

The Civic Centre
St Stephen's Place
TROWBRIDGE
Wiltshire
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SUMMONS

22nd December 2020

To members of the Policy & Resources Committee: Councillors: Bates, Brice (VC), Bridges, Cavill, Drewett, Fuller, Halik, Hoar, Palmen (Chair) and Whiffen.

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the **Policy & Resources Committee which is to be held on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 19.00hrs**, on MS TEAMS.

Yours faithfully

Lance Allan
Town Clerk

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council and Committees, unless specifically excluded due to the confidential nature of the business. Enquiries 01225 765072 or info@trowbridge.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

- a. **To receive** apologies from those unable to attend.
- b. **To consider for acceptance** those apologies received with reasons for absence.

2. **MINUTES**

- a. **To approve as a correct record**, the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2020 (copy attached).
- b. **To receive** any questions arising from those minutes.
- c. **To consider** the Minutes of the Civic Board meeting held on 10th November 2020.
- d. **To consider** the Minutes of the Risk & Audit Panel held on 10th November 2020.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Declarations of Interest not already included on the Register in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers and of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members.

4. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive any announcements which the Chair may wish to put to the meeting.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

To receive questions from the public, these may be answered but not debated.

6. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

To consider the Town Clerk's Report (copy attached).

7. EVENTS 2021/2022

To consider and note the following events;

Heritage Event – The budget includes a contribution towards a Heritage event in 2021/22 which could incorporate elements of the Veterans weekend and also a contribution from the Museum.

Active Festival – Given the need to plan well in advance and with the uncertainty regarding the pandemic we have taken the decision to cancel the 2021 event.

The budget includes funds to support other events if it is possible later in the year.

8. ENERGY FROM WASTE INCINERATOR (Report Item 1.1)

The Environment Agency have now received the permit application from Northacre Renewable Energy Ltd to operate the incinerator, which is currently under construction in Westbury. They are inviting comments on this permit application during a consultation period, which is open until 22 January 2021. The P&R Report (**Appendix A**) contains further information about the incinerator, as well as details on how you can have your say.

9. GRANTS (Report Item 2.1.1)

To consider grant applications for 2020/2021. (Details circulated separately).

The revised Grants Policy to inform the 2021/2022 budget was approved at the September meeting. The grant applications for 2020/2021 will be considered at this meeting. The town council accepted applications up to 30th September and received applications totalling £19,568 (budget of £9,500). Grant cheques will be issued following approval at the committee and we would ask recipient organisations to provide a short acknowledgement for inclusions in the Annual Town Meeting in April 2021. Grant applications have been received from the following organisations.

- Splitz Support Service
- Group Five
- Trowbridge Ladies Rugby
- Trowbridge & District Youth Band
- Westbourne Tennis Club
- Trowbridge Street Pastors
- 60+ Social Afternoon
- Wiltshire Sight
- Monday Wednesday Club
- Families Out Loud
- Trowbridge Wanderers Youth FC
- Friends of Biss Meadows Country Park
- Life Education Centre (Wiltshire) Ltd.
- Wessex MS Therapy Centre
- Help Counselling
- Wiltshire Rural Music School
- Trowbridge Environmental Community
- Carers Support Wiltshire

10. WILTSHIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW (Report Item 6.3.2)

WC has now approved its review for consultation with the public in January/February 2021. The Town Council has considered the implications for Trowbridge at meetings of the Town Development Committee on 1st December and 22nd December and at an additional briefing meeting on Monday 14th December. These meetings were to ensure members were fully informed prior to the Policy & Resources Committee reaching a conclusion with regards to a response to the consultation.

Appendix C includes the latest version of the town clerk's report for this matter and the links to the original WC Cabinet agenda. Wiltshire Council is proposing allocations for up to 2600 houses to the **north of Hilperton and east of Staverton**. It may be appropriate to consider a number of other options:

A. Green Belt. The Town Council has previously expressed the view that the most sustainable location for further growth in the Trowbridge area would be in the Green Belt to the North-West and West of the town. This has been excluded, without sustainability assessment, in line with national policy.

B. Southwick/North Bradley. Making all the allocations at Hilperton/Staverton appears to ignore the possibility of doing something similar in the area of North Bradley/Southwick, which could be delivered in combination with further road improvements which extend the A350 West Ashton and Yarnbrook improvement to the A361 at the County Boundary, offering an alternative to a Westbury by-pass.

CI. Other towns. The allocation north of Hilperton is not connected to the Trowbridge Settlement boundary and it could be argued therefore that the Settlement Strategy no longer works in respect of Trowbridge and as such more of the Trowbridge development should be allocated to Westbury and Melksham, possibly in combination with one of the outer Melksham by-pass routes.

C2. New/expanded settlement. An alternative change to the Settlement Strategy would be a new or expanded settlement elsewhere in the county such as Hullavington, Pewsey or Lydeaway/Devizes in combination with proposed or existing railway stations.

If the consultation period allows, it may be possible for the committee to defer its response to the consultation and in the meantime seek further clarification from Wiltshire Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Can Wiltshire Council confirm that this review has accepted that the Core Strategy Settlement Strategy in respect of Trowbridge as a Principal Settlement is now no longer tenable and that in fact the proposal is not ‘at Trowbridge’ in the same sense as Wiltshire Council argued that allocations in the WHSAP were ‘at Trowbridge’ and that the figures for the Trowbridge HMA should be presented to indicate that the Trowbridge Settlement Residual to Identify housing number should be shown against the ‘Rest of HMA’ or against a separate allocation of ‘Large Villages close to Trowbridge’ and not as Trowbridge (Settlement)?**
2. **Can Wiltshire Council explain how it can make a significant allocation on the boundary of the defined Large Village Settlement of Hilperton and claim that it is connected to the ‘Trowbridge Settlement’ when the ‘Trowbridge Settlement’ lies on the far side of Hilperton?**
3. **Can Wiltshire Council explain how it can claim that they have identified that; ‘the most sustainable options for accommodating growth lie to the north and east of the town’ when sites in the Greenbelt have not been subject to a sustainability appraisal and are probably significantly more sustainable than the chosen sites?**
4. **Can Wiltshire Council explain how it can justify ignoring sites around Southwick and North Bradley when such sites are just as sustainable as the chosen sites and have the potential to deliver much better traffic infrastructure improvements, positively impacting on a wider area?**
5. **Can Wiltshire Council confirm that by including a semi-‘Growth at Westbury’ option in the Trowbridge HMA and by allocating a greater level of growth at Melksham than at Trowbridge, it is confirming that the Settlement Strategy is failing and that if these two towns were classified as Principal Settlements the allocations from Trowbridge could be reallocated to them alongside the proposed Melksham Outer Bypass and an improvement to the route between Yarnbrook and the A36 to relieve traffic at Westbury.**
6. **Can Wiltshire Council confirm if it has seriously considered an alternative strategy which includes one or more new/expanded settlements in combination with existing, proposed or potential new railway stations, such as Pewsey, Hullavington and Devizes/Lydeaway.**
7. **Will Wiltshire Council be providing each designated neighbourhood area a housing requirement in accordance with NPPF paragraph 65 or will they be providing an indicative figure in accordance with paragraph 66 and explaining why it is not possible to comply with paragraph 65?**
8. **Will Wiltshire Council provide either the housing requirement or the indicative figure for each of the following:**
 - Trowbridge
 - Hilperton
 - West Ashton
 - North Bradley
 - Southwick
 - Staverton

11. BUDGET 2021/2022 (Report item 2.1.5 and APPENDIX B)

To consider the draft budget for 2021/2022

RECOMMENDATION: That in order to meet; the budget expenditure recommended by the committees; the requirement to fund an increase in General Reserves and; in anticipation of additional services being transferred from Wiltshire Council over the next four years, with an expectation from the community that the town council will take full responsibility for those additional services and deliver a quality of service better than that experienced in recent years (whilst they have been the responsibility of Wiltshire Council), the Council Tax Charge for Trowbridge Town Council for 2021/22 should be increased by an amount greater than CPI inflation.

That the Committee approves the following **RECOMMENDATION** to Council;

- | | |
|--|------------|
| a. That the Council approves the department Budgets for 2021/22 (incl. loan finance) as detailed on the budget spreadsheets, totalling | £1,944,406 |
| b. That the Council approves that the contribution to General Reserves for 2021/22 be | £18,900 |
| c. That the Council approves that a contribution to Earmarked Reserves for transfers from Wiltshire Council for 2021/22 be | £0 |
| d. That the Council therefore approves a total budget requirement 2020/21 of | £1,963,306 |
| And that this is funded in part through estimated income for 2021/22 from Community Infrastructure Levy of | (£22,000) |
| e. Leaving a net precept requirement for 2022/22 of | £1,941,306 |
| f. Which results in an increase of £2.48 on the Trowbridge Town Council 'Band D' Council Tax Charge, to Which is less than £3.22 per week. | £167.46 |

This recommendation has been assessed against the following:

- **Equalities:** This recommendation has no detrimental equalities impacts.
- **Finance:** This recommendation is in accordance with the legislative framework for meeting the council's financial requirements and will ensure that the council is able to meet those requirements.
- **Climate:** This recommendation will not impact significantly on the climate.
- **Ecology:** This recommendation does not have specific ecological impacts.
- **Staff:** This recommendation is based upon the council's staffing levels and commitments and does not result in and loss of existing contracted staff.
- **Legal:** This recommendation is in accordance with the legal framework which requires the council to set a balanced budget and maintain appropriate General Reserves.
- **Risk:** If this recommendation is not approved and a significantly lower precept compared to that recommended is approved, then the council is at risk of having insufficient funds to carry out all of its services, investment in facilities and additional responsibilities.
- **Benefit to Trowbridge:** This recommendation allows the council to continue the current Strategy of providing a range of services and facilities for the town and develop further that range of services and facilities in the future.

12. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

To consider for approval payments and receipts made since the last meeting of the Council recorded on the Cash Receipts and Payments Records by the Finance Officer and to confirm the action of Councillors Bates and Fuller in signing the Cash Payments and Receipts Records.

	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
October	318,369.03	192,226.73
November	174,335.92	45,687.24

RECOMMENDATION: That the committee approves the payments and receipts for **October and November.**

13. MEDIA RELEASES

To consider if the Committee should make a media release regarding any of the issues considered.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 2nd March 2021 on Microsoft MS TEAMS.