

**CABINET**

**21 May 2009**

**Attendance:**

- Councillor Beckett - *Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy and Tourism (Chairman) (P)*  
Councillor Allgood – *Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency (P)*  
Councillor Coates – *Portfolio Holder for Housing (P)*  
Councillor Cooper – *Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety (P)*  
Councillor Godfrey – *Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development (P)*  
Councillor Pearson – *Portfolio Holder for Environment (P)*  
Councillor Stallard - *Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Culture and Sport (P)*  
Councillor Wood – *Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access (P)*

**Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:**

Councillors Achwal, Barratt, Busher, Evans and Learney

**Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:**

Councillors Higgins and Humby

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1. **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

RESOLVED:

1. That the timetable of meetings for 2009/10 be agreed as set out on the agenda (and as contained in Report CAB1703, 17 September 2008).
2. That Cabinet meetings normally commence at 10.00am unless the Corporate Director (Governance), in consultation with the Leader, determines an earlier start is desirable due to the volume of business to be transacted.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 April 2009, less exempt items, be approved and adopted.

### 3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Weeks spoke under Report CAB1842 and his comments are summarised at the agenda item below.

### 4. **APPOINTMENT OF PORTFOLIOS FOR THE 2009/10 MUNICIPAL YEAR** (Oral Report)

The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holders for their work over the previous year. He stated that the changed roles introduced last year had operated well and it was not proposed to make any changes for the new municipal year.

Cabinet agreed to make the Portfolio appointments set out below.

RESOLVED:

That the following arrangements for the allocation of Portfolios be agreed for 2009/10:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder Title</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Councillor Beckett	Leader	Responsibility for major projects, the Local Strategic Partnership/Local Area Agreement, economic development & tourism, the Local Development Framework and Communications
Councillor Cooper	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety	Responsibility for Community Development, Public Health, Grants (across all areas, in liaison with relevant Portfolio Holders, and Community Safety)
Councillor Pearson	Environment	Responsibility for Environment & Sustainability, Neighbourhood Wardens, Waste Management & Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance, Emergency Planning and Environmental Health
Councillor Allgood	Finance and Efficiency	Responsibility for Finance, Efficiency, Estates and Revenues & Benefits
Councillor Stallard	Heritage, Culture and Sport	Responsibility for Sport & Recreation, Heritage & Museums, and Arts & Culture
Councillor Coates	Housing	Responsibility for Landlord Services and Strategic Housing
Councillor Godfrey	Performance and Organisational Development	Responsibility for Performance Management, Customer Service, Human Resources, Legal,

		Democratic Services and Information Technology
Councillor Wood	Planning and Access	Responsibility for Development Control, Building Control, Access & Infrastructure and Strategic Planning (along with the Leader on LDF matters)

5. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader welcomed to the meeting the new Head of Estates, Kevin Warren.

The Leader also congratulated Councillor Hiscock on his selection as the 810<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Winchester. In addition, he congratulated Councillor Learney on becoming the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

6. **ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET COMMITTEES AND INFORMAL MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUPS 2009/10**

(Report [CAB1838](#) refers)

Councillor Godrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as an employee of the County Council. He remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Cabinet Members reiterated their request that the Liberal Democrat Group nominate representative(s) to attend the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee as standing invitees. The Chairman agreed to write to the Liberal Democrat Group Leader to outline the reasons for this request and suggest that they reconsider their position.

With regard to the Housing Options Appraisal Steering Group, it was agreed that because of the importance of its work, particularly over the next year, the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency be added to the list of Conservative nominations.

Members expressed concern about the number of officers suggested for appointment to some of the Working Groups and suggested that attendance by all those named might not be the most appropriate use of officer time. The Chief Executive stated that usually only officers relevant to the particular discussion would attend, but agreed to pass on these concerns to the relevant lead officers.

On a more general point, a Member suggested that the requirement of attendance by senior officers at Committee meetings in general be examined. The Chief Executive noted this point for further consideration.

The following corrections to the nominations outlined in the Report were noted:

- Air Quality Informal Member/Officer Working Group – inclusion of Councillor Wright in list of Conservative nominations;
- West of Waterlooville Forum – inclusion of Councillor Clear as a nominee for deputy for any Councillor.

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

1. That the following appointments be made for the 2009/10 Municipal Year (with terms of reference as set out in the report):

- (i) Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access (Councillor Wood) plus any two other Cabinet Members to be selected by the Head of Democratic Services in alphabetical rotation.
- (ii) Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee - Portfolio Holder for Planning and Access (Councillor Wood) plus Councillors Beckett, Coates and Pearson.

In the event of any of the Standing Members not being available for a particular meeting, another member of Cabinet will be selected in alphabetical rotation by the Head of Democratic Services to substitute for the standing member.

In addition, the following standing list of Councillors be invited to attend and offer views at meetings of the Committee:

- (a) Chairman of the Planning Development Control Committee; and named members from the Liberal Democrats (3) Independents (1) and Labour (1) as follows: Councillor Busher and Pines (Liberal Democrat Group did not nominate a representative).
- (b) Ward Councillors, where appropriate.
- (iii) Housing Options Appraisal Steering Group -  
Councillors: Allgood, Coates, Hammerton, Nelmes, Pines and Tait  
TACT Representatives: Four representatives and two deputies (names to be advised)  
Officers: R Botham, B Merrett, A Palmer, G Cole, H Bone, A Garlick/L Alexander and C Broomfield
- (iv) Supported Housing Informal Member/Officer Working Group -  
Councillors: Coates, Hammerton, Nelmes, Pines and Tait.  
TACT Representatives: Three representatives (names to be advised)  
Officers: R Botham, S Tong, A Crosskey, L Curtis, R Boardman and F Sutherland.

- (v) Air Quality Informal Member/Officer Working Group –  
Councillors: Busher, Higgins, Mitchell, Pearson, Sanders and Wright.  
Officers: (City Council) R Heathcock, A Hickman, P Tidridge, D Massey  
(County Council) A Wren, P Fydall, K Travers and P Syddall
- (vi) West of Waterlooville Forum –  
Councillors: Hollingbery (Chairman), Chamberlain, Coates, Collin, Cooper and Stallard  
Deputies: Clear (for any Councillor)

8. **LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION – APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES**  
(Oral Report)

RESOLVED:

That the Leader of the Council (Councillor Beckett), Deputy Leader (Councillor Cooper), the two other Group Leaders (Councillors Busher and Learney) and the Chief Executive be appointed as the Council's representatives to the 2009 LGA Annual Conference (to be held 30 June to 2 July 2009).

7. **ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES**  
(Report [CAB1825](#) refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Achwal spoke in support of her appointment to the Joint Authorities Gypsies and Travellers Panel. She advised that there was a travellers' site within her Ward which was currently being overhauled and she would welcome to opportunity to represent its residents.

Councillor Allgood reiterated his wish to be appointed to this Panel as there were various issues surrounding travellers in his Ward.

Cabinet agreed to re-appoint Councillor Lipscomb as the representative on the Gypsies and Travellers Panel, with Councillor Allgood as the deputy. However, Councillor Beckett agreed to advise Councillor Achwal outside of the meeting regarding her request.

With regard to Meadowside Leisure Centre User Forum, it was noted that any member of the public could attend and observe meetings and it was therefore agreed that there was no requirement to appoint an observer.

With regard to Winchester Hampshire Action Plan (HAT) – Highways Meeting, the appointments were agreed as detailed below, subject to investigation into whether Councillor Fall could be the second full representative.

The Corporate Director (Governance) reported on a letter received from St John's Winchester Charity which stated their appreciation of the contributions made by both Councillor Higgins and Mr Patrick Davies as existing nominated trustees and a hope that they would both continue.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Evans queried whether it was Council policy to appoint a Councillor in preference to a non-Councillor to external appointments. The Corporate Director (Governance) advised that although this was usually the case, it was open to Cabinet to decide otherwise. The Leader stated that having regard to the particular circumstances involved, including the letter from the Charity, he considered it appropriate to make an exception to the usual practice and appoint an ex-Councillor to St John's Winchester Charity.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the following appointments to external bodies be made for the 2009/10 Municipal Year (deputies in brackets):

- (a) Bishops Waltham Sports Committee – Councillor Ruffell (Chamberlain)
- (b) Carroll Youth Centre – Councillors Tait (Collin)
- (c) Friends of Hyde Abbey Gardens – Councillor Nelmes
- (d) Hampshire & Isle of Wight Association of Local Authorities (HIOWA) – Councillors Beckett and Cooper
- (e) Hampshire County Council Annual Meeting with Parish & District Councils regarding public transport issues – Councillor Wood
- (f) Joint Authorities Gypsies and Travellers Panel – Councillor Lipscomb (Allgood)
- (g) Live Theatre Winchester Trust Limited – Councillor Stallard
- (h) Local Government Association – Councillor Beckett (Cooper)
- (i) Local Government Association Rural Commission – Councillors Lipscomb & Humby (only first named has voting rights)
- (j) Local Government Association Urban Commission – Councillor Huxstep (Mather)
- (k) Meadowside Leisure Centre User Forum – Councillors Stallard and Anthony
- (l) National Parking Adjudication Joint Committee – Councillor Wood
- (m) Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee – Councillor Beckett (Cooper)
- (n) Project Integra Management Board – Councillor Pearson (Coates)
- (o) Project Integra Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Read (Howell)
- (p) River Park Leisure Centre User Forum – Councillors Stallard and Stephens
- (q) Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth Arts Forum – Councillor Stallard (Anthony)

- (r) South Downs Joint Committee – Councillor Wood and Baxter
- (s) South East Employers – Councillor Worrall (Weston)
- (t) South East England Councils (SEEC) – Councillor Beckett (Cooper)
- (u) Stanmore Combined – Councillor Cooper
- (v) Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Committee – Councillor Wood
- (w) Tourism South East – Councillor Evans (Stallard)
- (x) Twyford Waterworks – Councillor Izard (Mason)
- (y) WCC/Serco Member Liaison Meeting – Councillors Allgood, Busher, Coates, Clear Collin, Cooper and Pearson
- (z) Winchester Allotment Holders' Society – Councillor Tait
- (aa) Winchester and District Savers (WADS) – Councillor Johnston (Tait – Observer)
- (bb) Winchester District Board of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) – Councillor Pearson
- (cc) Winchester Hampshire Action Plan (HAT) – Highways Meeting – Councillor Wood and Councillor Fall to be a deputy or, if permitted by the HAT, an additional *full representative*.
- (dd) Winchester Housing Trust – Councillor Tait (Johnston – Observer)
- (ee) Winchester Inclusive Housing Forum – Councillors Love and Tait
- (ff) Winchester Indoor Sports Association (Lido Sports Club) – Councillor Maynard
- (gg) Winchester Road Safety Council Committee – Councillor Pearson (Verney)
- (hh) Winchester Sports Stadium Management Committee – Councillors Stallard and Hiscock

2. That the following appointments to external bodies be made for the period stated (deputies in brackets):

- (a) Age Concern – Hampshire (until 31 May 2010) – Councillor Howell (Collin)
- (b) Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau (until 15 May 2010) – Councillor Busher
- (c) Havant and District Citizens Advice Bureau (until 30 May 2010) – Councillor Stallard
- (d) Knowle Community Buildings Association (until 30 May 2010) – Councillor Clear (Evans - Observer) – appointments should be Wickham Ward Members
- (e) Relate (until 30 June 2010) – Councillor Berry (Love)
- (f) Southampton International Airport Consultative Committee – One representative from Winchester Air Group (WAG), in addition to Councillors Pearson & Councillor Ruffell (deputy) previously appointed (all to May 2010)
- (g) St John's Winchester Charity – Councillor Higgins and Mr Patrick Davies (both until June 2013)
- (h) Swanmore Community Facilities Management Committee (until May 2010) – Councillor Weston (Pearson)
- (i) Trinity Centre Advisory Committee (until 30 June 2010) – Councillors Higgins, Mather and Tait

- (j) Whiteley Area Community Association (until 30 May 2010) – Councillor Anthony (Achwal)
- (k) Winchester Area Community Action (until 31 May 2010) – Councillor Nelmes (Tait)
- (l) Winchester CAB Management Committee (until 30 June 2012) – Councillor Baxter
- (m) Winchester City Centre Management Limited (until 30 June 2010) – Councillor Beckett

8. **SOUTH OF WINCHESTER PARK AND RIDE – CONTRACT AND OPERATIONAL DETAILS**

(Report [CAB1843](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item due to his role as a County Councillor. Councillor Godfrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as an employee of the County Council. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

One Member questioned the difference in emissions from Euro 4 and Euro 5 engines and emphasised the importance of seeking as low polluting buses as possible.

Following discussion, it was agreed that tenders be obtained on both Euro 4 and Euro 5 standards to enable a price comparison to be made. In addition, the Head of Access and Infrastructure would supply more information regarding the difference in vehicle emissions between the two standards.

Cabinet noted correspondence from Councillor Collin, who was unable to attend, which raised a number of detailed queries regarding the proposed route. The Head of Access and Infrastructure agreed to respond to these points outside of the meeting. One concern related to the effect of peak-time queuing along Badger Farm Road, back towards the Sainsbury's roundabout. The Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that the City Council was in negotiations with the County Council to address this point by supporting road improvements in the area.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney stated that the Council had an obligation to consider wider environmental issues in decisions about the Park and Ride contract and, as such, should insist on at least Euro 5 standard buses. In addition, she queried whether the contract could retain flexibility with regards to the route, in order that it could be changed if necessary following operational experience, or altered on a temporary basis to address particular events in the town.

In response, the Head of Access and Infrastructure advised that requesting alternative prices for flexibility with regard to routes was likely to increase the tender price and also cause complications with regard to timetables and registration of bus routes. The Corporate Director (Governance) further advised that if it was considered necessary after award of contract, such



alterations could be negotiated at that time, under the normal variation clause which would have regard to the tendered price for the existing service and any change in the contractor's costs due to the proposed variation.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure be authorised to obtain tenders for the main Park and Ride bus contract for a 5 year period from 1 April 2010, and that the tender include the following provisions:

- a) Vehicles should be specified with priced options for diesel engines to a minimum of Euro 4 standard or Euro 5 standard, a minimum capacity of 70 passengers and a maximum length of 12 metres;
- b) The maximum age for the vehicles at the commencement of the contract will be 4 years (Euro 4 standard) and a maximum age at the end of the contract of 10 years;
- c) To operate a 'linked' bus service connecting all of the Town's Park & Ride sites as detailed in Appendix 1;
- d) To include tender options to provide an extended period of operation with an evening bus service that would extend evening operations until 2130;
- e) To include tender options to allow for a contract period of 8 years.

2. That the Head of Access and Infrastructure be given delegated authority to determine the evaluation criteria for the award of the contract and that a direction be made under Contract Procedure Rule 2.1 that the criteria include a price: quality ratio of 70% price: 30% quality.

3. That the outcome of the tendering process be reported to Cabinet in November 2009 for approval to award the contract.

4. That further reports be brought to Cabinet on:

- a) The financial implications of the scheme;
- b) The parking regulation order relating to the operation and control of the new and existing Park and Ride car parks;
- c) The terms of the lease for the new south of Winchester Park and Ride site;
- d) The Sustrans Travel Smart initiative.

9. **IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK'S CONFIRMATION**

(Report [CAB1840](#) refers)

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item due to being a member of the South Downs Joint Committee. Councillor Wood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as the City Council's representative on the South Downs Joint Committee. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Wood emphasised that it was important for the Council to be fully involved at an early stage of future discussions. To this end, it was suggested that the Council should be entitled to at least one representative on the new Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Steering Group.

The Chairman expressed a preference for planning applications for developments within the Park area to be dealt with by the relevant local authority, with the Park Authority retaining the power of call-in.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Busher and Achwal and Barratt spoke under this item and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Busher queried whether DEFRA had considered the impact of increased traffic into the Park's 'gateway' towns? In addition, she requested clarification of the status of the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) in relation to the Park Authority's LDF, once prepared.

Councillor Wood agreed to raise both points at the South Downs Joint Consultative Committee. The Chief Executive advised that the Park Authority had been consulted on the Council's LDF and had had the opportunity to make comments.

Councillor Barratt expressed concern about the potential for future conflict between the Park Authority and local authorities. She also highlighted the potential implications for the Council in relation to funding and loss of planning application fees and on assessment of its performance.

The Chief Executive advised that the position regarding funding was not clear as although the Park Authority was funded from a DEFRA grant, there was the possibility of a corresponding reduction in the Council's Rate Support Grant.

Following further debate, Councillor Wood agreed to provide regular updates to Cabinet on how negotiations with the Park Authority were progressing.

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

## RESOLVED:

That Cabinet notes the recent decision by the Secretary of State, confirming the designation of a South Downs National Park and seeks a place on the Steering Group about to be formed and to participate in all relevant discussions and negotiations regarding arrangements for membership of the National Park Authority, the delegation of elements of development control to the local authorities and future policy planning within the National Park area.

10. **UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER MASTER PLAN**  
(Report [CAB1757](#) refers)

The Chief Executive declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of this item as he was a member of the University Board of Governors. He left the room during its consideration.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Tommy Geddes (Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Winchester).

Councillor Wood supported the Plan and the positive impact of the University on Winchester. However, he also acknowledged the requirement to carefully manage the impact of future growth on the Town's infrastructure and nearby residents. He highlighted that the proposals for a new Park and Ride South of Winchester would assist with parking difficulties on campus.

In response to questions, the Head of Planning Management advised that the Plan provided a framework for possible future development of the University. However, it would not pre-judge any related planning applications in any way as each application would be dealt with on its merits, in accordance with usual procedures.

Mr Geddes welcomed the support and advice he had received from the Head of Planning Management. He mentioned that the University supported the proposals for a knowledge park, as detailed in the Local Development Framework Preferred Options consultation. He clarified that the Map contained at Appendix 3 showed *possible* future developments which were illustrative, not confirmed aspirations of the University. He also emphasised that the University did not have aspirations to develop student residences itself, but was responding to plans from private developers, for example in relation to proposals in Sparkford Road. However, he acknowledged that it was good policy to have purpose-built student residences near the University and he would work with developers to ensure these were situated in appropriate locations.

Mr Geddes advised that the University had no plans to develop additional social or sporting facilities outside of the campus area, as the new sports facilities at Bar End fulfilled current requirements. However, he would welcome the prospect of further joint working in the future, should proposals arise.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney welcomed the Plan and the steps taken by the University to engage with nearby residents. She requested also suggested that future documents of this nature make reference to links with the LDF proposals.

The Head of Planning Management confirmed that the Plan was in accordance with the emerging LDF.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the development strategy of the University of Winchester contained within the Development Masterplan be welcomed, and it be recognised that all proposals, that need planning permission, will be subject to proper consideration by the local planning authority, taking into account relevant planning policy and other material planning considerations.

11. **HAMPSHIRE'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2009 – 2012 – FORMAL SIGN UP BY WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**  
(Report [CAB1842](#) refers)

The Chief Executive declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as a member of the Hampshire Children's Trust Board. He remained in the room during its consideration.

Councillor Allgood declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item due to his role as a County Councillor. Councillor Godfrey declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as an employee of the County Council. Both Councillors remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Mr A Weeks spoke under the public participation procedure in relation to this item and his comments are summarised below. He queried what was the definition of a young person? He also drew attention to young offenders as one particularly vulnerable group of young people and highlighted the current difficulties facing one particular offender in connection with finding accommodation.

The Head of Partnerships, Communication and Improvement advised that the Children's Act 2004 defined a young person as someone up to the age of 19 years old. However, this was extended up to 25 years old for certain vulnerable groups, such as those with learning difficulties. Although not specifically mentioned in the six overarching priorities of the plan, young offenders had been identified as a key vulnerable group which would receive priority consideration through delivery of the priorities.

The Chairman thanked Mr Weeks for his comments and suggested that he raise the concerns in relation to the particular person with the relevant housing officer directly, as Cabinet was not the appropriate forum to discuss specific cases.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Achwal spoke regarding this item, having declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as a member of the Governing Body of the Wickham Children's Centre. She highlighted the difficulties caused because there was no transport provision to the Centre from Whiteley and only a limited outreach service provided. She suggested that the fees charged for use of the Centre be reduced to enable this outreach service to be expanded.

Councillor Cooper advised that Children's Centres were the responsibility of the County Council, but he would raise this matter with them on Councillor Achwal's behalf.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That formal sign up by Winchester City Council to the Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan 2009 – 2012 be confirmed.
2. That the Head of Partnerships, Communication and Improvement, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Safety, be authorised to agree the City Council's input into the Hampshire Children and Young People's Plan 2009 - 2012 on the basis set out in this report.

12. **RIVER PARK AND MEADOWSIDE LEISURE CENTRES – MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS (LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)**  
(Report [CAB1801](#) refers)

Councillor Stallard advised that the best estimate of repairs necessary to the River Park Leisure Centre (RPLC) in 2011 when the centre is proposed to be closed totalled approximately £1.5 million. There were potentially further works identified in the Council's Capital Programme for the period up to 2012 totalling approximately £2.7m which had yet to be funded and incorporated in the programme. However, the cost of a new replacement building was approximately £22 to £25 million.

In response to questions, the Corporate Director (Operations) advised that although it was proposed to appoint consultants as outlined in Recommendation 2 of the Report, initial information gathering would be undertaken by officers. Consultants were only proposed by the Council when it was considered they would offer significant value to the officers' advice. Further details on this matter were provided in the exempt session of the meeting.

The Head of Finance confirmed that decisions on whether advice would be partially funded by a carry forward would be considered as part of the Outturn Report to the 17 June 2009 Cabinet meeting.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Evans and Achwal spoke regarding this item and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Evans highlighted that the success of the Meadowside Leisure Centre was a tribute to the hard work of the staff and Council officers. She welcomed the proposal to consider linking its management with that of RPLC. On behalf of Councillor Collin, she emphasised that RPLC was an energy inefficient building and the Council should investigate the possibility of energy saving ideas, such as solar heating and a ground source heat pump.

In response to queries raised by Councillor Achwal, the Corporate Director (Operations) confirmed that the proposed contract would relate to the Meadowside Leisure Centre building only, not the sports field. In addition, the Chairman confirmed that local Ward Councillors would be involved in future discussions.

In response to questions, the Head of Property Services confirmed that the capital expenditure of £205,000 was to fund repairs which were essential to maintain RPLC in a safe and serviceable condition.

Cabinet agreed to consider Recommendations 1, 5 and 6 as outlined in the Report in open session, with the remaining Recommendations to be dealt with in exempt business.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That subject to the outcome of consultation with affected staff and Whiteley Parish Council, Meadowside Leisure Centre be included with River Park Leisure Centre in a single leisure facilities management contract from April 2011;

5. That capital expenditure of up to £205,000 be approved under Financial Procedure Rule 6.4 for high priority repairs and associated works at River Park.

6. That following completion of the feasibility studies, a further report be brought to Cabinet to advise on the scope and extent of works required in 2011/12, estimated costs and any closedown details that will determine the full capital investment requirement for the Capital Programme.

13. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for June 2009, be noted.

14. **DECISIONS TAKEN BY PORTFOLIO HOLDERS UNDER THEIR DELEGATED POWERS**

RESOLVED:

That the decisions taken by Portfolio Holders under their delegated powers since the last Cabinet meeting, as set out on the agenda sheet, be noted.

15. **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 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>
##	Exempt minutes of the previous meeting	) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)
##	West Wing Head Lease	
##	River Park & Meadowside Leisure Centres – Management and Maintenance Arrangements (exempt appendix 1)	) Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. (Para 5 Schedule 12A refers)
##	River Park & Meadowside Leisure Centres – Management and Maintenance Arrangements (exempt appendix 1)	

16. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20 April 2009, be approved and adopted.

17. **RIVER PARK AND MEADOWSIDE LEISURE CENTRES – MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS - EXEMPT APPENDIX**  
(Report CAB1801 refers)

The Corporate Director (Governance) provided further information to Cabinet about why it was recommended to appoint external leisure consultants.

Cabinet also discussed the letters from DC Leisure, as contained in the Report's exempt Appendix 1.

Further information on these matters is contained under the exempt minute below.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined above and contained in the Report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the information contained in the exempt appendix 1 be noted.
2. That the expenditure of up to £6,000 for the appointment of a leisure consultant to provide an independent assessment of the relative merits of either tendering the management contract for River Park (and Meadowside) for ten years from April 2011 or extending the current contract with DC Leisure Management for the same period (also to include Meadowside), be agreed from existing budgets;
3. That if necessary, external legal advice be also obtained at an estimated cost of £3,000, also to be funded from existing budgets.
4. That a report be brought to Cabinet in July detailing the findings of the above study and recommending the option offering best value for money for consideration.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 1.10pm

Chairman