



## MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING

held on  
**Wednesday 1 March 2006**  
at  
**The Guildhall, High Street, Newport**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Glyn Gratton – Town Mayor  
Janette Treagust – Deputy Town Mayor  
David Adams  
Martyn Edwards  
Irene Evans  
John Evans  
George Franks  
Glyn Holland  
Adrian Meredith  
Bob Unwin  
Sally Wiggin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** D. L. Halliday – Town Clerk  
Graham Foster – Borough of Telford & Wrekin  
Edwina Gleeson – Newport Girls High School  
Dave Hill – The Burton Borough School  
Marianne Phillips – Newport C of E Junior School  
Jim Richardson – Adams Grammar School

**APOLIGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Cllr Brenda Flowers

### **258/05-06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **259/05-06 EDUCATION IN NEWPORT**

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr Graham Foster, Head of Resources & Social Regeneration for Children & Young People at the Borough Council, together with the Head Teachers of the three secondary schools and Mrs Marianne Phillips, Chair of the School Development Group for Newport.

In his presentation to the meeting, Mr Foster referred to the report presented to the Borough Cabinet on 20 February 2006, **attached at Appendix 'A'** and the presentation package on community Regeneration **attached at Appendix 'B'**.

In the context of these papers, Mr Foster introduced his comments with the concept that Newport has reached a critical point in its development and needs to address three key elements. To date consultation on the Local Development Framework and its proposals for Newport has been separated from provision for education and the regeneration of the social infrastructure. It is important to consider the whole package as directing investment in the public realm for the town for the next 50 years and to move forward with all elements, not just education.

Proposals for Newport's future must be placed in context of an ageing population and falling household growth coupled with a falling primary school population. Newport needs a re-injection of young people. Newport's education provision is also unique in having a selection system.

The Government has presented Education Authorities with 3 major challenges.

### **Childcare Strategy**

30% of the most disadvantaged children will have to have wrap-around childcare by 2008 which includes the rural area. A bespoke centre will be based at Newport Infant School but all schools must have childcare provision by 2010.

### **Extended Schools Agenda**

By 2008, half of all secondary schools will be open from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., weekdays, weekends and during school holidays. The provision will be extended to all schools by 2010 and encompass infant, junior and primary schools including even small schools such as Church Aston.

### **Building Schools for the Future (BSF)**

The Government has targeted £2.2 billion per year to transform secondary education and had stated its intent to initiate a similar scheme for primary education. The resource is intended to transform the fabric, structure and infrastructure to enable adoption of the wrap-around agendas.

The Borough Council was asked to submit a bid under BSF initiative by March 2006 and awaits an announcement in May that the bid has been successful with money coming on stream in 2007. An anticipated £160 million is expected which will be topped up by other monies. The concept of 0-16 and 0-18 years learning communities will act as both physical and economic drivers in community regeneration. To develop a coherent strategy cannot

exclude the LDF. This is just the start of the process which entails full consultation and planning and will be very important for Newport to remain a sustainable, thriving market town. Part of this vision includes the provision of good quality affordable and social housing to fully address a balanced population.

Discussion between all participants elaborated on the concept of school clusters detailed at para. 7.5.10 etc. in Appendix 'A' and the detailed proposals for the Newport cluster detailed at para. 8.2.

Mr Foster stressed that sport and recreational facilities will be extended but that housing provision was vital to give the town a critical mass for its future development and sustainability and asked members to consider this concept in the round.

The Town Mayor thanked the visitors for their participation and the provision they had brought to the debate. He confirmed that the issue would be further debated at the Annual Town Meeting where the LDF is the lead topic. It was also confirmed that a future meeting in closed session may be required to which Mr Foster and Mr Michael Barker, Corporate Director of Planning, will be invited to discuss specific land issues.

**260/05-06 TOWN COUNCIL VACANCIES**

The Town Clerk briefed members on the overwhelming response to the two advertised vacancies for a Cleaner / Caretaker and a Clerical Assistant. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would reduce the applicants to be called forward to interview to a maximum of 6 per post, confirmation of the selection being approved by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor. Interviews will take place the week of 13-17 March 2006 with a formal interview panel consisting of the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Town Clerk. The interview process will comprise two parts, an informal meeting with staff and a tour of the Guildhall followed by the formal interview. A maximum of 30 minutes per candidate will be set. The formal interview panel will consult with other staff for their reactions to the candidates during the informal stage before making a final selection.

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Signed .....

Dated .....