

Public Document Pack

**CULTURE, TOURISM AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 10 December 2008

Present: Councillor J Hale (Chair)

Councillors G Ellis S Taylor
P Reisdorf J Williams
T Smith

Deputies Councillors A Taylor (In place of M Redfern)

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No declarations

10 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September, 2008 be accepted as a correct record.

11 TRANSFORMING WIRRAL - CULTURAL SERVICES STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Director of Regeneration submitted a report outlining the findings of a report "Strategic Development Plan for Leisure and Culture Services," which had been prepared by the consultants Strategic Leisure Ltd, together with the report of the Chief Executive "Delivering the Strategic Asset Review" setting out proposals for the strategic consolidation of the Council's asset base across the Borough, which was agreed in principle by Cabinet on 27 November, subject to public and staff consultation as described in the report, with results of that consultation brought back to a future meeting of Cabinet.

The Chair outlined the background to the above reports and the procedures that had led to this special meeting. He reported that under these proposals a dozen libraries, three leisure centres, four civic halls, two museums and a theatre, were threatened

with closure, and arrangements were also proposed for some community asset transfers.

He expressed his concern regarding the consultation arrangements and pointed out that this process was being held over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, with the outcome to be reported back to Cabinet on 15 January.

The Chair reported that he had received notification that a number of people wished to address the committee.

It was noted that Councillor Foulkes, Leader of the Council, had agreed to a short adjournment of the Cabinet meeting to allow him to participate in this special meeting and answer questions on the strategic asset review.

The Chair invited contributions from the speakers.

Mr P Reilly, Chair of Riverside Players, Heswall Amateur Dramatic Group

Mr Reilly raised a number of issues relating to transitional arrangements for community asset transfers and asked when the policy guidance would be available to voluntary and community groups.

The Director of Regeneration explained that this process was already underway. Meetings had been held with groups and other organisations wishing to take on the transfer responsibilities. The officers would provide professional support to assist this process, e.g. in developing business plans for future sustainability.

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, advised the committee that funding would be available for the next two years to cover the interim arrangements for asset transfers.

Mr D Barke – Head Coach, Wallasey Swimming Club

Mr Barke expressed his concern that no contact had been made with the Club by the consultants, Strategic Leisure Limited. He asked for further information on costings between the current facilities and any proposed new facilities. He also asked for an assurance that all options would be considered regarding Guinea Gap, Woodchurch and Leasowe Leisure Centres because they provide a very important service.

The Director of Regeneration explained that the consultants had been commissioned to undertake a comprehensive review of service provision and work with specific focus groups. He outlined the reasons for the SAR and highlighted the cost implications in terms of major property repairs (£12.4m); failure to match the asset base to modern service needs during the next ten years (£45m) and the estimate of savings in building and staff costs by vacating the buildings identified in the report for closure or community transfer (£3.7m p.a.).

In summing up, Mr Barke asked the committee to listen to public opinion and take account of the importance of swimming as an essential part of the health and social inclusion agenda. He emphasised that swimming could also be a life-saver.

Mr Barke referred to the usage of Guinea Gap and asked if provision could be made for swimmers displaced from this facility.

The Director indicated that the swimming users could be accommodated across the range of facilities that were available within the Borough.

Mr L Thompson – Chief Coach, Woodchurch Swimming Club

Mr Thompson drew attention to the implications of pool closures in terms of the achievement of "healthier lifestyle" objectives, the withdrawal of free swim initiatives in some of the most deprived areas of the Borough, the role of swimming in the context of the school curriculum, and the role of local clubs and Wirral Metro in swimming development.

Ms H Butler – Representative of Upton Library

Ms Butler stated that Upton Library provided an essential service for four local housing estates and attracted some 6,000 users per year. It was regarded as "the soul of a growing community", and the proposed closure would have a catastrophic effect and destroy the community focus.

Ms C Sanderson – Member of Pensby Library User Group

Ms Sanderson explained that Pensby Library was at the heart of the local community. She outlined the range of services that were currently provided and emphasised the importance of the library in enriching people's lives and contributing to their educational development. This was an important resource for local schools and it also provided the means for children to complete their homework assignments.

Ms Sanderson stated that the closure proposals would have a detrimental effect on the health, safety and wellbeing of local residents. This would also create problems for the young/vulnerable/elderly members of the local community in accessing alternative facilities.

Mr J O'Neill – Hoylake Library

Mr O'Neill referred to his family's circumstances and the need to take account of the needs of service users with disabilities. He pointed out that a refurbishment scheme to Hoylake Library in 2005, at a cost of £28,000 had made it wheelchair accessible. However, current closure proposals meant that he would now have to revert to the previous practice of ordering books by telephone.

He asked the committee to consider the relatively small increase in Council Tax to maintain existing library services over the next two years, during which the Council could explore possible alternative sources of funding, e.g. Sustainable Communities. He also asked the committee to consider each library building individually.

Ms A Allison – Woodchurch Community Centre

Ms Allison reported that the centre was used to its full capacity and provided for a wide range of activities. It also included a voluntary vocational college and the Youth Inclusion Team.

She asked the committee to note that Woodchurch was a Super Output Area and the withdrawal of these important facilities would therefore exacerbate the problem of deprivation on the estate.

The Director of Regeneration referred to his ongoing discussions through the Neighbourhood Management Project regarding options for alternative uses and disposal.

Mr A Whelan – Woodchurch Community Centre and Leisure Centre

Mr Whelan stated that there was no evidence that these facilities were not sustainable. He referred to his experience of the use of these centres, indicating that they were very well used. He also commented on the benefits for the local community in terms of healthier lifestyles, education, and the prevention of crime and disorder.

He commented that both centres had established a good reputation and they provided suitable venues for a wide range of events.

Esther McVey, Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Wirral West Constituency

Reported receipt of a petition, containing 1500 signatures, from users of Irby Library, expressing their opposition to the closure proposal. She highlighted the consequences of taking this important facility away, both in terms of the effect on the local community and conflict with central government policies, e.g. "Every Child Matters", asked for clarification regarding the criteria for selecting library closures.

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management explained that the selection criteria involved detailed consideration of a number of key factors, including usage, current condition, whole life building costs and comparisons with other neighbouring local authorities regarding leisure provision. He also outlined the reasons for undertaking the Strategic Asset Review, which were set out in the report. He acknowledged that there were some very difficult choices to make in striking a balance between the limited financial resources that were available to meet all aspirations and the need to maintain affordable levels of Council Tax.

The Director referred to his consultations with the Director of Children's Services as part of the Strategic Asset Review process and confirmed that the Council would continue to meet all its obligations in line with "Every Child Matters".

Mr Tapping – Pacific Road Theatre

Mr Tapping stated that this was a relatively new purpose-built building which was in a good state of repair and therefore outside the remit of the SAR. He also pointed out that the theatre had established a good reputation for its events programme, e.g., the BBC was using this venue for its "Question Time" programme.

The Director of Regeneration explained that there were issues relating to the future management of this facility, particularly in the light of the Council's significant investment in the new Floral Pavilion Theatre. He reported that discussions were

being held with an alternative organisation to manage and run this facility as a legitimate way forward.

In response to a further question regarding the cost of contracts for artists who were due to appear at Pacific Road, the Director reported that this issue would be managed.

Councillor Leah Fraser – Liscard Ward Councillor

Councillor Fraser asked for further information regarding job losses as a result of the cuts.

The Director of Regeneration reported that it was not possible, at this stage, to provide exact figures. However, the Council had a good record in managing workforce change through its redeployment and EVR schemes and every effort would be made to accommodate this change over time.

Councillor Fraser commented on the effect that the proposals would have on local communities and people's livelihoods. She asked for a referral to Cabinet to review the consultation procedure and bring forward the February meetings of the area forums for this purpose.

Mr Bennion – Pacific Road Theatre

Mr Bennion explained that he was running a small business associated with the theatre and provided a service for musicians. He pointed out that the theatre provided modern facilities which were originally funded through the Hamilton Quarter to encourage art and crafts businesses in this area. The Director of Regeneration reported that there was an opportunity for an alternative organisation to run the theatre as an arts venue. He referred to his previous comments regarding discussions with an interested party and to the transitional arrangements for community-based provision.

Councillor Jeff Green – Conservative Group Leader

Councillor Green stated that councils are elected to protect services to the community and the Cabinet does not have the mandate to carry out these cuts. He suggested that there the alternative was - "Local quality services delivered locally"

He commented that the proposals would effectively close services in the localities and make residents pay for services that they can't access. He referred to the consequences of closing services that people both want and need.

Councillor Green referred to the current consultation process, which was taking place over the Christmas and New Year holiday period, and emphasised the need for more transparent and effective consultation through a full round of 11 Area Forums. He urged the committee to make strong recommendations to Cabinet to protect existing service provision.

Mr G Bradfield – Branch Officer, Wirral UNISON

Mr Bradfield stated that the proposed cuts were an act of corporate vandalism and would devastate local communities.

He highlighted the contributions made by libraries and sports centres as part of the education system and other key objectives such as healthier lifestyles. He commented that the cuts would effectively disenfranchise users and the withdrawal of diversionary activities would lead to an increase in social problems, such as anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug abuse.

He reported that the purpose of consultation was to inform the debate before a decision was made. However, there was no consultation with UNISON and the proposed public consultation arrangements did not allow sufficient time for discussion of these important issues. He asked for a deferment of the officers' reports and more meaningful discussions with a view to bringing forward proposals for sustainable improvement.

The Chair invited contributions from the audience.

Ms S Hoey

Ms Hoey referred to the section of the Council's Corporate Plan 2008 dealing with "Improved Health and Wellbeing for All", showing increased figures for usage of leisure facilities. She commented that these figures conflicted with the statistics in the Cabinet report.

Ms G Small - Woodchurch Community Centre and Leisure Centre

Ms Small highlighted the importance of the Centre to the local community.

Councillor S Foulkes, Leader of the Council

Councillor Foulkes outlined the background to the Strategic Asset Review and highlighted some of the key points:

- The objective within the new Corporate Plan to stabilise the budget of the Authority and move towards an "excellent council"
- Consideration of the size of the Council's asset base compared to other neighbouring local authorities
- The requirement of the District Auditor for the Council to make ongoing revenue savings
- The need to rationalise services and put real investment into the services that remain to provide top-class facilities.

Ms M Cooke, School Governor, Beechwood Estate

Ms Cooke referred to the effect of the cuts on educational standards and communications which directly effect schools. She reported that Beechwood was an

area of severe deprivation and access to library and pool facilities was needed to meet the requirements of the school curriculum and also provide opportunities for the upskilling of parents on this estate. She asked the committee to further consider some of the current proposals to take account of the needs of the local community

Ms V Curtis – Pensby Library

Ms Curtis raised objections to these proceedings and the consultation arrangements. She referred to her experience as a regular user of Pensby Library and emphasised the need for the continuation of existing library facilities for the benefit of local communities.

Mrs Hopgood – Community Transfers

In response to a question from Mrs Hopgood regarding the future of land and buildings transferred to local communities, the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management confirmed that the recommendations arising from the Strategic Asset Review provided for a two-year transitional period to explore long-term solutions with interested community groups, and that this would include assistance with business plans to make these transfers work.

Mr N Hazlehurst – Guinea Gap

Mr Hazlehurst referred to his involvement with swimming development over a number of years, and to the attendance figures for schoolchildren receiving swimming tuition as part of the National Curriculum at Guinea Gap, Leasowe and Woodchurch. He reported that the Oval was fully-booked, leaving only West Kirby Concourse and Europa Pools as alternative facilities.

The Director of Regeneration reported that this issue would be examined with schools and group users.

Ms L Trent – Diversionary Activities

Ms Trent emphasized the importance of alternative activities to prevent anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder.

Ms M Camborne

Ms Camborne commented that Culture and Leisure Services were an essential part of local communities and suggested that an approach be made to central government for money to protect these essential local services as part of the vision set out in the Sustainable Communities Act.

Mr J Taylor – Branch Secretary – Wirral UNISON

Mr Taylor pointed out that there had been no consultations with the trade unions or staff regarding these proposals. He wanted the services to remain in the public domain and asked for the consultation period to be extended to allow proper and meaningful discussions.

The Chair thanked the public for their attendance at this meeting.

It was moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Ellis :-

"(1) That Cabinet withdraws its closure programme and that any future proposals be subject to genuine consultation through the normal Area Forums.

(2) That staff and user organisations be consulted over a realistic timescale on the understanding that future proposals should not entail reductions in the levels of service or accessibility."

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Williams and seconded by Councillor Smith that:-

" This committee recognises that Council is faced with some very difficult decisions and that feelings are understandably running high in the community.

Committee notes that this is the start of a period of consultation in which all views can be expressed and urges members of the public to take full advantage of this period to express their views, which will be given full consideration and may enable the Council to reach creative solutions to difficult problems which will ultimately benefit the whole community of Wirral."

The amendment was put and carried (4:3)

Resolved (4:3) – That

" This committee recognises that Council is faced with some very difficult decisions and that feelings are understandably running high in the community.

Committee notes that this is the start of a period of consultation in which all views can be expressed and urges members of the public to take full advantage of this period to express their views, which will be given full consideration and may enable the Council to reach creative solutions to difficult problems which will ultimately benefit the whole community of Wirral."

Public Document Pack

CORPORATE SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 17 December 2008

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	L Fraser (Chair)	
	Councillors	C Teggin J Crabtree K Wood	P Southwood J Keeley
<u>Deputies</u>	Councillors	J Salter (In place of C Meaden)	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	C Meaden	

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Councillor L Fraser declared a personal interest in respect of minute 37 Strategic Asset Review by virtue of her membership of the Liscard Community Centre Joint Management Committee.

Councillor J Keeley declared a personal interest in respect of minute 37 Strategic Asset Review by virtue of his membership of the Liscard Community Centre Joint Management Committee.

Councillor J Crabtree declared a personal interest in respect of minute 37 Strategic Asset Review by virtue of his membership of the Birkenhead St James Trust Management Committee.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No such declarations were made.

37 TRANSFORMING WIRRAL - STRATEGIC ASSET REVIEW

Further to minute 33 (2/12/08) the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, gave a presentation comprising an overview of the report "Delivering the Strategic Asset Review" which set out proposals for the strategic consolidation of the Council's asset base across the Borough, and was agreed in principle by Cabinet on 27 November, subject to public and staff consultation as described in the report, with results of that consultation brought back to a further meeting of Cabinet on 15 January.

The Directors of Law, HR and Asset Management, and of Regeneration, responded to questions from members regarding proposals for the Pacific Road Theatre, Leasowe Recreation Centre, The Grange and the Warren Golf Course, and the future of the Guinea Gap site as part of a potential regeneration scheme involving the use of existing land and buildings around Wallasey Town Hall to promote the regeneration of the 'Seacombe/ Egremont Corridor.'

The Director of Regeneration reported upon the current position regarding the staffing implications associated with the SAR insofar as they affect his department. He reported that every effort was being made to minimise the impact on staff and the Council had a good record in managing workforce change through its redeployment and EVR schemes.

The Directors of Corporate Services and of Law, HR and Asset Management, reported that the review of office accommodation was in progress and further reports would be presented to Cabinet on more detailed proposals for accommodation change, including centralisation of current facilities management arrangements.

There was a general discussion concerning the consultation process and ways of engaging people in the Strategic Asset Review.

The Director of Corporate Services responded to questions concerning the consultation process. He explained that arrangements had been made to implement the Cabinet resolution and take the consultation process forward through four special area forum conferences which would give people the opportunity to find out more about the SAR proposals.

It was moved by Councillor Southwood and seconded by Councillor Crabtree that

"This committee recognises the importance of having an asset base which fulfils the needs of the local community. It also recognises the high and increasing costs of maintaining the current buildings.

We welcome the fact that Council has conducted an Asset Review, as this is something that this committee has itself highlighted the need for, and look forward to the review being extended to cover office buildings. However, we recognise the feelings of uncertainty that have resulted amongst service users and impacted staff.

We call on Cabinet to ensure that the proposed consultation ensures that these concerns are addressed and that the needs of the communities continue to be met.

Finally, we welcome the considerable and wide-ranging efforts that Cabinet is making to bring the budget under control and minimise council tax charges to local people".

The motion was put and carried (4:3).

It was moved by Councillor Fraser and seconded by Councillor Wood that

"We do not agree in principle, or in any other way, with the recommendation of the Strategic Asset Review and therefore recommend that Cabinet withdraws its closure programme and any future proposals.

The motion was put and lost (3:4).

It was moved by Councillor Fraser and seconded by Councillor Keeley:

That Cabinet be requested to consider the following recommendations;

- (1) Where any future regeneration proposals involve the possible closure of council buildings, those proposals be brought to the appropriate scrutiny committee before public consultation commences.
- (2) No building will be closed and no service removed until such time that the alternative provision is operational and available to the people of Wirral.
- (3) That staff and user organisations be consulted over a realistic timescale on the understanding that future proposals should not entail reductions in the levels of service and accessibility.

The motion was put and lost (3:4). (Councillors Fraser, Keeley and Wood dissenting).

Resolved (4:3)

This committee recognises the importance of having an asset base which fulfils the needs of the local community. It also recognises the high and increasing costs of maintaining the current buildings.

We welcome the fact that Council has conducted an Asset Review, as this is something that this committee has itself highlighted the need for, and look forward to the review being extended to cover office buildings. However, we recognise the feelings of uncertainty that have resulted amongst service users and impacted staff.

We call on Cabinet to ensure that the proposed consultation ensures that these concerns are addressed and that the needs of the communities continue to be met.

Finally, we welcome the considerable and wide-ranging efforts that Cabinet is making to bring the budget under control and minimise council tax charges to local people.

38 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question from the Chair, the Director of Corporate Services agreed to investigate a problem which had arisen with a recent press release when the normal procedure for emailing councillors simultaneously had not been followed.

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Document Pack

FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 January 2009

Present: Councillor P Gilchrist (Chair)

Councillors J George J Hale
D Knowles R Wilkins
D Elderton

Deputies Councillors P Hayes (In place of S Moseley)

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillors George, Gilchrist, Hale and Wilkins declared their personal interest in agenda item 2 (Transforming Wirral – Strategic Asset Review), insofar as they were members of various management committees that could be affected by the outcome of the Strategic Asset Review.

44 TRANSFORMING WIRRAL - STRATEGIC ASSET REVIEW

At the request of the Chair, the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management presented the Cabinet report of the Chief Executive on the Strategic Asset Review (SAR) (Cabinet minute 264 (27 November 2008) refers), which had been referred to this Committee for scrutiny. The report set out a vision for transforming Wirral's use of assets in order to improve service delivery; provide better value for money; and support the regeneration of the Borough, particularly its most deprived parts. It recommended investing £20m, over four years, to develop a strategic network of 12 state-of-the-art multi-purpose complexes, which would be a mix of brand new buildings and enhancements to existing facilities. To achieve the level of service improvement, whilst simultaneously controlling overall buildings related costs, required a strategic review of all the Council's properties and a reduction in the total number of publicly funded premises. The vision for the future contained within the report was of much improved facilities, but not as many Council maintained buildings.

Information was presented to the Committee in relation to net savings to be made on closure/transfer of assets, which amounted to approximately £3.7m per annum. A

more detailed analysis was also presented in relation to potential savings through the closure of libraries and sports centres.

The Director set out the seven administrative assets identified by the Review Group that were programmed for closure and disposal in 2009/2010 and he provided a breakdown of the calculation of £45m cost of the 'no change' option, which had not been recommended. In response to comments from members, he indicated that the net savings of £3.7m per annum had not been a target, but had been identified as a result of the Strategic Consolidation option recommended by the Review Group, subject to closure or transfer by 31 March 2009. He commented also that without the SAR, the Audit Commission Use of Resources assessment would likely drop from 2 to a 1 of 4 rating, which would have a further detrimental knock-on effect. He accepted that the preferred option was a subjective judgement, but commented that if the no change option had been preferred, compensatory savings would have to be identified elsewhere, in order for the Council to set a balanced budget.

The Chair had also requested the presentation of reports that had been considered by the Cabinet on 16 August 2007 and 13 March 2008, which contained information in relation to the backlog of major property repairs of £10m. On the advice of the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, the Committee agreed that the exempt report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services (Property Performance Management) should be considered in open Committee, and copies were made available to members of the public who were in attendance.

The Director of Regeneration provided information in relation to comparisons that had been made with other local authorities with regard to the provision of libraries and sports centres. However, the demography of Wirral and the availability of public transportation had also been taken into account. In the light of comments made by members in relation to difficulties that would be faced by some residents, the Chair expressed the view that the Cabinet should be requested to re-assess the demographic and transport issues.

In response to a further comment from a member that Wirral should have a capital programme of progressive and extensive rejuvenation clarification was sought over what could be classed as capital expenditure. The Director of Finance advised that the capital accounting regulations required that for spend to be classed as capital it had to add value to, or enhance the length of life of, an asset. General repairs and maintenance could not be capitalised although other expenditure could be if it complied with the statutory definition. The Chair expressed the view that the Cabinet be requested to look at the £20m now available in the Capital Programme to see if this could be utilised to assist in extending the life of existing facilities.

The Director reported that the Review Group had undertaken a review of office accommodation. To help fund the costs of delivering the proposed multi-purpose complexes, the Council would achieve at least a 20 per cent reduction in its own accommodation costs by 2011. He commented that this would mean fewer office buildings through the greater use of open plan accommodation; a reduced average floor space per employee; increased desk sharing; and more flexible working. By 2011, those measures would save over £1m per annum, which was equivalent to a one per cent reduction in Council Tax.

The Chair commented that the public may not generally be aware of the £12m per annum cost of running sports centres compared to the income generated of £4m per annum and he expressed the view that funding should be sought from the PCT in view of the health benefits to be gained from increased use of swimming and exercise facilities. The Director of Regeneration reported that funding of £200k over two years had been obtained from DCMS for free swimming for over 60's and under 16's. In addition, Wirral Health had funded the use of gym equipment by young people. However, it was unlikely that further funding would be obtained from the PCT. The Director referred to the high success rate of Wirral schoolchildren learning to swim and the Chair expressed the view that the Cabinet should consider whether it was satisfied that Wirral would have suitable levels of provision for swimming and other sports facilities to accommodate the needs of service users.

It was moved by Councillor Hale and seconded by Councillor Elderton –

"That this Committee recommends that the proposed closure programme be withdrawn, and –

(i) That the £6.2m repairs required for buildings be investigated to see if those repairs in part or in full can be capitalised.

(ii) That the savings from office buildings be brought forward as a priority.

(iii) That it be noted that the £20m proposed for new buildings may not be required, saving £1.8m per annum after 4 years.

(iv) That the balance of any savings required be subject to further investigation without affecting the present accessibility by the public to leisure and cultural facilities, such investigations to include discussion with the PCT."

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor George –

"(1) That this Committee requests the Cabinet to review the suggested proposals, having regard to the following and to the Council's overall financial position:

(i) That the £6.2m repairs required for buildings be investigated to see if those repairs in part or in full can be capitalised.

(ii) That the savings from office buildings be brought forward as a priority.

(iii) That it be noted that the £20m proposed for new buildings may not be required in its entirety.

(iv) That the Cabinet be requested to have regard to accessibility issues raised by members of the public and to consider the criteria applied in drawing up provision in the Strategic Asset Review."

The amendment was put and carried (4:3)

Resolved (Councillors Elderton, Hale and Hayes dissenting in respect of (1) below) –

(1) That this Committee requests the Cabinet to review the suggested proposals, having regard to the following and to the Council's overall financial position:

(i) That the £6.2m repairs required for buildings be investigated to see if those repairs in part or in full can be capitalised.

(ii) That the savings from office buildings be brought forward as a priority.

(iii) That it be noted that the £20m proposed for new buildings may not be required in its entirety.

(iv) That the Cabinet be requested to have regard to accessibility issues raised by members of the public and to consider the criteria applied in drawing up provision in the Strategic Asset Review.
