

CABINET

13 September 2006

Attendance:

Councillor Beckett – *Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy and Tourism* (Chairman) (P)

Councillor Allgood – *Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources* (P)

Councillor Coates – *Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities* (P)

Councillor Hollingbery – *Portfolio Holder for Performance and Communications* (P)

Councillor Lipscomb – *Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport*

Councillor Pearson – *Portfolio Holder for Environment, Health and Safety* (P)

Councillor Stallard - *Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport* (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Beveridge, Higgins, Hiscock and Wagner

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Busher and Learney

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Lipscomb.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held 21 August 2006 (less exempt items) be approved and adopted.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Councillor Higgins spoke in support of the Highcliffe Action Group's calls for a 20mph speed limit. He suggested that the Council should support a study investigating the potential of creating "Home Zones" so that it could take advantage of any future change in funding which may make the zones more viable. The Leader agreed to pass on Councillor Higgins' proposal to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport who would respond to Councillor Higgins.

Councillor Beveridge and Wagner spoke on the Climate Change Report (CAB1316) and their comments were considered as set out below. Councillor Hiscock spoke on the Representation on Outside Bodies Report (CAB1309) and his comments were also considered as set out below.

4. **LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cabinet welcomed the new Assistant Director of Finance, Mrs Garlick, to her first meeting.

Councillor Allgood reported that success of the Customer Service Centre had resulted in it being visited by other councils who were keen to introduce a similar system.

Councillor Hollingbery explained that the new look website had been recently launched and requested that officers review their areas of work with a view to making the site more accurate, relevant and user friendly to the public.

The Leader reported on a business conference that had been held to discuss the long term commercial future of Winchester and that, arising from this discussion, he had invited the Chamber of Commerce to engage with the public on their vision for the long term.

5. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP**
(Report CAB1308 refers)

The Report set out information on the stewardship of the Treasury Management function and activity in 2005/06. During discussion, the Director of Finance confirmed that the Council's debt-free status remained, under current regulations, revenue neutral. In approving the Report, Cabinet congratulated officers for exceeding the treasury management benchmark for the fourth year in succession.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Treasury Management Stewardship Report be approved.

6. **BUDGET MONITORING AND EFFICIENCIES OVERVIEW TO JULY 2006**
(Report PS242 refers)

The City Secretary and Solicitor advised that the Report had been considered by Principal Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 September 2006. Members at that meeting had agreed not to call-in the request for a supplementary capital estimate of £108,000 for repairs to the Casson Block. However, the Committee had requested that Cabinet consider the Design and Print budget (paragraph 6.2 refers) and the review of Council publications (paragraph 11.3). The Principal Scrutiny Committee also drew attention to the overspend on the Development Directorate Budget. In response, Cabinet noted Principal Scrutiny Committee's concerns and requested that it receive a further report on these matters at a future meeting if necessary.

Members raised concerns regarding the supplementary estimate for the Casson Block repairs and the Director of Finance reported that this should have been agreed by an earlier meeting of Cabinet and before the works began. However, she assured Members that this did not affect the Council's ability to reclaim some of the costs from the tenants.

Cabinet also expressed its concerns that the Report highlighted the potential difficulties the Council may have in reaching some of its Gershon savings. In agreeing, the Chief Executive explained that the year-on-year savings required by Government under the Gershon agenda were particularly difficult for local authorities like Winchester which were already efficient, but that the targets were closely monitored by the Corporate Management Team and a recently established Informal

Member/Officer Working Group of Principal Scrutiny Committee. Progress against these targets would be reported to Cabinet quarterly.

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

RESOLVED:

That the current position and Principal Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the Report be noted.

RECOMMENDED:

THAT A SUPPLEMENTARY CAPITAL ESTIMATE OF £108,000 FOR REPAIRS TO THE CASSON BLOCK BE APPROVED.

7. **CLIMATE CHANGE**
(Report CAB1316 refers)

Cabinet considered the above Report which set out proposals for a Climate Change Plan for the Winchester District.

Councillor Beveridge addressed Cabinet in support of the Report. In summary, he explained that through the policies of the Local Plan, the Air Quality Action Plan and the Park and Ride Strategy, the Council already had sustainable policies but that these needed to be built on in partnership with the County Council and the wider community. He, therefore, suggested a revision of the traffic circulation and parking policy in the town was necessary. He also proposed that Councillor Wagner be appointed to the proposed Informal Member/Officer Working Group as the Liberal Democrat's representative.

Councillor Wagner also welcomed the paper and stated that the conclusions of a revised CPA report into the Council's sustainability policies would be published shortly and was expected to be favourable. However, he suggested that there should be a greater Member involvement in sustainable issues and that whilst many of the proposed policies resulted in monetary savings, some changes which benefited the environment could be at a financial cost.

Following discussion, Cabinet welcomed the proposals in the Report and agreed that the issues raised by Councillors Beveridge and Wagner should be considered in detail by the Informal Group.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Climate Change Informal Member/Officer Working Group be established to oversee the preparation of the Climate Change Plan and that the Group Leaders be invited to nominate members.

2. That the updated Nottingham Declaration be approved to reaffirm commitment to tackling climate change.

8. **MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**
(Report CAB1315 refers)

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. THAT THE MINOR AMENDMENTS TO PART 3 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS (SECTION 6 – THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO OFFICER) OF THE CONSTITUTION, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 1 TO REPORT CAB1315, BE APPROVED.

2. THAT THE MINOR AMENDMENTS TO PART 3 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS (SECTION 4 – THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES AND OTHER NON-EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING COMMITTEES) OF THE CONSTITUTION, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 2 TO REPORT CAB1315, BE APPROVED.

9. **MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SCRUTINY PANELS**
(Report CAB1319 refers)

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

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE MINOR AMENDMENTS TO PART 4 – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES (TERMS OF REFERENCE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES) OF THE CONSTITUTION, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 1, TO REPORT CAB1319 BE APPROVED.

10. **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
(Report CAB1309 refers)

Councillor Hiscock spoke in support of the re-appointment of Councillor Love to the Winchester Detached Youth Work Project, as during his nine year long tenure, Councillor Love had amassed a considerable expertise and commitment to the project.

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

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Love be appointed as the Council's representative on the Winchester Detached Youth Work Project until the expiry of the term of office on 30 September 2007.

11. **MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report PS248 refers)

Cabinet noted the concerns raised by the Scrutiny Panel regarding the risk of delays in the food safety inspections that had been caused by staff reductions made in the previous financial year. However, Councillor Pearson reported that since the meeting of the Panel, the Department had managed with the reductions, although it had led to increased pressure on staff.

Members also noted the Panel's concerns regarding planning enforcement and whilst acknowledging that this was being closely monitored by the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport, Cabinet requested an update report on this issue to its next meeting should this be necessary. It was also asked that the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Communications should consider the issues raised by the Scrutiny Panel regarding the Planning public access portal.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held on 12 July 2006 be received, and the recommendations contained therein be noted.

12. **MINUTES OF THE LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report PS249 refers)

Councillor Stallard drew Cabinet's attention to the Panel's concerns regarding the Conservation Team and following debate, Cabinet agreed that the request for additional staff and re-instatement of the Historic Buildings Grant should be considered alongside other growth bids as part of the budget process. Cabinet also agreed to appoint Councillor Stallard as the City Council's Historic Environment Champion and agreed with the appointment of the Museum Service Review Informal Scrutiny Group.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held on 13 July 2006 be received, and the recommendations (not withstanding the above comments regarding the Conservation Team) contained therein be noted.

2. That the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport be appointed as the City Council's Historic Environment Champion.

3. That the appointment of an Informal Scrutiny Group, to undertake a Review of the Museum Service, be approved.

13. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report PS250 refers)

Councillor Coates clarified the Panel's recommendation that tenancy conditions be reviewed to speed-up the re-allocation of Council properties and Cabinet noted that, following the meeting of the Panel, this review was already underway.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held on 17 July 2006 be received, and the recommendations contained therein be noted.

14. **MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL**
(Report PS251 refers)

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 20 July 2006 be received, and the recommendations contained therein 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>
##	Avalon House – Future Plans) Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Para 3 Schedule 12A refers)
##	Historic Resources Centre, Hyde	
##	Provision of Finance Support Services to South East Employers	
##	Digital Print Review	

##	Electronic Document and Records Management System)))	Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings (Para 5 Schedule 12A refers).
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16. **AVALON HOUSE – FUTURE PLANS**

(Report CAB1318 refers)

Under the Council's Constitution Access to Information Procedure Rules (Rule 15.1 General Exception), this was a Key Decision, which had not been included in the Forward Plan. Under this procedure, the Chairman of Principal Scrutiny Committee had been informed.

Cabinet considered the Report in which the Chief Estates Officer set out a number of options in relation to the future of Avalon House, Chesil Street, Winchester (further detail in exempt minute).

17. **HISTORIC RESOURCES CENTRE, HYDE**

(Report CAB1314 refers)

Cabinet considered the Report in which the Chief Estates Officer set out a number of options in relation to regarding the future of the Historic Resources Centre at Hyde (further detail in exempt minute).

18. **PROVISION OF FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES TO SOUTH EAST EMPLOYERS**

(Report CAB1312 refers)

Cabinet considered the Report which set out the terms for extending the contract for finance support services to South East Employers and the Director of Finance agreed to clarify the definition of inflation within the terms of the contract.

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

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approves the extension to the contract to supply finance support services to South East Employers for two years with effect from 1 October 2006.

19. **DIGITAL PRINT REVIEW**

(Report CAB1311 refers)

Cabinet considered the Report which set out proposals, including the procurement method, to alter the Council's printing facilities (further detail in exempt minute).

20. **ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EDRMS)**

(Report CAB1313 refers)

Cabinet considered the Report which set out possible procurement options, outlined the differences between the methods and recommended the preferred procurement method for the EDRMS (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.40am

Chairman