

**CABINET**

**16 July 2003**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Campbell (Chairman)  
Evans (Vice Chairman in the Chair) (P)

Beveridge  
Cook (P)  
Hiscock (P)

Learney (P)  
Nelmes (P)  
Wagner (P)

Others in Attendance and Speaking  
Councillors Mitchell and Pearson

Others in Attendance and not Speaking  
Councillor Davies  
Mr A Rickman (TACT Representative)

---

246. **MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 13 AUGUST 2003**

RESOLVED:

That unless items of urgent business arise, the meeting of Cabinet scheduled for the 13 August 2003 be cancelled.

247. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

248. **MINUTES**

Arising out of consideration of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 June 2003, it was commented by the Chairman that Project Integra were not considering options for the separate collection of garden waste only as mentioned in the second paragraph of Minute 138 – Project Integra Annual Business Plan 2003/2004. Therefore a report on this topic would not be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2003 (less exempt business) be approved and adopted.

249. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT**  
(Report CAB675 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That Treasury Management Practices TMP1-12 be approved.

250. **CAPITAL OUTTURN 2002/2003**  
(Report CAB662 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the carry forward of capital funds totalling £1.316m from 2002/03 to 2003/04, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.7, be approved.

251. **OVERVIEW AND FINAL ACCOUNTS 2002/2003**  
(Report CAB663 refers)

The Portfolio Holders presented the final accounts for their areas of responsibility.

Points highlighted were the backdated rate rebate at the River Park Leisure Centre (£0.5m) and a better than expected return on investments (by £0.1m over the expected £1.4m). The Council had also been successful in achieving managed savings in its operation.

It was observed that the rate rebate was a one off receipt and that interest rates had now fallen further, which would affect future investment income.

With the exclusion of the backdated rate rebate and the better than expected return on investments, the net effect was a variance of approximately £0.6m on a total expenditure of approximately £19m, which was considered to be very good.

Cabinet also agreed the managed savings – requests for carry forward from 2002/2003 as set out at Appendix 6 of the report. Any small variations to this list, including those identified by the Housing Performance Committee at its meeting held on 10 July 2003, could be dealt with by virement, if the need arose.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.7, the amounts of £441,060 on General Fund and £58,450 on Housing Revenue Account be approved to be carried forward into 2003/04 as a one-off contribution from the 2002/03 budget for the purposes specified in Appendix 6.

2. That the determinations as set out in Appendix 7 be made.

252. **FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2004/2005 TO 2008/2009**  
(Report CAB676 refers)

The Director of Development Services explained that the £50,000 identified within the report for project management of the Friarsgate Project was sufficient for the employment of external persons to supplement the skills of the in house staff, particularly those of the Chief Estates Officer and the City Secretary and Solicitor's Departments. This source would also be used to employ design skills in order that

the scheme's design and quality were of a sufficiently high standard as expected in Winchester. This budget was additional to the services which were rechargeable to the development as part of the negotiations on the proposed Development Agreement.

The Chief Executive also explained that the Financial Strategy was for nil growth, but within this there would be a review of priorities as a result of the outcomes of the Community Strategy.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the following key principles be applied to the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account revenue budgets:

- a) A balanced revenue budget (within a margin of £0.5m)
- b) Nil net base budget growth
- c) Inflation allowance for salaries and third party contracts only
- d) Prudent approach to income estimates
- e) A net overall underspend at year end
- f) A presumption in favour of revenue over capital income

2. That Corporate Management Team assesses proposals for additional expenditure in consultation with the Portfolio Holders and in the context of the Corporate Strategy and that further reports be made to Performance Improvement Committees in the November cycle.

253. **CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

(Report CAB682 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Content Management Procurement Project as outlined in this report be endorsed.

2. That the procurement process (including the proposed evaluation criteria of 60% quality: 40% price) be approved.

3. That £50,000 be approved from the ICT reserve, subject to Principal Scrutiny Committee considering the matter under its powers of call in.

254. **RELEASE OF OPEN SPACE FUNDS FOR SHEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

(Report CAB688 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That £23,000 be released from the Open Space Fund to Shedfield Parish Council for the provision of a play area.

255. **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE SYSTEM REVIEW**  
(Report CAB 686 refers)

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economy and Development reported that at the meeting of the Environment and Access Performance Improvement Committee held on 8 July 2003, he had had been requested to extend his area of investigation to consider how best to proceed with Planning Sub Committees' site visits and the effective involvement of the public in the planning process. A cross party Informal Member Officer Working Group to report to Cabinet on 1 October 2003 would now carry this out.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That an Informal Member/Officer Working Group be established to review the current single centralised Planning Development Control Committee, comparing its performance and cost effectiveness with alternative methods of operation in some other local authorities and also to how best to proceed with Planning Sub Committees' site visits and the involvement of the public in the planning process.

2. That Councillors Bailey, Baxter, Busher, Cook and Davies together with representatives of the Director of Development Services and the City Secretary and Solicitor be appointed to serve thereon.

256. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Cabinet noted that the meeting on the 30 July 2003 would also consider a report on community facilities at Swanmore College of Technology.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons of the efficient forward planning of its work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items for consideration by Cabinet, set out on the agenda sheet and as amended above, be noted.

257. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

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>
261	Athelstan House, Winchester	) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). (Para 7 Schedule 12A refers).
259	Durngate House, Winchester	)
258	Barfield Close Scrapyard Lease, Winchester	) Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services. (Para 9 to Schedule 12A refers).
260 & 263	IT Infrastructure Review	)
260 & 263	IT Infrastructure Review	) The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services. (Para 8 to Schedule 12A refers).
259	Durngate House, Winchester	) Information relating to any particular applicant for, or recipient or former recipient of, any financial assistance provided by the authority. (Para 5 to Schedule 12A refers).

258. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2003 (EXEMPT MINUTE)**

Cabinet considered an exempt Minute relating to Barfield Close Scrapyard Lease, Winchester.

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minute of the meeting held on 30 June 2003 be approved and adopted.

259. **DURNGATE HOUSE - RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

(Report CAB689 refers)

Consideration of this item was deferred to a future meeting as a number of issues had arisen that required further clarification by the Director of Community Services.

260. **ICT TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**  
(Report CAB683 refers)

Cabinet considered a report that identified areas where the Council's consultants had suggested expenditure to improve the Council's ICT Infrastructure (Details in the Exempt Minute).

261. **ATHELSTAN HOUSE, ST CLEMENT STREET, WINCHESTER**  
(Report CAB687 refers)

Under the Council Constitution Access to Information Procedure Rules (Rule 15.1 – General Exception), this was a key decision which has not been included in the Forward Plan. Under this procedure the Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee had been informed.

Councillor Mitchell enquired whether the approach proposed in the report compromised the Council's ability to market the whole building and perhaps therefore obtain a greater income to the Council. In reply, the Chief Executive explained that there was a pressing need to resolve accommodation issues for the Council staff, and that a report on possible long term solutions would be brought to a future meeting of Cabinet. There was also a shortage of office accommodation for business's requiring a smaller floor space and it was therefore anticipated that the approach as set out in the report would not compromise the Council's ability to let the balance of the office space once its own needs had been met.

RESOLVED:

1. That, subject to the matter not being called in by Principal Scrutiny Committee, the Council retains up to two floors of the building for its own use subject to the revenue impact being considered as part of the forthcoming budget process.

2. That the Chief Estates Officer be authorised to agree to the letting terms of surplus accommodation in Athelstan House at open market rentals subject to consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources.

262. **MR STEVEN BEE – DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

This would be the last meeting of Cabinet to be attended by Mr Bee before he commenced his new employment with English Heritage as their Head of Planning. Cabinet wished him well for the future and thanked him for his work during his 5 years with the City Council. Mr Bee thanked the Members for their support in his time at Winchester.

The meeting commenced at 9.00am and concluded at 10.20am