

THESE MINUTES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2006 FOR APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD.

West Wiltshire District Council

Minutes

Minutes of the: Scrutiny Committee

Held on: Wednesday 12 July 2006

Held at: Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge

Present:

Councillors: Phillips OBE, (Chairman), Blakemore, Bower (part), Conley, Cunliffe-Jones, Fortescue (part), Hames (part), Lewis, Manasseh, Mounde, Oakman, Oldrieve, Payne, Rosier, and While.

Also in attendance: Cllrs Osborn, Cox, Brown and Viles

Officers: Corporate Directors (IG & TD), Head of Legal and Democratic Services (NM), Policy & Communications Services Manager (PM), ICT Manager (AS), Head of Development Control Services (DH), Lawyer (SH), Member Support Team Leader (YR) and Democratic Support Officer (KF)

54. Apologies and Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr March.

55. Declarations of Interest

The following Member declared his interest in the PCT Consultation Update: (Minute No. 63 refers).

Cllr While - Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny (WCC).

The following Member declared his interest in the Waste Collection Contract: (Minute No. 60 refers)

Cllr Payne.

56. Announcements from the Chairman

There were no announcements.

57. Call-in of a Cabinet Decision of 31 May 2006 – Transfer of lease of the Multi-Storey Car Park at Castle Place Trowbridge.

The Committee was asked to consider a request from the Chairman to call-in the above mentioned decision.

The request for the call-in had been made to seek clarification over the terms of the covenant concerning the multi-storey car park.

The call-in related only to the transfer of the lease of the multi-storey car park and not the other decisions made by the Cabinet on this issue.

Relevant background information was presented, the Committee was asked to consider whether it wished the Cabinet decision to be called-in and referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

RESOLVED:

- **That the decision in respect of the transfer of the lease on the multi-storey car park be called in.**
- **That no request be made for Cabinet to reconsider the decision, however Cabinet be asked to take into account the following issues and safe guards in all ongoing negotiations on the lease:**
- **Preservation of the Council's interest and reaffirm the position on the freehold.**
- **Ensure any agreement made with the current owner will transfer to any future owner. This protects the Councils interest and minimises any risks associated with the company either going out of business or selling its assets to another company.**
- **Enhanced provision of parking for people with disabilities should be included in the scheme**
- **The District Valuer be requested to give their judgement about the scheme and be satisfied with the arrangements to protect the interests of the Council.**
- **Protect the provision of two hour free parking.**

Note: Cllrs Hames and Cunliffe-Jones arrived during the discussion of the above item prior to the vote being taken.

Cllr Bower arrived after the vote was taken to call the decision in but prior to the vote being taken on the points being reaffirmed to Cabinet.

58. Update from Cllr Jeff Osborn, Portfolio Holder for Planning & Development.

Cllr Osborn responded to questions raised by the Scrutiny Committee which included the following:

- 5 Town Initiative – a great success across West Wiltshire.
- Waterside Project – Report to Cabinet on 26 July.
- Regional Spatial Strategy – Report on Council's response to Cabinet on 26 July
- District Plan – 1st Alteration.
- Progress made on Development Control performance indicators for 1st quarter of the year.
- Meeting with Government Office for South West on performance on determining major applications.
- Bradford on Avon Conservation Areas – out for consultation.
- Design Awards – Seeking nominations.
- Planning Information Officers – have now become permanent roles as this met the Corporate Plan objectives and "Putting the Customer First".
- Building Control – possible future provision.

59. Planning Enforcement Service.

The report was brought to the committee in response to the internal overview committee resolution made at the last meeting of that committee on 13th April, 2005 and to allow the committee to consider a number of changes which had been made to the enforcement service since April 2005

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

60. Waste Collection Contract.

The purpose of the report presented was to provide Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress with the re-tendering of the Waste Collection Contract.

The current contract for household waste collection with Cleanaway would expire in March 2007.

The Scrutiny Committee had considered this issue previously on 18 January 2006 when had made a number of recommendations to Cabinet.

Cabinet had considered these recommendations on 8 February 2006 when it accepted the Committee's recommendations apart from the recommendation to extend the contract.

Cabinet on 26 July would be asked to approve the specification for the contract.

Later in the year (December 2006/ January 2007) a decision would be sought to award the contract.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee notes the progress with re-tendering the waste collection contract.

Note: Cllr Payne left the meeting for the duration of the above item as he earlier declared an interest in the item.

61. ICT Facilities Contract Extension.

Tim Darsley presented a report that explained the Corporate Management Team (CMT) decision to accept in principle the conditions of a proposed 2-year extension to the ICT Facilities Management (FM) Contract to the Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the report and position be noted.

62. Effective Contract Monitoring Arrangements – possible task and finish group.

The purpose of the report presented was to provide the Scrutiny Committee with the background information to assist it to decide whether to set up a task and finish group to examine the effectiveness of the Council's contract monitoring arrangements.

This stemmed from a Council resolution dated 21 June 2006 to request the Committee to investigate via a task and finish group the effectiveness of monitoring major contracts.

RESOLVED:

That the item be postponed until the 11 October meeting.

63. PCT Consultation – Update.

The Committee received details of a letter the Council's Chief Executive had sent to Carol Clarke, Chief Executive of the PCT as too the Council's formal response to the consultation on "pathways for Change".

The letter took into account the views expressed by Members of the Council on 21 June and the Special Scrutiny Committee on 8 June 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive's letter to Carol Clarke, Chief Executive of the PCT. Be noted.

64. Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Work Plan as presented be approved.

The next meeting would be held on 6 September 2006.

(7pm – 9:40pm)

These minutes were prepared by Kevin Fielding, Democratic Support Officer who can be contacted on direct line 01225 770322 or email kfielding@westwiltshire.gov.uk