

CABINET

1 October 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

Councillor Bailey, Craig, Davies, Lipscomb, Porter and Rees

Others in Attendance and not Speaking

Councillors de Peyer, Hollingbery, Mitchell, Nunn and Pearson

TACT Representatives:

Mr A Rickman

461. **MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEES ETC**

Councillor Davies reiterated his concerns raised at the previous Cabinet meeting that discussion of the issues outlined in report CAB703 should not take place in an informal member/officer working group, but should be held in a public forum to which Councillors and the public were able to attend.

In response, the City Secretary and Solicitor advised that reports from the proposed Informal Member/Officer Working Group would be submitted to Cabinet where they could be debated in public.

RESOLVED:

That the following be appointed to the Housing Options Appraisal Informal Member/Officer Working Group:

Councillors: Clohosey, Craig, Hiscock, Hoare, Oxley, Steel and Tait

TACT representatives: Mr Gilbert-Wood and Mr Whitfield (subject to confirmation at the next TACT meeting on 15 October)

Officers: B Merrett, F Lyon, and a representative from the City Secretary and Solicitor Department.

462. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting the new Director of Development Services, Robin Cooper.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Economy and Development advised that there had been a good acceptance of invitations to the PPG3 seminars proposed for 2 and 9 October 2003. In addition, he advised that the Informal Member/Officer Working Group established to review the operation of the Planning Development Control Committee now hoped to report back to Cabinet meeting on 15 October.

The Portfolio Holder for Community Services welcomed to the meeting the new Partnership and External Funding Officer, Sally Horne.

463. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held 17 September 2003 be approved and adopted.

464. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked/statements made.

465. **COMMUNITY PLANNING – FINAL REPORT ON STANMORE AND HIGHCLIFFE**
(Report CAB715 refers)

Under Council Procedure Rule 35, the Chairman stated that local Ward Members Councillors Craig, Rees and Davies had requested to speak under this item.

In summary, Councillor Craig stated that she believed the two communities would welcome the contents of the John Thompson and Partners (JTP) reports and it was now important to rebuild trust and to move on from the difficulties surrounding the recent supported housing proposals. As part of this, it was essential that the expectations of the communities were not raised unrealistically. She stressed that it was important for careful consideration to be given to the name, membership, venue and time of meetings of the proposed working groups. She suggested that the Highcliffe Community Action Group might be a good starting point for the group in that area.

Councillor Rees concurred with the points made by Councillor Craig. In summary, he stated that the Council should consider three key issues, namely funding, expectations of the communities, and scale of the proposals. He believed that a whole scale, "urban regeneration" approach should be taken and acknowledged that this would require significant funding.

Councillor Davies added that it was vital for the Council to be honest and realistic with the local communities about what it was possible to achieve and not to build up unrealistic expectations. He requested that the leases for allotments be renewed to allow the Winchester Allotments Society to make future plans. In addition, he stated that a key issue involved addressing anti-social behaviour and the possibility of appointing Community Wardens. If funding was not available for this, the Council should state so.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their comments and agreed that it was important for the Council to rebuild communications with the local communities. She mentioned that the next meeting of the Community Safety Group would be considering the possibility of a Community Warden Scheme being created jointly with the Council and other partners. In addition, a Community Safety van had recently been established. Cabinet noted that the issues raised in the JTP reports would have to be addressed incrementally, but a strategy would be developed to decide in which order projects should take place.

With regard to the issue of renewal of allotment leases, the Chairman stated that the Council would ensure that those leases not potentially included within future development would be renewed.

Following discussion of recommendation three, Cabinet agreed that it be amended to enable certain sites that had been ruled out for housing purposes to possibly be available for other community uses, subject to agreement with the local community. An example of the other uses envisaged included play areas.

Members also agreed that the lead on this project should now be taken by the Community Services Department, working together with Housing and Development Services, together with any other appropriate department.

With regard to the composition of the proposed working groups, Cabinet agreed that the Stanmore group be chaired by Councillor Campbell and the Highcliffe group by Councillor Nelmes. It was noted that these Councillors would chair the groups in order to start the process, but would be happy to step aside if the groups considered it appropriate at a later stage. The groups would be held in public in local venues and the membership would include all local ward Members. It was requested that the local Members advise on which other community groups should be involved.

One Member queried whether European funding might be available for regeneration of these areas. The Chief Executive advised that this was unlikely, but it might be possible to obtain some Government funding from any appropriate grants programme.

The Chairman stated that the JTP reports would be submitted to the Local Strategic Partnership and Community Safety partnership in order for further discussion to be held with the Councils' partner organisations.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the reports from John Thompson and Partners on the Community Planning Exercise on Stanmore and Highcliffe be received.

2. That the establishment of a joint informal consultative group to consider the John Thompson and Partners reports recommendations for each area be agreed, consisting of:

- Councillor Campbell (Chair of Stanmore group) and Councillor Nelmes (Chair of Highcliffe group);
- local Ward Members;
- community representatives; and
- officers from the Council and partner agencies.

In noting the concerns of the community it is suggested that the issues, both housing and environmental and quality of life be considered on a site-by site, issue-by-issue basis. In considering the reports, it is suggested the groups review, in particular, resource needs, community involvement, relative priorities and timetabling before bringing recommendations to Cabinet for decision.

3. That it be noted that the reports consider a number of sites to be not suitable for housing development and it be agreed that these sites not be investigated further for this purpose, but acknowledges that these sites might be suitable for some other use by the community.

466. **THE CYCLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND**
(Report CAB712 refers)

In discussion of the report, a number of Members commented that the current system of 'election by thirds' did cause confusion for the electorate and generated additional work for Councillors. It was believed this confusion was worse in multi-member wards.

Some Members suggested that a two year cycle might be preferable.

In response to a question regarding the cost of elections, the City Secretary and Solicitor confirmed that an "all out" election of the whole Council every four years would offer savings, but added that a whole Council election was more expensive than an election of third of the Council.

Following further discussion, Cabinet agreed that as the Council had only recently carried out a review of ward boundaries, the Electoral Commission be informed that the Council would wish the current 'election by thirds' system to continue. However, if this was not possible, 'elections by halves' should be adopted to enable regular elections to be held every other year. In addition, the potential confusion to the electorate of the 'election by thirds' system should be noted and the possibility of producing publicity to help explain the process be investigated.

Members also commented that the practice of holding different elections on the same day could be confusing for the electorate, particularly if the elections were for two similar bodies (e.g. County and City Council elections). There was a preference for combined elections not to be held (other than for City Council and parishes).

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

RESOLVED:

That the Electoral Commission be informed that the City Council would wish the current 'election by thirds' system to continue, for the reasons given in response to the eight questions posed by the Commission, all as set out in the report and amended above.

467. **WINCHESTER CITY (OFF STREET) PARKING PLACES ORDER 2003**
(Report CAB716 refers)

Under Council Procedure Rule 35, the Chairman stated that Councillor Porter had requested to speak under this item. She outlined a number of concerns still held by River Park Leisure Centre (RPLC) users, including the possible effect of an increase in users outside the proposed hours of parking charges and the practicalities of the charging scheme. She requested that the proposals be reviewed in six months time.

During discussion, Cabinet noted the lengthy discussions and consultations that had led to the proposals for parking charges at the RPLC car park. Members commented that it was believed that the best possible compromise solution had been achieved. However, the Director of Community Services advised that if the charging scheme were found not to be working in practice, Cabinet would be informed straight away. In addition, it was proposed that a review would be carried out after six months. Cabinet agreed that the Community, Arts and Social Performance Improvement Committee be asked to consider this review.

One Member mentioned the particular requests of the Riverside Bowling Club and was advised that discussions with the Club would continue.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the car park at River Park Leisure Centre be appropriated from s19 Local Government Act 1976 (recreation purposes) to S.32 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (off street car parking purposes).
2. That the proposed charging hours for the River Park Leisure Centre car park be reduced from 8am – 6pm to 9am – 5pm.
3. That subject to that modification, the Winchester City (Off Street) Parking Places Order 2003 be made as advertised.
4. That Community, Arts and Social Performance Improvement Committee be requested to consider a review of the operation of the RPLC car park charges in six months time.

468. **MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES – THIRD REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**
(Report CAB717 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr A Rickman (TACT) advised that a vote on the suggestion to adopt a Co-Optees Allowance would be taken at the next TACT meeting. The City Secretary and Solicitor confirmed that discussions had been held with TACT and the results of this and the meeting would be submitted directly to Council on 29 October.

Cabinet advised that it had agreed that it would not support the principle or practice of Members participating in the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and were therefore rejecting the Remuneration Panel's recommendation on this matter.

In addition, Members commented that it was expensive for the Panel to be reconvened on a yearly basis. Cabinet therefore agreed that an automatic index be used when the Council decides there were no material issues to require a further report of the Panel in a particular year. Members agreed that travel rates should be indexed to Inland Revenue rates. However, the automatic index for other allowances should differ from that proposed in the report in that it would be based on the *lower* of the change in the RPI inflation index or the annual local government pay percentage increase. The period for the index should be as suggested by the Panel.

Cabinet considered the points raised by the Chairman of the Standards Committee as outlined in paragraph 5.1 of the report. Members agreed that the proposal that individual complaint hearings be chaired by an Independent (non-Councillor) Member would reduce the level of responsibility of the Councillor Chairman role for the Standard Committee, and that the Special Responsibility Allowance be reduced to Band 6 accordingly. The role would become similar to that of the Chairman of the Council which was also Band 6.

Following discussion, Members agreed that one extra Basic Allowance be retained in the budget to enable some flexibility. Members noted that one effect of their proposed amendments to the Panel's recommendations would involve a reduction in budget required.

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT HAVING REGARD TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL THE FOLLOWING BE AGREED:

(a) THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION ON THE PROPOSED SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE FOR CHAIRMEN OF PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES (BAND 7 - £1,489) BE AGREED.

CONTINUED...

- (b) THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED CO-OPTEE'S ALLOWANCE (£225) FOR THE CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE BE AGREED.
- (c) TO CONSIDER THE OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION WITH TACT AT COUNCIL ON WHETHER THE CO-OPTEE'S ALLOWANCES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE TACT CO-OPTEE'S.
- (d) THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENT THE OPTION TO ALLOW MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUATION SCHEME BE NOT AGREED (I.E. NO MEMBERS SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUPERANNUATION SCHEME).
- (e) THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION TO IMPLEMENT THE TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE SCHEME PROPOSED BY THE PANEL BE AGREED.
- (f) THE PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT AN AUTOMATIC INDEX, AS OUTLINED IN THE REPORT, TO BE USED FOR INFLATION PURPOSES IN THE EVENT THAT THE COUNCIL DECIDES THERE ARE NO MATERIAL ISSUES TO REQUIRE A FURTHER REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL IN A PARTICULAR YEAR, BE AGREED SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIO THAT WHERE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PAY INCREASE IS USED AS THE INDEX THEN AN ALTERNATIVE OF THE CHANGE IN RPI (WHICH EVER IS THE LOWER) BE INCLUDED.
- (g) THAT IT BE AGREED THAT THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S CURRENT PROPOSAL THAT INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINT HEARINGS SHOULD BE CHAIRED BY AN INDEPENDENT (NON-COUNCILLOR) MEMBER WILL REDUCE THE LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNCILLOR CHAIRMAN ROLE FOR OTHER MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE PAYABLE TO THE COUNCILLOR CHAIRMAN BE REDUCED TO BAND 6.

2. THAT THE CITY SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR REVISES THE MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL AS AMENDED/CLARIFIED BY THE GUIDANCE REFERRED TO IN RECOMMENDATION 1 ABOVE, BRINGING THE REPORT TO THE NEXT MEETING OF CABINET.

3. THAT THE BASE BUDGET FOR MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SHOULD BE REDUCED (FOR 2003/04 ONWARDS) BY £44,594 HAVING REGARD TO THE CONTENTS OF THE PROPOSED REVISED SCHEME.

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

With regard to items listed for the 15 October meeting, it was noted that a report on Durngate House would not now be submitted and the report on Council Offices would be deferred.

In addition, the reports giving an update on Job Evaluation would be submitted to the Personnel Committee and could be removed from the list of future Cabinet items.

RESOLVED:

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

470. **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>
471	Exempt Minutes from Cabinet 17 Sept 03: Durngate House) 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).
471	Exempt Minutes from Cabinet 17 Sept 03: a) 9a Parchment Street b) Durngate House c) A property in Winchester) 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).
472 & 475	Broadway/Friarsgate - Developer's Response to Brief)
473 & 476	10 Middle Brook Street, Winchester)
474 & 477	Recruitment Advertising Contract)

471. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 17 SEPTEMBER 2003 (EXEMPT MINUTES)**

Cabinet considered the exempt minutes relating to 9a Parchment Street – Revised Terms, Durngate House and A Property in Winchester.

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes from the meeting held on 17 September 2003 be approved and adopted.

472. **BROADWAY FRIARSGATE – DEVELOPER’S RESPONSE TO THE BRIEF**
(Report CAB713 refers)

Cabinet considered the above report which set out the Developer's response to the Brief regarding redevelopment of the Broadway Friarsgate area, and proposed the next steps to be taken (detail in exempt minute).

473. **10 MIDDLE BROOK STREET, WINCHESTER**
(Report CAB714 refers)

Cabinet considered the above report concerning 10 Middle Brook Street, Winchester (detail in exempt minute).

474. **RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING CONTRACT**
(Report CAB708 refers)

Cabinet considered the above report which set out proposals with regard to a recruitment advertising contract (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 10.10am and concluded at 1.50pm

