

**CABINET**

**3 September 2003**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Campbell (Chairman) (P)

Beveridge (P)  
Cook (P)  
Evans (P)  
Hiscock (P)

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

Others in attendance and speaking:

Councillors Davies, Lipscomb and Pearson

Others in attendance and not speaking:

Councillors Mitchell and Read

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365. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader advised that the Council would be holding a seminar on GM crops on Wednesday 24 September at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Winchester Guildhall. Various interested parties had been invited to the event, including parish councils and City Councillors.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economy and Development informed Members that seminars on the subject of PPG3 would be held on Thursday 2 October in the Winchester Guildhall and on Thursday 9 October in the D-Day Memorial Hall, Southwick. Parishes and other interested organisations would be invited.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Access stated that the Concessionary Travel Informal Group would be considering the use of travel tokens, and in particular whether the current £7 charge should be waived for some age groups of those entitled.

366. **MINUTES**

Under Council Procedure Rule 35, the Chairman stated that Councillor Davies had requested to speak under this item. Councillor Davies referred to the minute concerning Supported Housing in Highcliffe. He noted that the draft version of the John Thompson Partners (JTP) report had been issued to Councillors for comment with a note that it was confidential at this stage. However, he believed that it was important to consult the community before commenting.

In response, the Director of Health and Housing advised that the comments from the local community had been taken into account in preparing the JTP report and at this stage, the Council were concerned with approving the draft report before wider circulation. Once it had been agreed by Corporate Management Team and Cabinet it would be issued to those concerned, including the local community for further comment. At this stage, the Working Groups referred to in the minute would be established to consider this matter further.

Councillor Davies also queried whether there had been any developments on the possible Cultural/Discovery Centre in Sussex Street, Winchester. The Chairman advised that no formal consultation had been received from the County Council, although a meeting was planned for later in September.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held 30 July 2003 be approved and adopted.

**367. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr R Atkins (New Alresford Town Councillor) raised the issue of the oil discovered on the Matterley Estate. He stated that he hoped the Council would consider the positive effects the discovery could have on the local economy and suggested it could be the subject of a future seminar. The Chairman noted his comments.

Mr Atkins also queried what procedure would be followed with regard to the complaint about a recent planning decision at 29/31 Broad Street, New Alresford. The Chief Executive indicated that a written response would be given to Mr Atkin's letter.

Finally, Mr Atkins spoke about the local Member of Parliament's campaign regarding changes to the Planning Protocol for Members at a national level. The Chairman noted his comments but advised that the Council would adhere to its own Planning Protocol, pending any change at national level.

**368. AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT WITHIN WINCHESTER TOWN CENTRE  
(Report CAB707 refers)**

Under Council Procedure Rule 35, the Chairman stated that Councillors Lipscomb and Pearson had requested to speak under this item.

Councillor Pearson distributed a number of detailed questions on the above report. His main concern related to the way the report appeared to focus on pollution arising from traffic when there were other sources, such as central heating systems.

Councillor Lipscomb emphasised that the proposed consultation should be as wide as possible. He also queried whether pollution from diesel trains had been excluded.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their contributions and requested that the detailed points referred to in Councillor Pearson's written statement be answered by the appropriate officer outside of the meeting.

The Director of Health and Housing advised that the work leading up to the proposal to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for the Winchester Town area

had concluded that two pollutants required further attention, as detailed in the report. These pollutants were known to be caused particularly by vehicle emissions. In response to questions, the Director of Health and Housing advised that if an AQMA was declared it would offer a range of powers to both the City and County Councils. It was likely the primary focus would be on traffic management issues, although options such as road side emission testing could also be adopted.

A number of Members commented that it was important to ensure traffic flowed freely throughout the City Centre and mentioned the difficulties caused by parked goods vehicles. However it was noted that the new extension to the Park and Ride at Bar End should help to ease the amount of traffic in the City Centre during peak times.

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Access advised that a Winchester Town Forum public meeting had been arranged for 17 November to discuss parking issues. He suggested that the remit of the meeting be widened to include a wider range of traffic issues, including the AQMA.

The possibility of improving the information on air quality available to the public was also raised, with the suggestion that data could perhaps be available via the Council's website.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the City Secretary and Solicitor be authorised to make an order for the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for the Winchester Town area using the boundaries marked on the map titled "Proposed air quality management area - Winchester town centre" attached to this report.
2. That an Informal Member/ Officer Working Group be established to develop the air quality action plan in accordance with current guidance issued by DEFRA and the proposed membership be reported to a future meeting.
3. That the possible need for a supplementary estimate for the Stage 4 Air Quality Assessment if these costs cannot be absorbed within existing 2003/04 budgets be noted.
4. That the anticipated costs for the following financial year, which will be included in the 2004/05 budget preparation process be noted.

369. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP REPORT**  
(Report CAB695 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the stewardship report be approved.

370. **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS – AUDIO RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS**  
(Report CAB699 refers)

Under Council Procedure Rule 35, the Chairman stated that Councillor Lipscomb had requested to speak under this item. Councillor Lipscomb queried the reference to *policy* in the report as he believed that the Council had a current *practice* on audio recording. He considered that a more flexible approach should be adopted than that set out in the recommendation and suggested that the proposals outlined paragraph 4.2 of the report might be preferable.

During discussion, a number of Members agreed that the Council should not prohibit the use of audio and/or visual recording without exception, although concern was expressed about the possibility of selective editing of any recordings taken. One Member commented that audio recording would be difficult in most of the Guildhall rooms until the acoustics had been improved.

With regard to the possibility of webcasting, Members considered that it was important for the Council to not rule out this possibility at a future date.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the existing practice of prohibiting the use of audio and/or visual recording should be continued, unless an exception was specifically authorised by the meeting in question. However, exceptions would normally only be considered from members of the press, rather than various interest groups.

The City Secretary and Solicitor stated that the new policy would be contained within the Council's Constitution when it was next updated.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the practice which prohibits the audio and/or visual recording of Council and Committee proceedings be adhered to, unless the meeting in question specifically authorised an exception.

2. That exceptions to the practice should normally only be considered for members of the press, rather than for interest groups.

371. **MINUTES OF THE ICT INFORMAL MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP**  
(Report CAB 698 refers)

Cabinet considered the minutes of the ICT Informal Member/Officer Working Group held 14 July 2003. Members noted that the recommendations contained within the minutes had been agreed by Cabinet at its previous meeting on 30 July. The minutes were therefore submitted for information only.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the ICT Informal Member/Officer Working Group held 14 July be noted.

372. **DEBT WRITE OFFS (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)**  
(Report CAB704 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the Business Rate debt of £11,517.49 as referred to in the report be written off.

373. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION BY CABINET**

The Director of Community Services advised that the River Park Leisure Centre – Capital Expenditure report would be deferred from the 17 September meeting. In addition, the Community Grants Policy might be deferred to the 1 October meeting. He stated that a report on Durngate House would be submitted to Cabinet on 17 September.

The Director of Health and Housing advised that the report on the Potential Sale of Land at Kings Worthy would be deferred from 17 September meeting. A report on Waste Management would be submitted to 1 October meeting.

RESOLVED:

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

374. **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>
375& 377	Debt Write Offs – Exempt Appendix	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). Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). (Para 7 Schedule 12A refers).
376 & 378	Cash Office – Temporary Facility	Information relating to a particular employee, former employee or applicant to become an employee of, or a particular office-holder, former office-holder or applicant to become an office-holder under the authority. (Para 1 to Schedule 12A refers). Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). (Para 7 Schedule 12A refers). 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).

375. **DEBT WRITE OFFS – EXEMPT APPENDIX**  
(Report CAB704 refers)

Cabinet considered the information contained within the exempt appendix to the report.

The Director of Finance provided further detail about the background and current situation of the debtor (detail in exempt minute).

376. **CASH OFFICE – TEMPORARY FACILITY**  
(Report CAB677 refers)

Cabinet considered the above report which set out proposals for the relocation of the Cash Office elsewhere in the City Offices (details in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 9.00am and concluded at 10.45am