

Dick Tonge
Cabinet Member for Finance

15 October 2015

Cabinet Office
Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

Your ref:
Our ref: dt/cc/L15104

Please find below the text of an email that has been sent to the Clerks of the Town Councils.

If you have an interest in a substantial devolution of assets and /or services to your Parish Council please let me know so that you can be invited to the seminar mentioned in the text.

Regards



Cllr Dick Tonge
Cabinet Member for Finance
Email: richard.tonge@wiltshire.gov.uk

You may have heard that we are working on the devolution of a bundle of assets and services to Salisbury City Council. The details are shown in the paper to Cabinet shown at the link <https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=8636&Ver=4>.

We have been asked by several other Town Councils to enter discussions with them about a similar devolution and welcome this interest. However each takes a large amount of officer time, for example we think the Salisbury package will take about a year of effort, and we do not have the capacity to run several large transfers in parallel. Although Salisbury is likely to be the largest such devolution it is unlikely that others will take less than three months of officer time.

We hope that the Salisbury package will be finalised towards the end of this year. We are proposing that we do not engage in any new discussions with other Towns until it has been finalised, with the exception of car parks and public toilets.

Once the Salisbury package has been agreed we will arrange a seminar for Town Councils to share the lessons learnt in Salisbury and to agree how the priorities should be set for those that wish to pursue such devolution. By taking this approach we will be able to use the experience gained and be able to move quicker on other requests.

I hope that this suggestion meets with your approval, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.