

**THESE MINUTES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE NEXT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
ON 23 JANUARY 2008 FOR APPROVAL AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**West Wiltshire District Council**

**Minutes**

- Minutes of the:** Scrutiny Committee
- Held on:** Wednesday 19 December 2007
- Held at:** Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge
- Present:**
- Councillors:** Bryant, Burden, Fuller, Hawker, Hedley, Martindale, J Osborn (Chairman), Parks and Ridout
- Also in attendance:** Cllrs Carbin (part), Conley, James (part) March, Mounde (part) and Phillips OBE
- Officers:** Policy Service Manager (PM), Policy Officer (DJ) Property and Commercial Services Manager (JF) Development Control Services Manager (DH) Environmental Health Manager (JC) Housing Renewal Manager (JH) Waste and Recycling Manager (Laura Snaulton) and Democratic Support Officers (KH and AM)

**84. Apologies and Membership of the Committee**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Alford, Blakemore, Carr, Chivers, Humphries, Jenkins, Mudge, Seager and Walker

Cllr Martindale acted as a substitute for Cllr Blakemore

**85. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

**86. Announcements from the Chairman**

Members were referred to the briefing note (no. 149) that had been circulated detailing the changes to Bus Services X4 and X5.

That Cllrs Walker, Humphries and Osborn had visited the Wiltshire Police Operations Centre at Devizes to see how calls to the Police 0845 number were handled. An update paper from Police HQ on progress with the 0845 number was circulated to members. The Chairman said that he would pursue this matter and that it was to be kept separate from the Anti-Social Behaviour Task Group chaired by Cllr Humphries.

That the Task and Finish Partnership Working group on anti- social behaviour had met on 14 December 2007. Members were asked to feed any concerns they had regarding Anti-Social Behaviour Partnership Working to Cllr Humphries – Chairman of the Task Group.

### **87. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 22 November 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **88. Transitional Scrutiny Update**

Open Forum speaker:

Mr Steven Oldrieve

The Policy and Performance Services Manager presented a report which provided the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the latest position on developing the joint transitional overview and scrutiny arrangements for Wiltshire.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Committee noted the report**

### **89. Proposed Post Office Closures**

Open Forum speaker:

Mr Duncan Hames

The Policy Officer presented a report to inform members of the latest Post Office closure plans, the time-scale for consultation and criteria on which decisions can be challenged.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That this Council is strongly opposed to all cutbacks of Post Office services in West Wiltshire on the grounds of social inclusion, social deprivation and the environment (climate change). These cutbacks will particularly affect the most vulnerable members of society and those who live in rural communities.**

## **90. Update on issues and challenges – Planning**

Cllr Phillips updated Members on the issues and challenges currently being faced by Planning Services.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Development Control Services Manager is requested to produce a report for this Committee by June 2008 detailing all current and outstanding section 106 agreement obligations.**

## **91. Updates on Issues and Challenges - Environmental**

Cllr Conley updated Members on the issues and challenges currently being faced by Environmental Services. This included the waste and recycling rates so far for 2007/08, the grounds maintenance and street cleansing contract with English Landscapes, public toilets, parking and environmental health.

Members welcomed the report and noted the width of the portfolio holder's responsibilities.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Committee noted the report.**

## **92. Updates and staffing issues in Development Control and Housing Renewal**

Cllr Phillips updated Members on the issues and staffing issues currently being faced by Development Control and Housing Renewal.

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Committee noted the report, and requested a further report on staffing issues in Housing Renewal at its February meeting.**

## **93. Service and Resource Planning**

The Policy and Performance Services Manager presented a report requesting that Members of this Committee consider the issues and format for the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23 January which will address service and resource planning for 2008-09.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Councillors While, Payne and Eaton be asked to attend the January meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.**

**That if Members of this Committee have any particular concerns that they would like to be raised at the January Committee they report back to the Policy and Performance Services Manager.**

**94. Scrutiny Committee Forward Workplan**

The Policy and Performance Services Manager presented a report to enable the Scrutiny Committee to consider and develop its forward work plan.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Members should report back to the Policy and Performance Services Manager with items they wish to include in future meetings of the Scrutiny Committee.**

**95. Date of next meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday **23 January 2008** in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge at **7pm**.

(7.00pm – 9.15pm)

These minutes were prepared by Andrew Mitchell, Democratic Support Officer who can be contacted on 01225 776655 ext 115