

WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

At an Ordinary Meeting of the Council held in the Guildhall, Winchester on 29 September 2010.

Attendance:

Councillor Izard (The Mayor in the Chair) (P)

Councillors:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Achwal (P) | Learney (P) |
| Anthony (P) | Lipscomb (P) |
| Banister (P) | Love |
| Baxter | Mason (P) |
| Beckett (P) | Mather (P) |
| Bell (P) | Maynard (P) |
| Berry (P) | McLean (P) |
| Chamberlain (P) | Mitchell (P) |
| Clear (P) | Nelmes (P) |
| Coates (P) | Pearce (P) |
| Collin (P) | Pearson (P) |
| Cook (P) | Phillips (P) |
| Cooper (P) | Power (P) |
| Evans (P) | Prowse (P) |
| Fall | Read (P) |
| Gemmell (P) | Ruffell (P) |
| Godfrey (P) | Rutter (P) |
| Hammerton (P) | Sanders (P) |
| Henry (P) | Spender |
| Hicks (P) | Stallard (P) |
| Higgins (P) | Tait (P) |
| Hiscock (P) | Thompson (P) |
| Humby (P) | Thynne (P) |
| Huxstep (P) | Verney (P) |
| Jackson (P) | Weston (P) |
| Jefferies (P) | Witt (P) |
| Johnston | Wood (P) |
| | Wright (P) |

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 21 July 2010 be approved and adopted.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor awarded a Certificate of Service to former Councillor Karen Barratt, in recognition of her work as a Member for St Paul's Ward since 2007.

The Mayor announced that the Council was to receive an Employer's Award from the County Council in recognition of its support to School Governors in City Council employment.

The Mayor then referred to the annual Mayor's cricket match that had been held recently and also reminded Members of the forthcoming Mayor's Ball event for which tickets were now on sale.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE LEADER**

The Leader reported on the significant progress to date on the refurbishment of the Guildhall. The building had been successfully kept open during this time and the number of advanced bookings being made was already extremely positive. On behalf of the Council, she offered congratulations to officers of the Estates Division, Gentles Consultants and construction managers, and to Mr Martyn Wiltshire of Chaplin Farrant Wiltshire Architects.

The Leader also reported on the 'Blueprint –Community Architect' consultation exercise that was soon to be launched. She encouraged Councillors to assist in arranging public events as part of the process in the communities that they represent.

4. **QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14**

1. Potential to Withdraw from the Silver Hill Agreement

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney (as Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources), answered a question from Councillor Wood.

2. The Council's Affordable Housing Targets

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Thompson, answered a question from Councillor Tait.

3. Energy Efficiency of Council Owned, Publicly Accessed Buildings

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney (as Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources), answered a question from Councillor Stallard.

4. The New Guildhall Café

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity, Councillor Hiscock, answered a question from Councillor Nelmes.

5. Staff Redundancies

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney (as Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources), answered a question from Councillor Beckett.

6. Kitchen Waste Collection

The Portfolio Holder for High Quality Environment, Councillor Bell, answered a question from Councillor Pearson.

7. Response from Tenants Groups to Consultation on Estate Improvements

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Thompson, answered a question from Councillor Prowse.

8. Number of Staff Leaving the Council since 1 April 2010

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney (as Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources), answered a question from Councillor Godfrey.

9. Cleaning and Maintenance Costs of the Public Conveniences

The Portfolio Holder for High Quality Environment, Councillor Bell, answered a question from Councillor Mather.

10. Status of Hammonds Passage, Winchester

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity, Councillor Hiscock, answered a question from Councillor Tait.

11. Licensing Act 2003 Objective

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney (as Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources), answered a question from Councillor Pearson.

12. Olympic Action Plan

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Thompson, answered a question from Councillor Stallard.

13. Scrutiny Arrangements

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney (as Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources), answered a question from Councillor Beckett.

14. Parking Restriction Order for St Georges Street, Winchester

The Portfolio Holder for High Quality Environment, Councillor Bell, answered a question from Councillor Wood.

15. Black Swan Buildings, Winchester

The Portfolio Holder for Winchester and the Surrounds, Councillor Collin, answered a question from Councillor Tait.

16. Energy Manager Post

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney (as Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Resources), answered a question from Councillor Pearson.

17. Hampshire Home Choice

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Thompson, answered a question from Councillor Wood.

18. Meeting Attendance

The Portfolio Holder for Rural Areas and Market Towns, Councillor Evans, answered a question from Councillor Pearson.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

Cabinet – 15 September 2010

Principal Scrutiny Committee – 20 September 2010

General Fund Revenue Budget – Revised Estimate 2010/11

It was noted that Report CL66 had been circulated after the statutory deadline. The Mayor agreed to accept the Report onto the agenda, because of the urgent need for the Council to determine the matters set out therein.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney, moved that Recommended Minute 286 be approved and adopted, subject to the following amendment to the revised estimate, as set out below in italics.

THAT THE REVISED ESTIMATE FOR 2010/11 BE APPROVED *subject to the redundancy provision being increased from £100,000 to £200,000, to be funded by a release from the Major Investment Reserve (MIR).*

The amendment was seconded by Councillor Evans.

Amended Motion carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 286, as amended, be approved and adopted.
2. That the Recommended Minute of Principal Scrutiny Committee on the same matter attached to Report CL66 be noted.

Cabinet – 15 September 2010

Principal Scrutiny Committee – 20 September 2010

Housing Revenue Account

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Councillor Thompson, moved that Recommended Minute 287 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 287 be approved and adopted.
2. That the Recommended Minute of Principal Scrutiny Committee on the same matter attached to Report CL66 be noted.

6. **NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BECKETT UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9**

The Mayor informed Council that there was one Notice of Motion, to be moved by Councillor Beckett and seconded by Councillor Cooper, as follows:-

“Following the Government decision to abolish regional planning targets, this Council agrees to urgently review the requirement to make provision for Major Development Areas and associated reserve sites”.

Councillor Beckett advised that the Motion specifically related to the publication, in May 2010, of the Council’s preferred options for new housing development areas in the District. This was in response to the Local Development Framework process and the then Government’s South East Regional Plan. However, soon after, the coalition Government had announced the abolition of regional planning targets. Therefore, it was no longer clear to residents what the Council’s policy was with regard to this

matter and he requested that there should be urgent clarification of the Council's position on housing numbers. Councillor Beckett reported that some neighbouring Councils had already confirmed that they would no longer support the housing numbers proposed for their areas within their policies agreed prior to the Government's announcement.

The Mayor invited Members to comment on the matters raised in the Motion before it was referred to Cabinet for further consideration.

During debate, a number of queries and general comments were raised, as summarised as follows:

- a) The Local Development Framework process had previously collated evidence from a number of sources that would assist in the generation of viable communities for the future. Some residents (e.g. Whiteley) had acknowledged that there was likely to be a future need for some new development in their areas. The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) had studied the overall economy of the area (in particular, the M27 corridor), which had also informed this process.
- b) The Council's 'Blueprint' – community consultation exercise (which was soon to be launched) was a response to the Government's intention for planning rules to be more influenced by local views. This was likely to report back in the new year with proposals based on evidence of need. This was then likely to influence the Council's new planning policy for the District.
- c) As there was much apparent concern amongst residents (particularly those of the southern parishes) as to whether proposed new housing numbers would still remain, the Council should urgently indicate that there were no presumptions that it would support the numbers of new houses that had been originally proposed. This would remove any doubt, and any mixed messages that may have been given to residents and to developers.
- d) Concern about capacity of the infrastructure to cope with housing numbers that had been proposed in the PUSH area.
- e) The Council's position that housing development in the Fareham SDA should not cross into the Winchester City Council area should be reaffirmed.
- f) Reserve sites, particularly those in and around Winchester Town, had previously seemingly only been justified by meeting objectives of the South East Plan. However, especially around Winchester, there was a demonstrable need for new affordable housing. Would consideration be limited to existing Reserve sites?

g) Urgent clarification was required with regard to the status of the West of Waterlooville MDA reserve site and whether or not this would be 'triggered' for development.

h) What was the position of the Hedge End SDA now that it was opposed by Eastleigh Borough Council.

i) Promotion of the Council's 'Blueprint – Community Architect' should be included on the front page of the Council's website.

Following the discussion, Councillor Learney gave her support for a detailed Report on the matter to be produced for a future meeting of Cabinet

RESOLVED:

That the Notice of Motion be forwarded to a future meeting of Cabinet for further consideration.

7. **APPOINTMENTS TO BODIES SET UP BY THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Johnston replace former Councillor Barratt on the Standards Committee.

2. That Councillor Mitchell replace former Councillor Barratt on the Planning Development Control Committee and Councillor Clear replace Councillor Mitchell as deputy Member.

8. **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 item 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> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ### | 75 Hyde Street, Winchester | Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Para 3 to Schedule 12A refers). |

9. **CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDED MINUTES**

Cabinet – 15 September 2010

Principal Scrutiny Committee – 20 September 2010

75 Hyde Street, Winchester

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Learney, moved that Recommended Minute 307 be approved and adopted.

RESOLVED:

1. That Recommended Minute 307 be approved and adopted.
2. That the Recommended Minute of Principal Scrutiny Committee on the same matter attached to Report CL66 be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 9.55pm

The Mayor