

CABINET

10 April 2013

Attendance:

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

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Collin, Learney and Pines

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Evans and Weir
Mrs J Steventon Baker and Mr J Bond (TACT)

1. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 March 2013 (less exempt item) be approved and adopted.

2. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Stallard declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in respect of Report CAB2479 due to her role as a County Councillor. However, as there was no material conflict of interest regarding this item, she remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

4. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Wood made a number of announcements as summarised below:

- Winchester Cyclefest had held a successful event launch that morning. A Cycle Fair would take place on 23 June 2013 and a Winchester Criterium race on 11 August 2013.
- Winchester Football Club had handed back possession of the ground to the City Council which would enable the Council to restore electricity to the site, allowing the Club to finish the season and the nursery to use the premises again. The Council were in discussions with all those involved about the future of the Club, with a view to extending the use of the facilities within the community.
- Officers had been requested to draw together information from various Council documents with regard to the possible redevelopment of the area close to the railway station. This would result in the production of a development assessment report, which would provide a clear context for discussions with relevant parties. Members, including the Winchester Town Forum, and other interested parties would be consulted with at the appropriate time.
- As a sign of respect for Baroness Margaret Thatcher's funeral on 17 April 2013, the Council would be flying the flag from the Guildhall at half-mast.

Councillor Humby announced that the Hampshire Traveller Assessment had been completed and would be fed into the Local Plan Part 2, with the information available on the Council's website.

5. **GOLD STANDARD FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION** (Report CAB2478 refers)

Cabinet congratulated the Assistant Director (Chief Housing Officer) and his team for their work with the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on tackling homelessness.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillors Pines and Learney addressed Cabinet and their comments are summarised below.

Councillor Pines (Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee) supported the Report's proposals. However, he made a number of queries regarding how the DCLG work would impact on the Council's existing homelessness service and its approach to working with the private rented sector in the District. In addition, he expressed some concern that sometimes the different services dealing with the homeless (apart from the Council), did not fully integrate their work.

In response, the Assistant Director advised that the national initiative and the work of the Practitioner Support team funded by the DCLG grant should not interfere with the Council's own homelessness team. It was a completely separate team with no responsibilities for addressing and preventing

homelessness in the District or with working with the private rented sector locally. It would be wholly focussed on administering the new national programme. However, there were benefits to the Council of specialist knowledge and advice being readily available. The Assistant Director confirmed that Council Officers worked closely with other agencies to help support homeless individuals and he believed that liaison between other external bodies was also improving.

Councillor Learney also supported the Report's recommendations. She queried why the Report had not been referred to at the Cabinet (Housing) Committee on 27 March 2013? She also asked for further details about the make-up of the Gold Standard Board and the likely timeframe before the Council was awarded the Gold Standard. Finally, she questioned whether there was any financial risk to the Council of being the host authority?

In response, the Assistant Director advised that the new national programme was included in the reports to Cabinet (Housing) Committee on 27 March 2013, although only in general terms. This was because at that time, the official launch and any reference to the term "Gold Standard was embargoed and the Government had not made the details public. He would advise outside of the meeting on the exact make-up of the Board, although it would include the Council and Shelter. Winchester City Council would be one of the first authorities to take part in the peer review process and, if successful, it was anticipated it should achieve Gold Standard by the end of 2013. The Government was funding the initiative in full and the Council had been assured there would be no additional costs to be met.

In response to further questions, the Assistant Director confirmed that the Health and Wellbeing Board would be notified of the initiative. The Chief Operating Officer advised that the control and any scrutiny of the Board would primarily be a matter for the DCLG. The Council would need to ensure that it met its obligations to the DCLG as accountable body for managing the finances of the project.

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

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE WHOLE OF THE £1,030,000 GRANT RECEIVED AS PART OF THE "GOLD STANDARD CHALLENGE" REVENUE GRANT DETERMINATION BE USED TO FUND THE DELIVERY OF THE GOLD STANDARD PROGRAMME.

RESOLVED:

1. That the City Council's role in facilitating the national Gold Standard for Homelessness Prevention as outlined in this report be endorsed.

2. That the request for Winchester City Council to fulfil the function of 'accountable body' in relation to key elements of the programme be approved.

3. That an initial set up/support budget for the programme of £80,000 be approved, as detailed in Paragraph 5 of the Report.

4. That the Assistant Director (Chief Housing Officer) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, and the Chief Finance Officer and Head of Legal Services, be authorised to enter into an agreement with Shelter and other partners in the Gold Standard programme and to approve the constitution of the Advisory Committee/Board through which the delivery of the programme will be governed.

6. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (HOUSING) COMMITTEE HELD 27 MARCH 2013**

(Report CAB2479 refers)

Cabinet noted that the above Report had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, to enable Cabinet to consider the minutes before the end of the Municipal Year.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Housing) Committee held 27 March 2013 be received (as attached as Appendix A to the Minutes).

7. **MINUTES OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM HELD 21 MARCH 2013**
(Report CAB2477, WTF187 and Addendum refer)

Cabinet noted that the minutes contained recommendations relating to the Winchester Town Open Space Fund (Report WTF187 refers) and a revised Appendix 1 to the Report which had been circulated as WTF187 Addendum.

The Head of Landscape and Open Spaces advised that the proposals related to the use of the remaining Open Space Funds, prior to the fund being wound up at end of 2013. The Town Forum was recommending that three projects be funded: North Walls Pavilion refurbishment; King George V replacement Sports Pavilion; and North Walls Skate Park. In response to questions, he advised that the Council would be applying for the relevant grants (for example, to Sports England) as soon as the funding Open Space funding was confirmed as it was not possible to apply for grants before this. If the grants applications were not successful, then the proposed programme would need to be altered.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Collin addressed Cabinet as the Chairman of the Winchester Town Forum. In summary, he gave some further explanation as to the rationale behind the Forum's recommendations on Report WTF187 in seeking to maximise the use of the Open Space Fund monies. He highlighted that the Forum had established an Informal Working Group to examine issues surrounding possible redevelopment of lands around the Railway Station and welcomed the comments made by the Chairman as outlined above. Finally, he stated that he had attended a meeting of the Warm up Winnall steering group where it had been decided that the initiative be extended to the Weeke area.

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

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Winchester Town Forum held 21 March 2013 in relation to WTF187 be agreed and the remaining minutes be noted.

8. **MINUTES OF THE CABINET (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) COMMITTEE HELD 18 MARCH 2013**
(Report CAB2476 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Cabinet (Traffic and Parking) Committee held 18 March 2013 be received (as attached as Appendix B to the Minutes).

9. **FUTURE ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

RESOLVED:

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

10. **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))))

11. **EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 March 2013, be approved and adopted.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 2.00pm

Chairman