

CABINET

16 January 2013

Attendance:

Councillor Wood -	<i>Leader (Chairman) (P)</i>
Councillor Humby -	<i>Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning & Economic Development (P)</i>
Councillor Coates -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Housing (P)</i>
Councillor Godfrey -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Finance & Administration (P)</i>
Councillor Huxstep -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Environment (P)</i>
Councillor Stallard -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Communities, Culture and Sport (P)</i>
Councillor Tait -	<i>Portfolio Holder for New Homes Delivery (P)</i>
Councillor Weston -	<i>Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport (P)</i>

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Learney, Hutchison and Pines

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors J Berry, Gottlieb and Izard

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 December 2012, be approved and adopted.

2. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

3. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Godfrey announced that the results of the recent The Times "Best Places to Work" survey had been positive, ranking the responses from Council staff just outside the top 50 of not for profit organisations within the UK.

Councillor Stallard reported that Winchester College had written to thank the Council for enabling a number of its College students to volunteer within the Winchester Museums Service, which they had found to be very valuable experience. She congratulated the Service staff for their work.

Councillor Tait announced that the Council were proposing to install new heating systems in Winnall Flats in accordance with the consultation undertaken with residents.

4. **CHANGE PLANS 2013/14**
(Report CAB2419 refers)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney raised the failure to mention action to address carbon reduction measures and air quality issues, in addition to a lack of stated action to reduce residential fuel bills and to increase recycling levels. She also requested that additional information be supplied prior to the Report being considered by The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, about the financial implications of projects proposed, together with what projects had been delayed or cancelled in order to enable new schemes to progress.

The Chief Executive responded that work was ongoing to address air quality issues and actions to reduce fuel bills were also under discussion, with the possibility of new projects arising as the year progressed. He advised that generally, projects that were no longer included in the new Change Plans were because they had been completed (for example, Hockley Viaduct). In addition, not all new projects would have specific budget implications, but there would need to be consideration of the implications of the use of limited officer time and this could be debated further at The Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Coates reported that approximately £1 million per annum from the Housing Revenue Account had been utilised in upgrading Council tenants heating systems and improving the energy efficiency of properties.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Change Plans for 2013/14 be recommended for approval to Council as attached at Appendix 1 to the Report, subject to any minor amendments delegated to the Chief Executive or Assistant Directors, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder; and taking account of comments made during consultation which will be reported to the Cabinet meeting on 13 February 2013.

5. **GENERAL FUND BUDGET UPDATE 2013/14**
(Report CAB2434 refers)

Councillor Godfrey reported that the final Government grant settlement figures were expected by the end of January 2013. However, indications were that the Council would be able to agree a balanced budget in February 2013, with no significant changes to the revenue budget agreed last year.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney expressed concern about the lack of meaningful consultation on the content of the budget, due to a lack of any specific detail being available. She requested that the February budget paper be published in good time to enable proper consideration and debate.

Councillor Godfrey disputed the assertion that consultation had not been undertaken, as meetings had been carried out with parishes and businesses. In addition, he emphasised that the budget to be proposed would not be significantly altered to that agreed the previous year. He also highlighted the specific consultation undertaken on the Council Tax Support scheme.

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

RESOLVED:

That the update on the budget position be noted as part of its deliberation of the budget.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL/EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL – JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

(Report CAB2439 refers)

Councillors Godfrey declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of this item due to his roles as a County Council employee. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, he remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Wood commented that the waste collection arrangements under the joint contract were generally operating satisfactorily. However, there remained some concerns about the operation of the Landscape Team and this would continue to be monitored.

Cabinet noted that as part of the review of governance being recommended, it was proposed that Cabinet representation on the Joint Environmental Services Committee be increased by one. It was agreed that Councillor Weston be appointed as the third representative (in addition to Councillors Wood and Huxstep as existing representatives), with Councillor Coates as deputy.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Pines reported that The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had examined in detail the operation of the joint contract at a recent meeting. He queried what progress was being made on the establishment of a joint scrutiny body.

Councillor Wood requested that officers respond to this query outside of the meeting.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the budget proposed by the Joint Environmental Services Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report be agreed for inclusion in the budget proposals for 2013/14.

2. That the proposals arising from the review of governance be approved, as recommended by the Joint Environmental Services Committee, and Councillor Weston be appointed as the third Cabinet representative on the Committee (with Councillor Coates as deputy).

7. **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BARTON FARM FORUM**
(Report CAB2437 refers)

Councillors Godfrey and Stallard declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of this item due to their roles as a County Council employee and a County Councillor respectively. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee.

Cabinet noted that the first meeting of the Forum was due to take place that evening. The Corporate Director (Operations) emphasised that the purpose of the Forum would be to enable the wider discussion of issues surrounding the development, and not just those directly related to the planning application. Although the Forum would not be empowered to make decisions, it was hoped it would play a significant role in helping to shape the future plans and facilitate a good working relationship between the Council and the developer, Cala Homes.

Councillor Wood reported that he intended to increase the Forum's membership to eight City Councillors to include a Labour Group representative. In addition, he welcomed the request from Littleton and Harestock Parish Council to have a representative and the terms of reference would be amended to enable this. The terms of reference should also be altered to stipulate that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Forum should be appointed by Cabinet.

Cabinet noted that the following nominations had been received for representatives on the Forum:

City Councillors: Wood, Scott, E Berry, Byrnes, Learney, Nelmes, Weir and Pines (Deputies: Gottlieb and Hiscock)

County Councillors: Interim appointments: G Burgess and Collin

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council: Rutter

Littleton and Harestock Parish Council: J Burgess

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Pines and Learney both spoke in support of the establishment of the Forum, and the proposals for membership as amended. Councillor Learney emphasised the importance of both

developing a new community and integrating with the existing community. She requested clarification of whether Planning Development Control Committee Members could also be members of the Forum.

The Corporate Director (Governance) advised that there was nothing to prevent Planning Development Control Committee Members being on the Forum, although it might cause potential difficulties in practice should pre-application discussions come before the Forum for comment. If that situation arose, then Members would need to avoid the possibility of pre-determination of matters that would later come before that Committee. If this occurred on a regular basis then the membership would need to be reviewed.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Barton Farm Forum be established and the Terms of Reference be approved, as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report and amended above.

2. That the following appointments be made to the Forum:

Winchester City Council: Councillors Wood (Chairman), Scott (Vice-Chairman), Byrnes, E Berry, Learney, Nelmes, Weir, Pines (Deputies: Gottlieb and Hiscock)

Hampshire County Council: G Burgess and Collin (interim appointments)

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council: Rutter (to be confirmed)

Littleton and Harestock Parish Council: J Burgess

8. **COMMISSION FOR A JUBILEE EVENT SPACE**
(Report CAB2431 refers)

Councillor Stallard confirmed that support for the proposal had been received from Winchester Cathedral, Winchester BID and the Theatre Royal. The Cathedral had offered a temporary home for the event space, when it was not in use elsewhere. In addition, the Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) advised that the Council would be able to store the event space within its own storage facilities if not in use at all (e.g. during bad weather).

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Hutchison stated that whilst he had some support for the proposal, he did not consider it to be the best use of the Council's limited resources at the current time. As an alternative, he suggested that the funding be put towards improvements to St Maurice's Covert, as were currently being discussed by a Winchester Town Forum

Informal Working Group. Alternatively, resources could be diverted towards the partnership working between the Hat Fair and Winchester Theatre Royal.

Councillor Wood commented that both alternatives proposed focussed on provision within Winchester Town only, whereas one of the main purposes of the event space was its ability to be utilised throughout the District.

As Chairman of the Winchester Town Forum Informal Working Group considering St Maurice's Covert, Councillor Tait anticipated that its recommendations should result in improvements in this area, which were separate to the proposals outlined in the Report under consideration by Cabinet.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the commissioning of the design and construction of a Jubilee Event Space for the Winchester District in accordance with the process set out in Section 2 of the Report be approved, and a Direction under Contracts Procedure Rule 2.4a) be made authorising such commissioning.

2. That the Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) (in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the Communities, Culture and Sport, be authorised to:-

- a) determine the eligibility criteria for expressions of interest and composition of the evaluation panel;
- b) determine the evaluation criteria for the final award; and
- c) select the design in consultation with the evaluation panel

3. That the expenditure of up to £25,000 funded by virements from existing budgets - and consequential changes to the Capital Programme and General Fund Revenue Budget (as set out in the Resources section) - be approved to support the commission.

9. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (HOUSING) COMMITTEE HELD 10 DECEMBER 2012**
(Report CAB2435 refers)

Councillors Stallard declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of this item due to her role as a County Councillor. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, she remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee.

Cabinet considered the minutes of the Cabinet (Housing) Committee held 10 December 2012

In considering the above minutes, Cabinet also had regard to Reports CAB2417(HSG) and CAB2418(HSG) and the recommendations contained therein.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Learney expressed concern about the proposals for replacement heating systems in Winnall flat, as she considered the consultation with tenants had not been carried out properly by the Council. She believed that the option agreed by the Cabinet (Housing) Committee was not the best for tenants in terms of heating prices and some tenants had expressed concerns regarding safety. In addition, the Council had failed to adequately promote alternative energy sources as a viable option.

Councillor Coates emphasised that the heating system proposed was selected by the majority of the tenants as a result of the consultation undertaken. He confirmed that alternative energy sources, such as a communal biomass system, had been offered to tenants but not supported. In addition, when Winnall flats had last been refurbished, tenants had been offered additional insulation on the inside of their flats. He had asked officers to investigate the possibility of additional insulation on the exterior of the building.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Housing) Committee held 10 December 2012 be received (as attached as Appendix A to the Minutes) and the recommendations contained therein be agreed.

10. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE HELD 17 DECEMBER 2012**
(Report CAB2408 refers)

Councillor Stallard declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as she was a member of the Denmead Community Plan Steering Committee. She remained in the room, spoke and voted thereon.

Cabinet agreed to the following for the reasons outlined in the Report.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Local Development Framework) Committee held 17 December 2012 be received (as attached as Appendix B to the Minutes).

11. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

That the list of future items, as set out in the Forward Plan for February 2013, be noted.

12. **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>
##	Organisational Development: Phase 5) Information relating to any individual. (Para 1 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Internal Audit Partnership) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual. (Para 2 Schedule 12A refers)
) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority. (Para 4 Schedule 12A refers)

13. **ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: PHASE 5**
(Report PER226 refers)

Cabinet noted that the above Report had been considered by Personnel Committee held 3 January 2013 which had agreed the proposals regarding the organisational development, as set out.

Cabinet considered the above Report which set out the potential financial implications of the proposals regarding the Council's organisational development (detail in exempt minute).

14. **INTERNAL AUDIT PARTNERSHIP**
(Report CAB2440 refers)

Councillors Godfrey and Stallard declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of this item due to their roles as a County Council employee and a County Councillor respectively. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee.

Under Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) England Regulations 2012, this was a key decision which was not included in the Forward Plan. In addition, under Regulation 4, the Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed for a decision to be made in exempt session without 28 days notice being given.

Cabinet noted that an urgent decision was required at the current time because of the need to put new arrangements in place as soon as possible as Havant Borough Council have given notice of withdrawal from the existing partnership arrangement.

Cabinet considered the above Report which set out proposals regarding the future provision of the Council's internal audit service (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.40am