomed the proposals set out in the Report. However, he queried how the evening use of the Park and Ride site could be sustained if current planning permission only allowed parking until 9.00pm. Regarding parking issues and the Bar End Athletics Track in general, he queried whether the introduction of a pedestrian crossing was being investigated and also whether surveillance of parking in nearby streets would be increased to prevent illegal parking.

Councillor Wood noted the general points which he would consider further at a future date.

The Head of Access and Infrastructure confirmed that there was currently a 9.00pm limit on parking at Park and Ride and the Council would apply for an extension to the planning permission. He commented that the Park and Ride buses finished at 7.15pm.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the suggested minor amendments to off-street car parking charges be approved and the Off-street Parking Places Orders be amended accordingly, by giving public notice of the variation in charges.

2. That the suggested changes to park and ride parking charges and times in relation to Saturday parking and Outdoor Sports Centre users be agreed, and the Off-street Parking Places Orders amended accordingly.

3. That agreement be given to a trial of a 'pay by phone' system for off-street car parks, and that delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Director (Operations), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, to a) amend the Off-Street Parking Places Orders to provide for such payment and b) agree future adoption of the system.

6. **MUSEUMS SERVICE FORWARD PLAN**
(Report CAB1465 refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a Member of Hampshire County Council. He remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

In response to questions, the Head of Cultural Services confirmed that the Plan assumed a degree of flexibility regarding resources and would be subject to annual review in line with the Council's budgets. She acknowledged that the target of achieving £20,000 increased income from external sources could have been set higher. However, as this was the first year of the project, she believed it was better for the staff involved if an achievable target was set.

Cabinet agreed that an additional recommendation be added that the Portfolio Holder and Head of Cultural Services give further consideration to the development of a plan for attracting different sources of external funds.

The Head of Cultural Services confirmed that the University of Winchester had been approached regarding contributing funding and had provided some capital funding for divisional projects in the past. Other plans for increasing resources included establishing an 'arms length' trust which would be eligible for grants for which the Council itself does not qualify.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Evans clarified that as Shadow Portfolio Holder, she had only been invited to and therefore only attended, two meetings of the Informal Scrutiny Group. She also requested that she be kept informed on matters relating to her Shadow Portfolio and queried the future plans for the Guildhall Gallery.

In response, Councillor Stallard confirmed that Councillor Evans would be kept informed of developments, as far as appropriate. The Head of Cultural Services advised that there were informal plans regarding the future use of the Guildhall Gallery space, but these would not be formalised until proposals for the relocation of Hyde Historic Resources Centre were finalised.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Busher queried why Bishops Waltham Museum had not been mentioned in the Plan. She also queried whether the Museum could host a smaller exhibition from the Winchester collections.

Councillor Stallard and the Head of Cultural Services noted these requests.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Winchester Museums Service Forward Plan 2007-2010 be adopted with immediate effect.
2. That the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport and the Head of Cultural Services give further consideration to the development of a plan for raising external funding.

7. **PROPOSED NON-HOUSING PROPERTY CONDITION SURVEY (LESS EXEMPT APPENDICES)**
(Report CAB1458 refers)

Councillor Pearson expressed concern that the survey did not include the requirement to carry out an energy efficiency survey. The Head of Contracts and Property Services advised that the survey proposed in the Report would highlight any weaknesses where further work on energy efficiency would be required. The Chief Executive added that the Head of Estates was currently undertaking a separate

monitoring study of energy efficiency in Council properties. It was agreed that the relevant officers ensure these two aspects of work be linked together.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the proposed Condition Survey and associated Consultancy Procurement process be approved.

2. That the Head of Estates and the Head of Contracts and Property Services be asked to ensure that the work undertaken on the property condition survey and the monitoring study of energy efficiency is coordinated.

8. **LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) – USING MATERIAL RESOURCES MORE EFFICIENTLY**

(Report CAB1461 refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as he was a Member of Hampshire County Council. He remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Cabinet expressed concern that it was being requested to sign up to the LAA without a clear indication of the likely resources required to meet its aims.

The Chief Executive noted this concern and suggested it might be appropriate to highlight this for the future. However, Cabinet could agree to adopt the LAA within existing resources and subject to consideration of any budget implications. Cabinet agreed to this approach.

The Corporate Director (Policy) commented that the Council already undertook many of the aims outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the Report. In addition, some aims such as increasing recycling on Council owned sites would reduce costs.

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

RESOLVED:

That, within existing resources and subject to future consideration of any additional resources required:

1. The Local Area Agreement – Using Material Resources More Efficiently, as set out Appendix 1 of this report be endorsed and the Corporate Director (Policy) be authorised to sign up to the Agreement.

2. Specific actions be developed in divisional business plans to ensure delivery of the key aims in the corporate approach to material resources across Hampshire and that any budget implications are considered as part of the annual budget process.

3. Relevant outputs and outcomes are measured and reported back to the LAA lead on Priority G aims on an agreed frequency.

9. **SCRUTINY REVIEW – E-GOVERNMENT**
(Report CAB1466 refers)

In response to questions, the Corporate Director (Governance) advised that the Report's Appendix contained the recommendations of the Resources Scrutiny Panel following its consideration of the Informal Scrutiny Group's Report (as set out in RE44, 20 March 2007).

The Chairman expressed Cabinet's thanks to the Chairman of the Informal Scrutiny Group, former Councillor Macmillan for his work in producing the Review.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Resources Scrutiny Panel be thanked for its valuable work on this important issue.

2. That the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for overseeing the Council's E-Government work, in consultation with the Corporate Director (Governance), considers the recommendations of the Resources Scrutiny Panel and responds to Cabinet and that Panel no later than its meeting on 29 October 2007.

10. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
(Report CAB1471 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Pearson be appointed as the Council's representative on the Southampton International Airport Consultative Committee (until 30 June 2009)

11. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the future items for consideration, as set out in the Forward Plan for June 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>
##	Non Housing Property Conditions Survey – Exempt Appendices) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)

13. **PROPOSED NON-HOUSING PROPERTY CONDITION SURVEY - EXEMPT APPENDICES**
(Report CAB1458 refers)

Cabinet considered the exempt appendices to the above Report which contained details of the consultants proposed to undertake the property condition survey (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 12.05pm