

## **WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM**

**6 October 2010**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Maynard (Chairman) (P)

Berry (P)

Collin (P)

Fall

Hicks (P)

Higgins (P)

Hiscock (P)

Love

Mather (P)

Mitchell (P)

Nelmes (P)

Pearce (P)

Prowse (P)

Sanders (P)

Tait (P)

Thompson (P)

Witt (P)

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### 1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 June 2010, be approved and adopted.

### 2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No comments were received or comments made.

### 3. **WINCHESTER BID: COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION** [\(Oral Report\)](#)

The Head of Economy and Arts gave a presentation which set out details of the Winchester Business Improvement District (BID) and the preparations to continue its successes beyond the lifetime of the current BID, which was due to conclude in 2012. She explained that there would be consultation on new BID during 2011/12.

The Forum noted that feedback from the business community regarding the BID had generally been very positive.

The Forum also discussed the excellent work of the BID Manager, Keith Wilson, and noted that any suggestions regarding the BID could be directed to the BID team based at Winchester Business Centre, such as Christmas Lights in Jewry Street and the refurbishment of St Maurice's Covert.

During debate, the Forum considered how the Council and the BID could promote local artists (through the use of empty shops etc) and noted that this issue had been considered by the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel's Culture and Economy Informal Scrutiny Group (Report LE78 refers).

Members considered the public profile of the BID and noted that its logo was used in various publications and on the uniforms of PCSOs that were sponsored by the BID.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

4. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011/12 – 2014/15**  
[\(Report WTF147 refers\)](#)

The Head of Finance introduced the Report and the Forum noted that its next meeting would consider budget options for 2011/12. He requested that Members forward to him prior to the Report's publication, any suggestions for the 2011/12 budget.

The Chairman reported that the Town Account Informal Group had met to consider the Financial Strategy and that it would report its conclusions to the next meeting, to aide the debate on the budget options.

In response to a Member's question, the Forum noted that the new administration had agreed that the Town Account would continue to contribute towards the provision of public conveniences for this financial year. At this stage, no decision had been made whether this arrangement would continue into the 2011/12 budget.

The Forum also discussed the declining cost of support to the Town Forum and, in response to concerns, the Chairman explained that the lower costs had not prevented, and would not prevent, the Forum from holding any public meetings that wanted to organise.

Members also noted that the Coalition Government were likely to prevent Local Authorities from increasing their Council Taxes.

In response to a Member's suggestion, the Corporate Director (Operations) explained that any consultation with the public on possible cuts to the budget would have to ensure that it represented the views of the whole community and not just a series of single interest groups. In addition, the Council would have to be confident that it could deliver on the results of any consultation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Town Forum approves the Winchester Town Account Financial Strategy for 2011/12 – 2014/15.

2. That the 2009/10 outturn on the Winchester Town Account be noted.

5. **BLUEPRINT CONSULTATION**  
(Oral Report)

This Report had not been notified for inclusion within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept this item onto the agenda, as an item requiring urgent consideration, in order that the Forum could participate fully in the forthcoming consultation.

Councillor Collin (as Portfolio Holder for Winchester and Surrounds) explained that, at its meeting held 6 October 2010, the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee had agreed the Blueprint consultation process, as set out in Report CAB2060. The Blueprint had also been considered by meetings of the Review of the Vision for Winchester Informal Group

Ward Members were requested to encourage their local communities to engage in the process as widely as possible and inform Councillor Collin and the Corporate Director (Operations) as to whom they had consulted. Details of whom the Council had consulted were available from the Corporate Director. Information about the Blueprint could be downloaded from [www.community-blueprint.co.uk](http://www.community-blueprint.co.uk) and paper copies were available on request. Groups that required officer assistance or advice from Councillor Collin were welcome to contact the Council, although it may not be possible to satisfy all requests due to limited resources.

The Corporate Director added that it was likely that the Forum would be asked to host a public event to promote the Blueprint process, although at this stage no details had been set.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.15pm

Chairman