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CABINET

30 September 2010

10.30 am – 3.05 pm

Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Stroud

Minutes

3

Membership:

Frances Roden	Chair of Cabinet (Leader of Council)	P
Keith Pearson	Regeneration Portfolio (Deputy Leader)	P
Joe Forbes	Community Services Portfolio	P
Elisabeth Bird	Climate Change Portfolio	P
Nigel Cooper	Finance Portfolio	P
Barbara Tait	Planning and Environment Portfolio	P
Debbie Young	Housing Portfolio	P

P = Present

A = Absent

Other Councillors in attendance

Gwen Belcher	John Jones	Ken Stephens
Philip Bevan	Fi Macmillan	Brian Tipper
Rowland Blackwell	John Marjoram	Linda Townley
Harry Carr	Brian Marsh	

Officers in attendance

Chief Executive	Public Space Manager
Strategic Head (Community Services)	Planning Strategy Manager
Strategic Head (Development)	Principal Marketing Officer
Strategic Head (Tenant Services)	Consultant (Woolaways/HRA Asset Strategy)
Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer	Consultant (Business Improvement)
Legal Services Manager	Customer Services Manager
Head of Communications	Performance and Improvement Officer
Head of Cultural Services	Senior Democratic Services & Elections Officer
Interim Finance Manager	Senior Policy Officer
Accountancy Manager	
Business Accountant (HRA)	

CBT.030 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Paul Smith, Chair of Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who had been invited to attend the meeting (reference CBT.044).

CBT.031 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST****(a) Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

There were none.

(b) Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

There were none.

CBT.032 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 1 July 2010 are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CBT.033 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following question was received from **Mr Ian Crawley of Woodland, Holcombe Glen, Minchinhampton, Glos GL6 9AJ** was submitted to and answered by the **Cabinet Member for Regeneration**, as set out below.

Question	Response
<p>'Over the past few months Nailsworth Town Council and Nailsworth Primary School, working together, have come to understand that Nailsworth Recreation Centre modus operandi was outdated and unsustainable.</p> <p>The opportunity to run more popular classes - such as kickboxing, basketball and line dancing - have not been pursued. And the low-volume user activities, such as badminton, could never make enough money to sustain the centre. NTC/NPS, working with the emerging Nailsworth Sports and Leisure Partnership, now have a clear commitment and vision to get this centre back on track.</p> <p>In light of this Government's strategic commitment to the Big Society, does Stroud District Council support the transfer of NRC to a community run group, offering it the advice and financial resources required to run such a venture?'</p>	<p>'Nailsworth Recreational Centre is one of 6 centres operated by Stroud District Council. The programme on each of these sites differs according to community need and as a result of requests received by local interest groups. Although Nailsworth Recreational Centre receives that same level of marketing and promotion to the other sites, usage is considerably less and therefore the subsidy per user is high. To reinforce this point our consultation has shown that many local residents did not know the centre existed and further discussion with some of the organisations in Nailsworth has shown that the needs of these groups are met elsewhere. It is very clear to Stroud District Council that Nailsworth Recreational Centre is not a 'critical' facility in a community which is well served by community buildings, the latest of which is currently under construction.</p> <p>In response to the issue of Big Society. Stroud District Council has always supported local partnerships and community run enterprises and has assisted a number of them over the years through both grant aid</p>

and advice. As Mr Crawley is aware the ownership of the site remains with the County Council so it is not in our gift to transfer it. However, as the Cabinet report outlines we are currently offering Nailsworth Sports and Leisure Partnership a grant of £10k (subject to the development of a business plan) to implement the ideas and suggestions which they have already put forward. We wish them every success in this venture. Decisions on the level of Officer support will need to be made when we fully understand the nature of these requests and taking into account the resources available.'

CBT.034 **GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2010/11**

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the second General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2010/11 report that provided an update on performance up to 31 August 2010 against the original revenue budget and the capital programme for 2010/11. He highlighted a shortfall, estimated at £50k, in car park income which was due to many factors, contained within the report. Legal Services joint working had been explored and until permanent arrangements were in place locums would be appointed, which were more expensive, to carry out essential work.

- RESOLVED**
- a) **To note the position on the original 2010/11 revenue budget as set out in Appendix A.**
 - b) **To note the position on the capital budget at Appendix B.**
 - c) **To note the position of the income projections set out in Appendix C.**
 - d) **To note the position of the Car Park income and Legal Staff costs in paragraphs 7 and 8.**

CBT.035 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET MONITORING AND HRA FUNDED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2010/11**

The Cabinet Member for Housing presented an update on the current performance of the HRA for 2010/11 in respect of revenue income and expenditure on the capital programme up until 31 August 2010. The restructure of Tenant Services will improve budget monitoring by bringing together the Repairs and Asset Management teams. The Capital Programme is on target, however, it was originally thought that there was only one supplier for a particular contract and upon further investigations it was found that there were more and this would be affected by procurement rules.

- RESOLVED**
- a) **To note the budget position as set out in Appendices A and B.**
 - b) **To note the position on void properties as set out in Appendix C to this report.**

- c) To approve the proposals to amend Revenue Budgets as set out in paragraph 3.7 Table 2.
 - i to transfer projected saving of £100,000 in 2010/11 budget for Cyclical Maintenance (Gas and Oil) to Woolaways budget in 2011/12.
 - ii to carry forward projected underspend of £40,000 for Supervision and Management budget in 2010/11 to Woolaways budget in 2011/12.
- d) To approve the proposals to amend Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 4.8 Table 3.
 - i to carry forward as slippage to 2011/2012 the sum of £316,500 within the programme for Ground Source Heat Pumps.
 - ii to carry forward as slippage to 2011/2012 the sum of £42,000 which is the projected underspend on the Minchinhampton Woolaways Project.
 - iii to transfer projected £10,000 underspend on the Disabled Discrimination Act budget in 2010/11 to the Sheds budget.
 - iv to transfer projected £8,500 underspend on the Garage Demolitions Budget in 2010/11 to the Sheds Budget.

CBT.036**BUDGET STRATEGY 2011/12 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Cabinet Member for Finance updated Members of the current financial position indicated in the Budget Strategy 2011/12 and Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and proposed a broad strategy for setting the budget and Council Tax for 2011/12. A further report would be presented to Cabinet at its December meeting.

He highlighted his concerns regarding concessionary fares which would be the responsibility of the County Council next year. From initial discussions funding will be affected and the County Council will only be able to issue bus passes and not tokens. With increasing budgetary pressures services will be affected, more will be known later in the year. The Head of Finance said she would write to Coalition Government regarding concessionary fares. The pension fund had a reserve set aside to meet employers payment.

After 20 October 2010 when the details of the comprehensive spending review are released time will be needed to digest and understand the implications. The Chief Executive has kept Council updated. Representations would be made to the LGA in due course. It was important that local people understood why the Council were in this situation and how they proposed to deal with it.

RESOLVED

- (a) To note the Council's financial position as estimated in the revision of the Medium Term Financial Plan for the General Fund.

- (b) To agree the budget strategy, as set out in this report, which should be followed in the preparation of both the general fund revenue estimates and the housing revenue account.
- (c) To note the level of general fund reserves held by the Council shown at Appendix B.

CBT.037**LOCAL LAND CHARGES INCOME**

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the report on local land charges income which provided an update on the changes to Local Land Charges legislation. These changes would impact on income and the way in which the Council delivered its local land charges service. To achieve this there would be a requirement to invest in cleansing a subset of historic planning data so that Personal Search services could be provided free on-line.

He clarified that once all data had been cleansed and available on-line anyone could undertake a planning personal search at no cost to the Council or themselves. The Council would, however, be able to charge for a more fuller search for the time being.

RESOLVED That £25,000 be taken from the Planning Delivery Grant reserve to cleanse existing Planning data.

CBT.038**ADOPTION OF GREEN TRAVEL PLAN**

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change introduced the adoption of the green travel plan report which requested Members to consider the Council's approach to a more efficient travel to and from work of staff reducing the Council's carbon emissions. A suggestion was made that Councillors should be included within the plan and that the Council should support the County Council and promote the use of buses within the district by advertising bus timetables. The Cabinet Member agreed to contact the County Council and give the suggestion consideration.

RESOLVED

1. To adopt the Green Travel Plan.
2. To note the progress of Green Travel Actions, and
3. To agree to progress further investigations into Green Fleet initiatives.

CBT.039**USE OF COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER (CPO) POWERS TO ACQUIRE 12 PLOTS OF LAND AT 9 LOCATIONS TO DELIVER THE COTSWOLD CANAL RESTORATION**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration introduced the report which sought Cabinet approval for the Council to use, only as a last resort, compulsory purchase powers to secure 12 plots of land at 9 locations to deliver the Cotswold Canal Restoration Project.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council compulsorily purchases the following sites under Section 226 (1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
 - a. Dudbridge Lower Lock, Stroud
 - b. Chestnut Lane, Stroud (2 parcels)
 - c. Lodgemore Lane, Stroud
 - d. Wallbridge Lower Lock, Stroud

- e. Wallbridge Upper Lock, Stroud
 - f. Griffins Mill Lock, Thrupp (2 parcels)
 - g. Ham Mill Lock, Thrupp (2 parcels)
 - h. Goughs Orchard Lock, Brimscombe
 - i. Carpet Hotline, Brimscombe Corner
2. That the compulsory acquisition be the subject of one or more orders, as determined by the Canal Project Manager.
 3. That the Canal Project Manager be granted delegated authority to amend the area of land shown on the plans, should the need arise, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Chief Executive and the Heads of Legal Services, Finance and Asset Management.

At 11.30 am the meeting was adjourned and reconvened at 11.40 am.

CBT.040

THE FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR DURSLEY POOL AND A SHORT TERM EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT FOR STRATFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration provided an update on progress which had been made on the process of the Leisure Management Contract. After careful analysis it would not be prudent to include Dursley Pool in the leisure management contract at the present time.

He clarified that Dursley Pool was not making a profit and was subsidised. It was not viable to bid for Stratford Park Leisure Centre to be run in-house. It had been estimated that it would cost £250k for the Council to put a bid together, with no guarantee that the Council would be awarded the contract.

RESOLVED

1. **Not to include Dursley Pool in the Leisure Management Contract.**
2. **To extend the present Leisure Management Contract for Stratford Park Leisure Centre, up to a period of 6 months if required.**

CBT.041

CORE STRATEGY – FUTURE DIRECTION

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment presented the report on Core Strategy – Future Direction which provided a summary of the impact of the Coalition Government's announcements on the future direction and timetable for the preparation of the Council's Core Strategy. The Core Strategy was the single most important Development Plan Document (DPD) with the Council's Local Development Framework.

The following points were made:-

- Other Local Authorities in considering their approach to Core Strategies following revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) are broadly pursuing one of the Options, as set out in paragraph 22 of the report.
- If a Core Strategy were not agreed developers may take advantage, the Council needed something in place.

- The evidence base behind the RSS remains valid and material in taking Core Strategies forward.
- The Local Enterprise Partnerships might provide key strategic direction which could be a material consideration on a planning application. However, more detail of the mechanics of how this could work was still awaited.
- The Council were looking for sustainable housing development which would be linked to local jobs.
- Following public consultation and the data from an enormous response is still being input. Several sites are being considered and following further analysis there may be a change in the preferences of favoured options.
- The Community Right to Build was a vehicle for communities to get around planning obstacles. The concept seems to regard planning as a barrier to housing delivery but the Council has used planning to help resolve issues in delivering affordable housing.
- Regarding incentives for housing delivery the 'new homes bonus' is effectively an alternative to Housing Planning Delivery Grant. It would provide an income to Councils but may create a dilemma as that income may be seen as a material consideration and may compromise the purity of planning decisions.
- There is a danger in focussing on housing growth and ignoring economic growth but in providing for jobs it would be difficult to ensure new jobs are provided alongside new houses.

RESOLVED

- a) **To agree the next steps as set out in the concluding section of the report.**
- b) **To agree to continue to use the RSS housing requirement of 9,100 dwellings for Stroud pending the outcome of joint work between Gloucestershire Local Planning Authorities.**
- c) **To support officer and member discussions with Gloucestershire Local Planning Authorities to agree the future housing requirement and its distribution in the county to include the possibility of an extension to the mixed use development of Hunts Grove (Hardwicke/Haresfield) to include about 750 dwellings or the redistribution of these dwellings at the Cheltenham-Gloucester SSCT (Strategically Significant Cities and Towns).**
- d) **That future work on the Core Strategy should be directed towards focussing development at one or more of the locations in Alternative Strategies A, B and D whilst developing the localism agenda and building in an element of organic growth that accommodates affordable housing and jobs at the more sustainable of our smaller settlements.**

CBT.042**REVIEW OF JOINT USE SITES AND WOTTON POOL**

Prior to the meeting an updated Appendix 2 had been circulated, published on the Council's website and copies were available at the meeting.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration presented the Review of Joint Use Sites and Wotton Pool report which provided information on the proposal to hand back two joint

use sites (Vale of Berkeley Sports Centre and Nailsworth Recreation Centre) and Wotton Pool.

Berkeley Vale School

During a 4 month consultation period the decision had been taken by Gloucestershire County Council to close the School in July 2011. The equipment would be distributed amongst other joint use sites.

Nailsworth Recreation Centre

Discussions are continuing with Nailsworth Primary School and Nailsworth Town Council. The Council has agreed to contribute £10k as a one-off grant towards the Nailsworth Sports Partnership, subject to a robust business plan being received. If the final business plan was not acceptable then the monies would be withdrawn. He agreed that part payment could be carried over into the next financial year, if required and would amend the decision box accordingly, that paragraphs (b) and (c) with the deletion of the words "for only 2011/12" to be replaced with the words "as a one-off grant". A lot of his and Officers' time had been spent on this project and he was not going to react to a letter he had recently received from Nailsworth Town Council which was not in the spirit of partnership which we hoped to achieve.

The Cabinet Member for Housing acknowledged the level of work which had been applied to the Wotton Pool issue and praised the Town Council for attempting to understand what local people actually wanted. It was felt that Nailsworth Town Council could learn from this approach.

The Cabinet Member for Finance was concerned that a precedent would be set for other joint use centres when all budgets were under pressure and the Council must get value for money. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration gave an assurance that each grant would be looked at on its own merit. Concerns were expressed that the scheme at Nailsworth was unviable, not supported or wanted by local people, other local facilities were being used and the Council needed to save money. Nailsworth had not asked for £10k.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration confirmed that the £10k grant had been minuted at meetings with Nailsworth Town Council. Following the receipt of a robust business plan from the Sports Partnership for Nailsworth the Council would award the £10k grant. Nailsworth Town Council had consulted local residents who have given their support.

An opinion was expressed that the Council had not marketed the facilities enough because local people were unaware of what was available, giving examples, there was no external signage and no personalised telephone line. It was acknowledged that the centre had in the past been heavily subsidised but it was stressed that it was not until the consultation had commenced that some local people were aware of its possible closure. The Sports Partnership for Nailsworth welcomed the £10k grant and the business plan was underway.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration gave an assurance that the grant monies of £10k was available from budgets next years for Nailsworth Recreation Centre and if not all of the monies were used this year could be carried forward into the next financial year.

Wotton Pool

The Chief Executive reported on a notice of poll that he had received on Wednesday, 29 September from the Mayor of Wotton Town Council requesting a referendum which would gauge residents willingness to put extra resources into the pool. It was proposed that a Trust be set up to manage the pool. Parish Poll Electoral Legislation would be adhered to and the cost borne by the Town Council. This would mean that the poll will take place on 21 October 2010 between the hours of 4.00 pm – 9.00 pm, no poll cards would be sent out or postal/proxy votes allowed. This was new ground for the Council and would be undertaken during the annual canvass. The Wotton Town Council had the lease on the pool but were not in a financial position to run the pool themselves.

Members unanimously agreed to the amended decision to paragraphs (b) and (c).

- RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**
- (a) To action a notice of intent to terminate the Joint Use Agreement and to return Vale of Berkeley Sports Centre back to Vale of Berkeley College on 31st March 2011.**
 - (b) To action a notice of intent to terminate the Joint Use Agreement and to return Nailsworth Recreation Centre back to Nailsworth Primary School on 31st March 2011. To contribute £10,000 as a one-off grant towards the Nailsworth Sports Partnership subject to an acceptable business plan that will lead to continued sports provision for the community at Nailsworth Recreation Centre.**
 - (c) To action a notice of intent to terminate the Lease of 16th July 1997 and to return Wotton Pool back to Wotton Town Council on 31st March 2011. To contribute £8,000 as a one-off grant towards Wotton Swimming Club subject to an acceptable business plan that will lead to continued sports provision for the community at Wotton Pool.**
 - (d) To continue to review the future management of the other joint use sites.**

CBT.043**WASTE AND RECYCLING**

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change presented the report on Waste and Recycling and informed Members about the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Programme and recommended what part the Council should play in this partnership going forward. She also provided an update on the arrangements which had been put in place regarding recycling, bulking and baling of the material and recommended a way forward in the short/medium term. A change to the current refuse collection system would be explored prior to the current contract being terminated in 2016.

- RESOLVED**
- To extend the current contractual arrangements with Smiths (Recycling) by a further 6 months with the option to extend on a month by month basis up to a maximum of 12 months. Authority is given to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change in consultation with the Strategic Head of Community Services and the Public Space Manager to proceed with the Sales Contract as outlined in the report should the broader negotiations with Veolia around changes to the collection service fail to come to fruition.**

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL To continue to work collectively with the other Gloucestershire Authorities but not as part of the formal partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 1.00 pm and reconvened at 1.30 pm.

CBT.044 **PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment presented the report requesting Members to consider both amending the Planning Scheme of Delegation and the recommendations of the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group. She thanked the members of the Task and Finish Group for their work which looked into ways of speeding up the current planning process.

During the review it was evident from a survey that Town and Parish Councils needed to receive more training to enable them to have a better understanding of planning issues. This would result in fewer call-ins.

It had been highlighted by Killian Pretty that local authorities were spending too much time on minor and householder applications and not enough time on key major and significant applications. If the Development Control Committee (DCC) concentrated on more complex applications then it would have more time for debate and discussion of these applications because the agenda would be shorter. Financial savings would be made if Appendix C to the report were adopted by Council because there were fewer applications submitted to DCC.

During debate the following was discussed:-

- If a Member did not understand any part of the planning system they should seek advice from a Planning Officer.
- District Councillors should get more involved with their Town/Parish Councils and hold discussions.
- If the recommendations set out in Appendix Bii) from POSC are accepted then they would come into force immediately. Officer time on background work would need to be undertaken on Section 106 Agreements.
- A weekly list was sent to Town/Parish Councils with the Officer's initial view for response within 21 days.
- On occasion Town/Parish Councils have engineered a response to ensure that a particular decision on an application is determined at DCC.
- Government legislation, planning policies and the Regional Spatial Strategy are used to make arguments for or against applications, the Council does have a degree of flexibility.
- The importance of Member training was highlighted, not only for DCC Members but all Members to gain a better understanding of this complex system.
- If agreed the planning scheme of delegation would be reviewed in 12 months time.
- The Council gave Town/Parish Councils 21 days to reply, they are statutorily required to give 14 days.
- If Council agree Cabinet's recommendation the planning scheme of delegation would be amended within the Council's Constitution.
- Too much responsibility would be placed upon the Chair and Vice-Chair of DCC if recommendation a. where agreed. But the report would be debated fuller at Council.

- RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**
- a. That the planning scheme of delegation contained within the constitution is amended in line with Appendix C of this report.
 - b. To accept the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations set out in Appendix B i).

RESOLVED To accept the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations set out in Appendix B ii).

CBT.045 **BISLEY-WITH-LYPIATT PARISH VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment presented the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Village Design Statement which had taken four years to produce. If agreed by Council the Design Statement would form part of the supplementary planning advice in future.

- RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** That the Bisley-with-Lypiatt Village Design Statement is adopted as Supplementary Planning Advice (with the exception of the Local Views sections) and used as a material consideration in development control decision making.

CBT.046 **REVIEW OF POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND SERVICE STANDARDS WITHIN TENANT SERVICES BY ARNOLD PHILLIPS ASSOCIATES AND UPDATE ON DEVELOPING THE LOCAL OFFER AND ANNUAL REPORT**

The Cabinet Member for Housing presented the report which provided an update on the review and updating of all policies, procedures and service standards essential to the housing service from both an officer's and resident's perspective. She also advised on the options for the 'Local Offer' and the production of an Annual Report. A lot of interest had been shown by tenants who wanted to get more involved. The Tenant Services Authority have extended their deadline from 1 to 15 October 2010 to allow the Council to consult with a broader audience on the content, layout and delivery of the annual report.

RESOLVED To note the progress being made in undertaking this project and developing the Local Offer and Annual Report.

CBT.047 **ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, MINCHINHAMPTON WOOLAWAYS AND HRA BUSINESS PLAN**

The Cabinet Member for Housing provided an update on the Housing Asset Management Strategy, Minchinhampton Woolaways and HRA Business Plan. The Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC) were thanked for their support and input.

Historically there are only 3 vacant properties becoming available in Minchinhampton annually. Some tenants have already moved to different areas and some wish to stay in Minchinhampton and are awaiting the commencement of the phased redevelopment to enable them to move into a new property.

- RESOLVED**
- 1) To note the draft Asset Management Strategy and agree the suggested approach to wider consultation on this.
 - 2) To note the progress on dealing with asset management decisions and approve the suggested investment appraisal methodology.
 - 3) To note the progress on the preparation of proposals for redevelopment of the Woolway homes in Minchinhampton.
 - 4) To note the position in relation to the HRA Business Plan and the Government's self-financing review.

CBT.048 **CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2010-2014 – SIX MONTH REVIEW**

The Leader of Council reported progress on delivering the Corporate Delivery Plan 2010-2014 and considered changes based on performance or changing circumstances. The Audit Commission has been requested by the Coalition Government to stop work on the Use of Resources because this is not going forward nationally. This reduced our actions from 21 to 20.

- RESOLVED** **To note progress with implementing the Corporate Delivery Plan.**

CBT.049 **EBLEY MILL CASH DESK CLOSURE**

The Cabinet Member for Finance provided an update on the proposal to close the front office of the cash desk at Ebley Mill as an efficiency saving and replace it with a self-service automated payment machine (kiosk). The hours of opening had already been reduced as an efficiency saving. Residents had been encouraged to use the Direct Debit service which was cheaper for the Council. Some local authorities charge for processing credit cards which could be an option to be explored in the future. Other local authorities in the County already use kiosks which had a lifespan of between 10-15 years, if maintained.

A strong view was expressed that residents like to make payments to a person on a 1-2-1 basis. The cash desk is often their first line of contact and was unhappy with the proposal for closure.

- RESOLVED** **To note the report.**

CBT.050 **CANAL REGENERATION PROJECT**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration provided an update on the progress of the development of Phase 1A of the Cotswold Canal. He confirmed that there had been no change to the Risk Register and highlighted the cash flow situation for 2011, drawing attention to the £2m gap. There was no evidence of this narrowing, it would depend on the valuations and value of Brimscombe Port, which was the key and vital part of this regeneration project.

The works to the A46 bridge had not affected traffic movement as much as had been expected and there may be an opportunity to keep both bridges open and keep the flow of traffic along Dr Newton's Way.

RESOLVED **To note the report.**

CBT.051 **HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Strategic Head (Tenant Services) and Consultant (Business Improvement) updated Members on the Housing Improvement Plan (HIP) which had been submitted and approved by Tenant Services Authority on 12 July 2010.

Progress had been slow because of the housing service restructure, new people undertaking different jobs and the office move. There were sufficient staff numbers in the service prior to the restructure but it was felt they were not in the right place. There would be small savings made in staff costs and on contracts and resources would be put into tenant participation.

But at the present time two-thirds of the actions in the new HIP had been commenced with 7 of them fully completed and a further 16 partially completed. From the recent tenant profile survey 300 residents had expressed a wish to become involved in tenant participation and a number of key resident involvement and empowerment actions had revised timescales to reflect the desire to include a number of these tenants in the improvement process.

A powerpoint presentation was received highlighting the changes within Tenant Services from 2009 to the present and the achievements that had been made. Members were most appreciative of the amount of work that had taken place to make such a dramatic improvement in the service and thought it was a credit to staff and all persons involved.

RESOLVED **To note the progress being made in developing and implementing the improvement plan.**

CBT.052 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 – URGENT ITEMS**

There were none.

The meeting closed at 3.05 pm.

Chair