



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LOCALISM INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUP

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed request, the Leader may require the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

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Committee Administrator:

Nancy Graham, Tel: 01962 848 235, Email: ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

The Localism ISG reported the outcome of their review to The Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21 January 2013 (Report OS58 refers). The minute extract from that meeting is attached as Appendix 1 to this notice.

Since the meeting, the Leader has agreed that the Portfolio Holder consider the recommendations of the ISG and outline his response in a Portfolio Holder Decision Notice.

DECISION

That the final recommendations of the Localism ISG be approved, as set out in Appendix 1.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

All of the alternative options were considered by the original ISG who have recommended the actions within this PHD.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

If the recommendations of the ISG are approved, further work will be needed to review what support the City Council can provide parish councils, including in their pursuit of Quality Parish Status, to ensure it complements that of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils and that there is no overlap. The national Quality Parish Council scheme is currently under review. Officers will review what support could be offered to parishes pursuing this scheme once the results of this review are published in the autumn.

Regarding recommendation 4, an annual training event can be delivered through existing staff resources in Strategic Planning and Community Planning.

The remaining recommendations can be met through existing staff resources from the Policy, Democratic Services, Strategic Planning and Community Planning teams.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION

Members of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee through consideration of Report OS58.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

A member of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised the objection that the PHD notice did not address concerns raised by the Committee when the final report of the Informal Scrutiny Group was being discussed. These concerns specifically relate to the confusion among communities with regard to the status of neighbourhood and community plans, village design statements etc in planning law and their consistency with the Council's Local Plan policies.

During the preparation of Local Plan Part 2, regard will be paid to existing neighbourhood and community plans to ensure community aspirations are reflected as far as possible. This will be in addition to the opportunities provided for communities to further engage in the Local Plan Part 2 process. This work will be done in conjunction with an annual training event (as per recommendation 4 of the informal scrutiny group) which will clarify for communities the pros and cons of different types of community planning and the status of each plan.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

N/A

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision: 20.06.13

Councillor Keith Wood – Leader

Councillor Rob Humby – Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning and Economic Development

APPENDIX – MINUTE EXTRACT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD 21 JANUARY 2013

1. **LOCALISM INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUP (ISG) – FINAL REPORT**
(Report OS58 refers)

As Chairman of the Informal Scrutiny Group, Councillor Hutchison introduced the Report.

During discussion, Councillor Hutchison acknowledged confusion amongst communities with regard to the status of neighbourhood and community plans, village design statements etc in planning law and their consistency with the Council's Local Plan policies. The Chief Executive and Councillor Humby agreed that as far as possible, officers should have regard to the work of local communities on such plans as the City Council prepared Local Plan Part 2 and in adopting aspirational planning policies. The Committee requested that Councillor Humby explore with officers how this could best be taken forward.

The Chief Executive also explained that a percentage of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would be used at the discretion of the local communities, if they had a Neighbourhood Plan in place. The outcome of the Denmead front runner project was awaited to see how this might work in practice.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked the Members of the ISG and supporting officers for their work in undertaking the scrutiny review.

RESOLVED:

That The Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the following recommendations of the Informal Scrutiny Group as set out below and recommend them to Cabinet for implementation:

1. That any future staff re-structuring should consider re-designating existing posts, or creating new posts, to encourage a more entrepreneurial approach.
2. The City Council should investigate what support parish councils might need to achieve or maintain Quality Parish Council status and, within the constraints of current resources, create a relevant support package. This support should be enshrined within a Localism Partnership Agreement between WCC and HALC within which WCC support for the Quality Parish Scheme, the MDC (Member Development Charter) and CiLCA (the Certificate in Local Council Administration) is expressed.

3. The City Council accept the Hampshire Association of Local Councils' offer to brief officers and Members on the competence framework for the parish sector, to include the Quality Parish Scheme, the MDC and the CiLCA.
4. The City Council should institute a systematic annual programme of training for community leaders, officers, councillors and others to provide them with a good understanding of what can be achieved through good community planning, and how places can be improved at all levels.
5. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review progress against any agreed actions in 12 months time.