

# West Wiltshire District Council

## Minutes

**Minutes of the:** Scrutiny Committee

**Held on:** Wednesday 28 February 2007

**Held at:** Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Phillips OBE (Chairman), Blakemore, Bower, Conley, Hames (part), Hawker, Manasseh, Mounde and Rosier.

**Also in attendance:** District Councillors: Brice, Cox and Viles.

Parish and Town Council Representatives: Cllr Bowen (Bradford on Avon TC), Cllr Mills (Melksham Without PC), Cllr Sexstone (Heywood PC), Mrs Abernethie (Warminster TC), Cllr O'Donoghue (Edington PC), Cllr Peters and Mr Hoareau (Codford PC), Cllrs Smyth and Bower (Semington PC), Cllrs Noble and West (Southwick PC), Cllr Hawkins (Westbury TC) and Cllrs Van Ryssen and Brett Green (Steeple Ashton PC)

**Officers:** Policy & Communications Services Manager (PM), Management Accountant (SH), Sustainable Communities Services Manager (RR), Policy Officer (CN) and Member Support Officer (PS)

### 10. Apologies and Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cunliffe-Jones, March, Oakman and While

### 11. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

### 12. Announcements from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the town and parish councils to the meeting.

The Chairman asked Cllr Manasseh to update members on Wiltshire County Council's Health Scrutiny meeting.

Cllr Manasseh drew member's attention to the following points:

- There would only be 14 maternity beds provided in Chippenham for an area covering Kennet, North Wiltshire and West Wiltshire despite the fact that there had been 1000 births in the last 12 months
- There was a lack of clarity regarding mental health provision.
- Concerns had been raised regarding travelling costs and availability of transport for both staff and patients to Chippenham.

The Chair reported that Scrutiny Committee would now be responsible for reviewing Local Government Ombudsman's reports.

### **13. Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 17 and 31 January were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to recording the apologies of Cllr Rosier at both of these meetings.

### **14. Neighbourhood Policing Teams**

Martin Abbott, Project Manager, Neighbourhood Policing Implementation Team, gave a presentation on the purpose of Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT's). He gave some details of the command structures and the numbers of Police allocated to each of the teams. He explained that NPT's would deal with:

- Volume crime that forms part of a series in their neighbourhood.
- Protracted community based enquiries not requiring specialist input (e.g. CID.)
- Those incidents where no immediate arrest is necessary.
- The complaint has a significant adverse impact on the local community.
- Involves ongoing anti-social behaviour.
- Requires long term community problem solving techniques.
- Requires partnership working to resolve the issues.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued and members questioned Martin Abbott on several aspects of his presentation.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Martin Abbott takes away the points raised in the discussion and that Scrutiny Committee requests that the Police come back to update the Committee in 6-12 months time when the scheme is in full operation**

**15. Performance Monitoring: Quarter Three – October to December 2006**

Cllr Bower presented a report which summarised the Council's performance in the third quarter of 2006/07.

The performance monitoring group had noted that the current situation was one of continuing improvement and progress in general. Out of the ten performance indicators only two were of major concern:

- Percentage of major applications processed in 13 weeks
- Number of non-decent homes in the social rented sector.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Scrutiny Committee:**

- **notes the continued improvement in performance during quarter three**
- **supports the specific comments of the Performance Monitoring Group**
- **agrees that the performance monitoring group be given a fresh mandate in order to carry out further work on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee.**

**16. Quarterly Budget and Financial Monitoring**

The Management Accountant presented the report which detailed the Council's financial position for the period ending 31 December 2006.

**RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted**

**RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:**

**That Scrutiny Committee expresses its concerns regarding the Pension Fund.**

**17. Committees Forward Workplan**

The Scrutiny Committee considered the forward workplan. Some discussion ensued regarding support for the committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the forward workplan be approved.

#### **RECOMMENDATION TO CABINET:**

**That Scrutiny Committee considers itself under-resourced to comply with the requests put before them and that further consideration be given to the resources and support provided to the Committee.**

**That if Scrutiny Committee, having considered the appropriateness of requests put before it, responds to Council that it has nothing further to offer.**

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday **4 April 2007** in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge at **7pm.**

(7.00pm – 9:10pm)

These minutes were prepared by Pam Sidgwick Member Support Officer who can be contacted on direct line 01225 770322 or email [psidgwick@westwiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:psidgwick@westwiltshire.gov.uk)