



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2020/21

Thursday, 1 October 2020

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

23 September 2020

Dear Councillor,

Summons to attend Council Meeting

A MEETING of the **Council**, which you are requested to attend, is to be held at the CIVIC OFFICES, SWINDON, on **Thursday, 1 October 2020** at **7.00 p.m.**.

The business to be transacted will be as follows:-

AGENDA

NOTE:

You may view the meeting here:

[Public Access - Council](#)

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Communications

To receive any communications or letters which the Mayor or Chief Executive may have to bring before the Council.

3. Minutes (Pages 7 - 16)

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

5. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below.

6. Motions

**(a) Motion - Covid Task Group
Councillor Bob Wright will move:**

“This council thanks all of its officers, members of the voluntary sector, including members of the public, for their efforts during the Covid crisis in Swindon. Your efforts have made a difference however the virus has not gone away and we need to be best placed for the possible challenge of a second wave. This council recognises with Winter coming this increases the possibility of a second wave however our resilience and continuous learning is our best chance of reducing risk.

In light of this, and information disclosed to the Health Scrutiny committee on 3rd September, we call upon the council to create a Covid Task group

This task group will monitor such things as - community engagement - relevant powers that officers can use - the threat that is posed to the wider community if lockdown continues for an extended time - reduced services - transfer of responsibility for someone in care - ensuring there is sufficient quality PPE for all those who requiring it.

The task group will comprise of our diverse communities, agencies and representatives. They will monitor and scrutinise evidence and individuals using the aid of a public dashboard they will identify weaknesses and gaps in our preparations or activity. The task group will (with advice) recommend courses of action to fulfil deficiency.”

**(b) Motion - Planning White Paper
Councillor Jane Milner-Barry will move:**

“This Council notes that the Government’s White Paper ‘Planning for the Future’ blames the planning system for a lack of homes and presents plans to “tear it down and start again”.

This Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

1. Reduce or remove the right of residents to have their say on applications in their communities.
2. Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as ‘for growth’.
3. Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and replace them with a national levy which could be used for any purpose.
4. Delay the requirement to build zero carbon homes.

5. Weaken the environmental assessment process.

This Council further notes that:

1. The vast majority of planning applications are given the go-ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
2. According to the Local Government Association, there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.
3. The proposals are opposed by the Local Government Association, the Royal Institute for British Architects and the Town and Country Planning Association, and that the Wildlife Trusts state that the proposed zoning system will accelerate the decline of British wildlife.

We further call on the council to take all necessary steps to ensure that where housing is developed on commercial sites under the new permitted development regulations, 35% of the housing is affordable and all are of a quality consistent with our aspiration to provide the best we can.

We therefore call on the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of State for Housing & Planning and to our local Members of Parliament expressing our concerns.”

(c) **Motion - Empty Homes**
Councillor Roger Smith will move:

“This Council Notes that:

- There are around 540 homes in Swindon which have been empty for at least six months - according to the Internal Audit Report of January 2020.
- Due to the socio-economic impact of empty homes on local communities, great priority needs to be given to the issue including consideration of the use of enforcement powers such as Section 215 notices, compulsory purchase powers and Empty Dwelling Management Orders

This Council also:

- Welcomes the recognition from the Internal Audit Report of the extensive work that is already being done to promote empty homes being brought back into occupancy and wishes to develop this work.
- Notes that The Local Government Finance Act 1992 has allowed the Council to charge 100% premium (200% Council Tax) from April 2019 on properties which have been empty for longer than two

years, and from April 2020 to charge up to 200% premium (300% Council Tax) on properties that have been empty for more than five years.

This Council Requests that the Cabinet Member for Housing & Public Safety:

- Carries out a Business Case for giving greater priority to this issue, to include the socio-economic impact of empty homes on local communities, together with the use of enforcement powers including Section 215 notices, compulsory purchase powers and Empty Dwelling Management Orders. Such powers in part, lie outside the current remit of the Cabinet Member and I ask that it be considered whether the management of empty homes could be brought under the control of a single service area in Housing.
- Reviews the Empty Homes Policy in the light of that business case and to standardise the process to ensure consistency of approach
- Brings a report on the Business Case and the draft of the reviewed policy to Adults' Health, Adults' Care and Housing and Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22nd April 2021, consistent with the agreed work programme."

(d) **Motion - Vote of Confidence**
Councillor Oliver Donachie will move:

"That this Council has no confidence in the Leader of the Swindon Borough Council."

7. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

(Pages 17 - 34)

Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Cabinet Member in respect of Cabinet minutes (which are not reserved for Council for decision) and in respect of individual Cabinet Member delegated decisions.

8. Minutes of other Council Bodies

Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Chair in respect of all other Committee minutes (not reserved to Council for decision), as set out in the Minute Book circulated separately.

9. Councillors Question Time

Questions (if any) of which notice has been given by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 15.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Hall

Chief Legal Officer

Questions by Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 11

Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

During Covid-19, you must submit your question to CommitteeServices@swindon.gov.uk with your contact details 48 hours before the meeting so the committee officer can send you details about how to participate. The deadline is 16:00 on Tuesday 29th September 2020 Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website (<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

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COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 9 JULY 2020

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Nick Burns-Howell, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Claire Crilly, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Steph Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Brian Ford, Jim Grant, Dale Heenan, Steve Heyes, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Janine Howarth, Oladapo Ibitoye, Robert Jandy, Jenny Jefferies, Vinay Manro, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Brian Mattock, Jane Milner-Barry, Stan Pajak, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, David Renard, James Robbins, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Carol Shelley, Kevin Small, Roger Smith, Bazil Solomon, Andy Spry, Gary Sumner, Timothy Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams and Robert Wright.

10. Minutes Silence

A minute's silence was held in respect for all those who had lost their lives as a result of discrimination and related issues throughout history.

11. Mayor's Announcements

The Worshipful The Mayor reported that Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, made a visit to the Civic Offices on Monday 6th July 2020 to see first-hand how the Live Well Hub has been making a difference to residents in Swindon who have been shielding due to COVID-19. Whilst there, the Duchess helped to pack the 1,000th food parcel to be delivered to vulnerable residents and thanked volunteers and staff from Children's Services, the Homelessness Team and the Register Office, who have all been helping to keep some of the Council's vital services running.

12. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adorabelle Shaikh and Vera Tomlinson.

13. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

14. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2020, be confirmed and signed.

15. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

Councillors Claire Crilly, Robert Jandy and Roger Smith made personal declarations of interest in respect of agenda item 11 (Stratton St Margaret Neighbourhood Plan) in their capacity as Parish Councillors on Stratton St. Margaret Parish Council.

Councillor Stan Pajak made a personal declaration in respect of agenda item 9(d) (Motion - COVID 19 Frontline Workers) as he worked in the retail sector.

16. Public Question Time

Mr Trish Philpot submitted a public question regarding the opening of public toilets at Lydiard and Coate. The Leader of the Council responded that a written response had been tabled.

17. Minutes for Confirmation

(1) Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded That Minute 12 of the Cabinet (Allowances 2020/21 - Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel) be confirmed and adopted.

Councillor Stan Pajak moved and Councillor Andy Spry Seconded:

“That Minute 12 of the Cabinet be amended to include a 10% cut in Members’ Allowances.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The Substantive Resolution (Cabinet Minute 12) was put to the vote and declared carried.

(2) Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Brian Ford seconded that Minute 6(1) (A Local Outbreak Management Plan for Swindon) be confirmed and adopted.

The resolution was put to the vote and declared carried.

18. Numbers to Serve on Committees

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

“That the number of Members to serve on Swindon Borough Council’s Committees for the Municipal Year 2020/21, be as follows:

Appeals Committee – 25 Members
Appointments Committee – 21 Members
Audit Committee – 7 Members
Licensing Committee – 15 Members
Planning Committee – 15 Members
Special Committee – 13 Members
Scrutiny Committee – 13 Members
Health and Wellbeing Board – 6 Members
Standards Committee – 13 Members

Adults' Health, Adults' Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 Members
Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 Members
Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 Members
Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 Members
Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9 Members
Health and Wellbeing Board – 6 Members.”

The Resolution was put to the vote and declared carried.

19. Allocations of Seats to Political Groups and Appointments to Committees, Other Council Bodies and Outside Bodies

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

“(1) That, having carried out a review under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Council continues to apply the political balance provisions under the Act.

(2) That Committees and other relevant Council Bodies be reminded of their duty to carry out a review under Section 15 of the Local Government Housing Act 1989, as appropriate, and recommends that having carried out that review they continue to apply the political balance provisions.

(3) That the Council's waiving of the political balance arrangements on the Standards Committee and Special Committee be confirmed and these Committees comprise 13 Councillors on the basis of 7 Conservative Group Members, 4 Labour Group Members, 1 Liberal Democrat Group Member and 1 Independent Tories Group Member.

(4) That Councillors be appointed to serve on the Council's Committees for the Municipal Year 2020/21, as set out as in Appendices to the Minutes on the Council's website.

(5) That the arrangements relating to the Council's Standards Committee, as set out in Paragraph 3.10 of the report of the Chief Legal Officer, be approved.

(6) That Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed to the Council's Committees for the Municipal Year 2020/21, as set out in the Appendices to the Minutes be approved.

(7) That representatives be appointed to serve on Other and Outside Bodies for the Municipal Year 2020/21, be as set out in the Appendices to the Minutes.”

The Resolution was put to the vote and declared carried.

20. Motion - Members Allowances

Councillor Stan Pajak moved and Councillor Andy Spry seconded:

“That this Council reduces the amount of total councillor allowances (£767,000) by 10% which would give £76,700 which would pay for two additional parking enforcement officers (£57,000) and additional new parking regulations implementation.”

In accordance with Standing Order 9 the Motion was deferred to Cabinet without discussion.

21. Motion - Equalities and Inclusion

Councillor Bazil Solomon moved and Councillor Robert Jandy seconded:

“This Council Re-affirms that:

- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is simply about the way we work. It supports our thinking and our actions; it is embedded in everything we do”.
- Swindon has a rich tradition of attracting and welcoming people from all backgrounds regardless of their place of origin, race, religion, beliefs, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability. We are proud of our Town’s diversity with its strong community relations reflected in events such as Pride, the Mela, Polish Day, the Goan Festival, Nepalese festival & Bangladeshi festival, and also the Indian and Caribbean festivals. This Council sets an example in our Borough by:
 - Representation: The Elected Members of the Council welcomes and includes people from a variety of backgrounds, is diverse and provides opportunities for members of all our communities to ensure everyone has a voice.
 - Developing and encouraging opportunities: A refreshed foster carer recruitment campaign, focusing on myth- busting to encourage more individuals from diverse backgrounds to consider fostering – generated more than 400 new enquiries since May 2019.
 - Working directly with communities: The Revised customer complaints procedure, incorporated feedback from community representatives, with specific customer service training on equality, diversity and inclusion.

This Council believes that:

- It is important that people continue to have the right to peaceful protest but, equally, the traditions of our Country should be respected and the rule of Law upheld. Criminal damage and violence do not help any cause.
- It is deeply concerning to witness injustices around the world or closer to home. Nevertheless, we continue to ensure that diversity is celebrated, everyone has equal opportunities and that all are treated equally.

This Council resolves to:

- Welcome peaceful protest especially on matters of injustice and Inequality.
- Support the Police in their role of upholding the Law of the Land
- Welcome the Government’s announcement to set up a Commission looking into inequalities.

- Ensure that we set a benchmark in implementing the Equality Act 2010 and exhort other organisations to do the same.
- Ensure all views are heard and everyone is treated equally.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

22. Motion - Provision of Mental Health Services for Young People

Councillor Barbara Parry moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

“This Council:

- Believes that Children’s mental health is everyone’s business.
- Note with concern that mental health problems amongst young people have for some time, been on the increase nationally, with a rising demand on services and increasing complexity of need and that COVID19 and the resultant uncertainty for young people including the uncertainty, the anxiety, the fear of becoming ill or seeing a loved one become ill, the loss of our normal routines, the difficulties of social connection, and in many cases the disruption to education will have exacerbated the issue.
- Welcomes the fact that Government has made mental health a priority and the NHS is urged to give mental health parity with physical health in the COVID Recovery Plan.

This Council further:

- Recognises that, despite increased investment in, and policy focus on, mental health services for children and young people, the numbers of children and young people requiring support are going up. Direct access and universal services at the point of need are available, however thresholds for accessing some services mean that waiting times can be long.
- Notes that the Trailblazer is providing good support from those schools who are part of the scheme but that we still have a number of young people, desperately unhappy and in need of support, some of them urgent support.

This Council requests that:

- The Leader of the Council in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services Council write to Central Government to lobby for the much needed additional funding to support mental health services to young people and the earliest possible intervention to remove waiting lists and ensure that young people, and those caring for them, are able to get EARLY help quickly and easily.
- The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services conduct a review and brings a report to the September Children’s OS committee setting out the current position, scope and progress to date by the council and its partners with recommendations to the January 2021 Children’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting to ensure that there is a

robust mental health strategy covering prevention, self-help, treatment and support. This should include:

- o Improved partnership working between TAMHS and CAMHS to continue to reduce waiting times and that any young person has their needs met by one of the organisations
- o Innovative ways to promote the benefits of young people engaging with sport and the performing arts
- o Working with schools to improve the current training given to staff working directly with young people so that they can spot the signs of poor mental health in children and know who and where to get help and extending specialist training to all support staff to equip them to deal with low level issues and provide support at the earliest stage.”

The Motion was put the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor Bob Wright made a personal declaration in respect of this item as a family member was accessing services referred to in the Motion.)

23. Motion - COVID 19 Frontline Workers

Councillor Steve Allsopp moved and Councillor Bob Wright seconded:

“The Covid 19 emergency has led to many front line workers previously taken for granted to be seen by the community at large as essential in maintaining a civilized society during lockdown. Among those workers have been those in the food retail sector. Alex Norris MP has been using the 10 minute bill process to enhance protection for these workers against assault in the course of their duties. We request that the Chief Executive write to our MPs to ask that they recognise the special contribution provided by this group of people by supporting the measures set out in the Assaults on Retail Workers (Offences) Bill 2019-21.”

With the agreement of the mover and seconder the Motion was amended to read:

“The Covid 19 emergency has led to many front line workers previously taken for granted to be seen by the community at large as essential in maintaining a civilized society during lockdown. Among those workers have been those in the food retail sector. Alex Norris MP has been using the 10 minute bill process to enhance protection for these workers against assault in the course of their duties. We request that the Leader of the Council write to our MPs to ask that they recognise the special contribution provided by this group of people by supporting the measures set out in the Assaults on Retail Workers (Offences) Bill 2019-21.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor Stan Pajak made a personal declaration in respect of this item as he worked in the retail sector.)

Councillor Kevin Small moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

“This Council commends the Local Resilience Forum and its Partners in the local management of the emergency created by the Covid Pandemic. It commends the whole hearted support shown by our staff in particular for their flexibility and adaptability in ensuring vital services were kept operating at the height of the emergency and the most vulnerable protected.

It notes that on the onset of the emergency the Prime Minister stated that Local Authorities would be given whatever support was required to manage its impact at the local level .This message has now weakened from the Secretary of State to” a need to share the pain”.

This Council further notes that the current emergency is not over and it is highly probable that further action may be required later in the year Unless a firm guarantee can be given that full Treasury funding will be provided to cover additional costs and reduction of income to date the need for continued reduction in our base line budget cannot be avoided. Such an outcome would be a betrayal of our local community and the staff who serve them.

We call on the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State to press the case for full reimbursement of all costs and lost income incurred to date and ensure Local Government.”

With the agreement of the mover and seconder the Motion was amended to read:

“This Council would like to thank the Swindon community for everything they have done as part of responding to the covid-19 pandemic. The Council commends the Local Resilience Forum and its Partners in the local management of the emergency created by the Covid Pandemic. It commends the whole hearted support shown by our staff in particular for their flexibility and adaptability in ensuring vital services were kept operating at the height of the emergency and the most vulnerable protected.

This Council welcomes the Government funding which has been provided to Local Authorities, businesses and individuals, as well as the Government's comments at the start of the emergency that Local Authorities would be given whatever support was required to manage the impact at a local level.

It further notes, that in common with all Local Authorities, that Swindon Borough Council is facing additional costs pressures and loss of revenue arising out of the covid-10 pandemic and welcomes the Government's commitment to not returning to austerity measures to pay for the crisis.

In view of this the Council asks the Government to provide the funding needed to cover the Council's additional costs and reduction in income and agrees that the Leader of the Council continues to work with the Government to ensure that Swindon Borough Council receives its fair share of Government funding in order to ensure the long term financial viability of the services it provides.”

The amended Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

25. Motion - Council's Economic Recovery Plan

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Stan Pajak seconded:

“We note the economic recovery plan recently passed at cabinet. We further note the recovery plan recently produced by the Labour group. In light of both of these plans we call upon this council to implement a cross party working group, using both these plans as starting point, to seek to come to a consensus as to the best way forward for both Swindon council and the town itself to recover from Covid-19 pandemic. There are many merits in both plans and we feel that the people of Swindon would want all their local representatives to work together during this time of crisis to produce a way forward which sustains both the economic, social and environmental future of the town as well as the financial future of the council.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

26. Use of Special Urgency and Covid-19 decision-making powers

The Council considered a report of the Chief Legal Officer setting out uses of special or urgency decision making powers in the Constitution in the Municipal Year 2019/20, and informing Council about the use of the additional powers for the Covid-19 emergency period.

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

“(1) That the use of special or urgency powers on 16th October 2019 (Investment Opportunity Stratton St Margaret) and 7th May 2020 (Kimmerfields) be noted.
(2) That it be noted that the Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer) has not made any recommendations that Members change the urgency process at this time.
(3) That the Chief Executive’s use of Delegated Authority under Article 14.06.02 of the Constitution, in consultation with both the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, regarding the issue of Local Authority Discretionary Grants as part of the response to Covid-19 be noted.”

The Resolution was put to the vote and declared carried.

27. Stratton St Margaret Neighbourhood Plan

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport and Planning submitted a report (a) inviting Council to approve the Decision Statement relating to the Stratton St Margaret Neighbourhood Development Plan following the issuing of the independent Examiner’s Report, and (b) seeking Council’s approval to proceed with a referendum on the adoption of the Stratton St Margaret Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Councillor Gary Sumner moved and Councillor Robert Jandy seconded:

“(1) That the Stratton St Margaret Neighbourhood Development Plan Decision Statement as set out in the Appendix 1 to the report be approved.
(2) That the Director of Strategic Planning, Transport and Regulatory Services be authorised, subject to the Neighbourhood Plan being modified in accordance with Examiners Report, to take all appropriate actions to progress the Stratton St

Margaret Neighbourhood Development Plan to referendum in accordance with regulations set out in The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012. (3) That the Counting Officer be authorised to undertake the referendum on 6 May 2021; or sooner should revised regulations allow.”

The Resolution was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillors Claire Crilly, Robert Jandy and Roger Smith made personal declarations of interest in respect of this item in their capacity as Parish Councillors on Stratton St. Margaret Parish Council.)

28. Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Plan

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport and Planning submitted a report (a) inviting Council to approve the Decision Statement relating to the Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Development Plan following the issuing of the independent Examiner’s Report, and (b) seeking Council’s approval to proceed with a referendum on the adoption of the Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Councillor Gary Sumner moved and Councillor Robert Jandy seconded:

“(1) That the Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Development Plan Decision Statement as set out in the Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

(2) That the Director of Strategic Planning, Transport and Regulatory Services be authorised, subject to the Neighbourhood Plan being modified in accordance with Examiners Report, to take all appropriate actions to progress the Blunsdon East Neighbourhood Development Plan to referendum in accordance with regulations set out in The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendum) Regulations 2012.

(3) That the Counting Officer be authorised to undertake the referendum on 6 May 2021; or sooner should revised regulations allow.”

The Resolution was put to the vote and declared carried.

29. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 5th February, 22nd April and 7th May 2020, (b) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received, and (c) Cabinet Member Decision Notices.

30. Minutes of other Council Bodies

The Council (a) received the minutes set out in the “Minutes of Other Council Bodies” circulated with the Agenda, and (b) considered questions to Chairs relating to the work of their Committees and other bodies and answers received.

31. Councillors Question Time

The Chief Legal Officer reported that a Standing Order 15 Questions had been received from Councillors Steve Allsopp, Oliver Donachie and Kevin Parry. Written answers were provided and no supplemental questions were asked.

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CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2020

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Brian Ford, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Robert Jandy, Mary Martin, Cathy Martyn, Maureen Penny, Gary Sumner and Keith Williams

Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting regrading Minutes 5, 6, 9, and 13.
Councillor Bob Wright attended the meeting Minutes 6, 8, 9, 10, and 13.

1. Declarations of Interest.

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

2. Councillor Robert Jandy

Councillor David Renard, the Leader of the Council, welcomed Councillor Jandy to his first Cabinet meeting in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Organisational Excellence and wished him every success.

3. Minutes.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. Public Question Time.

Ms Trisha Philpot, West Swindon Parish Councillor, submitted a question concerning the timing of the introduction of school safety measures. Councillor Maureen Penny, Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance, and Waste Service said a written response had been provided.

Mr Roy Worman, North Swindon Resident, submitted two questions regarding the costs of working with a partner organisation and landfill costs. Councillor Maureen Penny, Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance, and Waste Service said a written response had been provided. Mr Worman asked a supplementary question about environmental costs, to which Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Climate Change undertook to provide a written answer. Mr Worman asked a further question about the StreetSmart costs to which the Director of Operations, the Councillor Holland: Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education, and Skills and Councillor Williams responded at the meeting.

5. Swindon Borough Council Covid-19 Response

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive submitted a joint report setting out the actions the Council is taking to recover from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The joint report also set out how Council had maintained the majority of

its services during the Response Phase with increased use of technology and flexible working practices allowing essential services to be provided. The Recovery Plan also addressed how the Council will seek to learn lessons from this unprecedented event and identify opportunities to re-shape the way the Council delivers services to residents.

The Leader of the Council emphasised the importance of restarting the economy and preserving jobs along with undertaking to provide regular updates to subsequent Cabinet meetings. Councillor Jim Grant asked a series of questions about whether the administration would form a cross-party working group to develop plans as well as how non-executive Councillors could contribute to their development. The Leader of the Council and Councillor Dale Heenan – Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage – responded at the meeting.

Resolved: (1) That the Covid-19 Recovery Plan (attached at Appendix One to the main report), be approved and that it be noted that the Recovery Plan will run in parallel with the formal response.

(2) That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to implement the measures set out in the Recovery Plan.

(3) That it be noted that the Council remains in emergency response and that the Recovery Plan will run in parallel until the point of formal handover from the Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) as directed by Central Government.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

6. Budget Management Update (July)

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills along with the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets submitted a joint report presenting the provisional revenue position for 2019/20, subject to audit by Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors.

The Deputy Leader thanked officers and fellow Cabinet Members for delivering an underspend in the 2019/20 financial year. Councillor Holland summarised the financial effects of the Covid-19 pandemic so far with both higher costs and lower revenue. He advised Members that the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets (Section 151 Officer) did not consider that he would have to issue a Section 114 Notice that the Council was financially unsustainable at this time; however, this was a matter for the Section 151 Officer's professional judgement for the future.

Councillors Jim Grant and Bob Wright asked a series of questions covering:

- What lobbying the Council was undertaking to secure additional government funding to cover the anticipated shortfall.
- Whether the Section 151 Officer could bring a report to Council to set out what a Section 114 notice and the circumstances in which it could be used.
- What degree of confidence the Cabinet Member and Corporate Director had in managing the budget deficit.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Holland, and the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets responded at the meeting. Councillor Holland agreed to provide a briefing to all Members regarding Section 114 notices.

Resolved: (1) That the 2019/20 revenue out-turn for each service area set out in Table 1 in the body of the report and Appendix 1 to the main report be noted;
(2) That it be noted that the underspend on the General Fund of £613k has resulted in an increase in the General Reserve to £7.2m and that the Chief Executive be asked to thank all staff for helping achieve this.
(3) That the flexible use of capital receipts in 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 2 be noted
(4) That the update on the impact of COVID-19 be noted.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

7. Capital Monitoring - Outturn

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills along with the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets submitted a joint report presenting the 2019/20 year end monitoring position for the Council's capital programme and some proposed changes to the programme.

Councillor Holland, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills, drew Members' attention to the additional money that had been received for highways maintenance as well as Section 106 developers' contributions for Coate.

Resolved: (1) That the 2019/20 year end position of the capital programme expenditure as set out in Tables 1 & 2 of the main report and Appendices 1 and 2 be noted.
(2) That it be noted that there are no new variances to the programme as they have all been reported to Cabinet at previous meetings;
(3) That the addition to the programme of a) £429k for Coate Water Country Park Improvements funded from S106 contributions and b) £2.016m for Highway maintenance including pothole repairs, carriageway resurfacing and traffic signal refurbishment funded through grant funding from the new Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund as detailed at paragraph 3.7 of the main report be approved.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

8. Treasury Management out turn report

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills along with the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets setting out the Treasury Management performance for 2019/20.

Councillor Bob Wright asked a question about which programmes had the additional the £20m borrowing been used to support. The Corporate Director of Finance and Assets undertook to provide a written response.

Resolved: That the 2019/20 Treasury Management performance as detailed at paragraphs 3.1 to 3.23 of the main report and the Prudential Indicators shown at Appendix 2 be noted.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

9. Council's Waste Strategy: Year 2 Proposals

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services along with the Director of Operations submitted a joint report that outlined the next steps in the delivery of the Council's waste strategy (agreed by the Council in 2018). The report responds to the Council's obligation to make every possible effort to achieve the national Government target of achieving a 60% recycling and composting rate by 2030. This is also complimentary to the Council's ambition to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Councillor Maureen Penny, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services, introduced the report and the Leader stated that responsibility for the strategy was now under Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Climate Change.

Councillors Jim Grant and Bob Wright asked a number of questions relating to

- Whether the soft-market testing would be published
- Would outsourcing and changing collection frequencies be covered as part of the review
- The future roll-out of food waste collection
- The ability to deliver any changes within the current budget
- When Members would see specific options.

Councillor Williams responded at the meeting.

Resolved: (1) In accordance with the year 2 action plan of the Council's Waste Strategy, that it be agreed to the immediate commencement of an end to end review of waste operations, both collection and disposal, the outcomes of which will be reported back to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Management, the Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills. This will be informed by a soft market testing exercise to understand the options available to the Council in relation to co-mingled recyclates, disposal options for recycling and general waste as well as a full review of our current collection regime.

(2) That the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Management and the Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills, be authorised to determine the preferred options for the waste and recycling service providing that those options can be accommodated within the current budget for the service.

(3) That the Director of Operations be authorised then to implement the preferred options for the waste and recycling service provided that they can be accommodated within existing budget.

(4) That it be agreed to include the rollout plan for borough wide food waste collection in the review so that, following the successful trial with 11000 households, it can be rolled out across the borough as and when capacity in the waste team allows, providing it can be done within the current budget of the service.

(5) That the Director of Operations be authorised to extend the current food waste trial for households on the trial until the point at which a full scale food waste collection service can be rolled out across the borough.

(6) That officers be authorised to produce a comprehensive and proactive

communications campaign and action plan which includes further public engagement to gauge resident and stakeholder appetite and understanding of any potential changes to the service that may be considered in order to support a smooth transition to any proposed new service.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

10. School Safe Environment Zone

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services along with the Head of Highways & Transport submitted a joint report setting out proposals to deliver a 1 programme of road safety improvements outside schools over the next 5 years. The report also responds to Council's resolution in relating to a petition of 19th September 2019 that asked officers to bring a report to Cabinet outlining the road safety priorities for the Borough and for this report to consider the measures required for the Borough including Hay Lane (Council Minute 32, 2019/20 refers).

Councillor Maureen Penny, the Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services, summarised how the proposals would provide bespoke solutions based on clear criteria according to a priority list that would be reviewed annually. Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage along with Councillor Gary Sumner, Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport, and Planning spoke in favour of the report. Councillor Bob Wright asked a question about providing education for motorists on the risks to children from cars, to which Councillor Penny responded at the meeting.

Resolved: (1) That it be agreed that the road safety improvements on Hay Lane, West Swindon as set out in paragraph 3.12 of this report be delivered and that the petitioners be advised accordingly.

(2) That the process set out in paragraphs 3.16 – 3.19 of this report to deliver road safety improvements outside schools across Swindon over a 5 year programme in line with the approved Capital programme be agreed.

(3) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to implement the School Safe Environment Zones 5 year capital programme and to oversee the 5-year programme of road safety improvements outside schools across Swindon.

(4) That the Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, be authorised to oversee an annual review and update of the prioritised list of schools using the latest data available.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

11. SEND Home to School Transport Policy 2021/22

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Interim SEND Lead submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's agreement to approve the Special Educational Needs and Disability Home to School Transport Policy for 2021-22.

Councillor Mary Martin, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, summarised how the proposals would clarify the support offered to young people as the criteria varied according to three age bands as well as how staff who were appropriately

qualified would be permitted to administer prescribed medication.

Resolved: (1) That the outcome of the consultation process and the revision to draft policy to make it more accessible as well as to set out how children and young people's medical needs would be met on transport be noted.

(2) That the Special Educational Needs and Disability Home to School Transport Policy for all applicants for 2021-22 be approved.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

12. Councillors' Allowances 2020/21 - Recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Minute for Confirmation)

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer) submitted a joint report inviting Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances for 2021/2022. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills asked colleagues to thank the Independent Remuneration Panel members for their work in producing the recommendations.

Resolved: (1) That it be noted that the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances for 2021/2022 were considered and recommend to Council that (Minute for Confirmation).

(2) The levels of Councillors' Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances, and Travel, Subsistence and Dependent Care Allowances remain unchanged for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year.

(3) The level of Basic Allowance be index linked to the percentage increase in pay awarded to officers in the national round for a period of four years (commencing in May 2021 and ending in May 2025).

(4) The Council be asked to take a view on the Panel investigating the introduction of a Parental Leave Policy for Councillors.

(5) The Chief Legal Officer be authorised to introduce a revised Councillors' Allowances Scheme for 2021/2022, as attached at Appendix One, based on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as approved and adopted by the Council.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

13. Swindon Town Deal Board

The Leader of the Council and the Head of Strategic Growth and Place submitted a joint report to request authorisation for the use of capacity funding allocated by Government to Swindon Borough Council (a total of £173,029) for the purpose of setting up a Town Deal Board and developing a Town Investment Plan. The report also seek authorisation for the Council to accept the role of Accountable Body for the Towns Fund, as Lead Authority for Swindon, and to put in place the required governance arrangements.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture, and Heritage, welcomed the report and the opportunity for the Board to bid for £25m of

funding. Councillors Jim Grant and Bob Wright asked questions relating to:

- Whether the Council's representation on the board should be cross party,
- How the Community Engagement was working to keep parishes and ward councillors informed, especially as the parish council representative did not come from a parish in the urban core,
- How a change in council administration might affect the Board's proposals.

The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Resolved: (1) That the setting up of a Town Deal Board as detailed in this report be authorised subject to the following:-

- (a) Swindon Borough Council will act as the Accountable body,
 - (b) The Board Members will agree to abide by the Council's code of Conduct (attached at Appendix One),
 - (c) The Board Members will agree to be bound by the Council's whistleblowing policies.
 - (d) The Council will act as the administrator for the Board, with meetings being held in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and included on the Council's website,
- (2) That the Head of Strategic Growth and Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets and the Leader of the Council, be authorised to authorise expenditure of capacity funding of £173,029 by the Swindon Town Deal Board as agreed by the Board.
- (3) That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader be authorised to agree Heads of Terms with the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) in order to receive project funding for specific projects as identified and by the Town Deal Board and agreed by MHCLG.
- (4) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets (S.151 Officer) be authorised to provide a return to government on the progress of the Town Deal Board as required by guidance.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

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CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Brian Ford, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Robert Jandy, Mary Martin, Cathy Martyn, Maureen Penny, Gary Sumner and Keith Williams

Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 15, 17 and 18

14. Declarations of Interest.

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

15. Minutes.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Grant asked in relation to Minute 6 if there had been briefing on Section 114 notices. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education, and Skills undertook to provide this by the end of the week.

16. Public Question Time.

Mr Roy Worman, Swindon resident, submitted questions relating to Covid-19 regulations, to which Councillor Cathy Martyn, Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, had provided responses. Mr Worman asked a supplementary question about how the Council would manage the change of emphasis from voluntary to compulsory checks, to which Councillor Martyn undertook to provide a written response as soon as possible. Mr Worman asked a further question about the re-introduction of Open Forum and the Leader stated he would talk to officers to see if this could resume from the next Cabinet meeting.

17. Swindon Borough Council Covid-19 Recovery update

Councillor David Renard, Leader of the Council, and the Director of Public Health (on behalf of the Chief Executive) introduced a joint report providing Cabinet with an update on the Covid-19 cases that have been identified and the action taken in accordance with the Local Outbreak Management Plan (“LOMP”), including the re-instatement of Gold Response from Monday, 10th August 2020. The report also set out the progress the Council has made to recover from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Leader drew Cabinet’s attention to the work on managing local outbreaks as well as restarting the economy, especially in the town centre. The Director of Public Health delivered an update on the current situation, emphasising the progress made

in reducing the infection rate while urging all not to be complacent. Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health thanked all councillors for their efforts in supporting the response and recovery efforts.

Councillor Jim Grant along with Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage, asked a range of questions, to which the Leader, Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, Councillor Robert Jandy, Cabinet Member for Organisational Excellence, the Corporate Director, Children's Services, and the Director of Public Health responded at the meeting.

- What was the rate of return to offices by Council staff? Twenty five percent of staff had return with the aim of this rising to thirty percent by the end of September, with a further review in October.
- What was the engagement with ward councillors in SN2? Ward councillors had been engaged but the Director of Public Health would confirm this and ensure that both councillors in specific areas and across the borough were kept briefed.
- Would there be a test facility in SN2 given that the current ones were in SN1? The testing process is being administered nationally and the Council was looking to identify more 'pop-up' sites to facilitate access in areas of concern.
- Which agencies will be responsible for enforcing the new restrictions? The police service would be the principal agency, with the Chief Constable having briefed the Council and other partners through the Local Resilience Forum.

Resolved – (1) That the Gold response to the recent localised Covid-19 outbreak be noted.

(2) That the progress towards delivering the Covid-19 Recovery Plan (attached at Annexes One and Two to the main report) be noted.

(3) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be invited to review the recovery workstreams of the Covid-19 Recovery Plan, and collate lessons learnt since March 2020 as set out below.

(a) Adults' Health, Adults' Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Social Care, Housing & Vulnerable Groups workstream.

(b) Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Social Care, Housing & Vulnerable Groups and Education, Skills & Learning workstreams.

(c) Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Social Care, Housing & Vulnerable Groups and Operational Services workstreams.

(d) Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee - the economy workstream.

(e) Resources and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – the organisation workstream.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

18. Budget Management Update (September)

Councillor Russell Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education, and Skills along with the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets introduced a joint report that presented the 2020/21 revenue budget forecast out-turn.

Councillor Holland advised Cabinet that while the position was of concern, the final government grants had not been determined and that he remained confident that there would be further support.

Councillor Jim Grant and Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture, and Heritage, asked a number of questions, to which the Leader, Councillor Brian Ford - Cabinet Member for Adults and Health – and Councillor Holland responded at the meeting.

- Could Members have copies of the letter and response to the government following the Council's resolution (Minute 24, 9th July 2020)? The Leader undertook to circulate any correspondence at the next Council meeting.
- How would the Council address any potential shortfall in government funding? The Council would use its ongoing programme of reviewing how it could provide all services more efficiently. The Council, working with local MPs and the LGA would continue to lobby central government.
- If there were a shortfall, would there be redundancies? The Council would only use compulsory redundancies as a last resort and after due consultation with staff and Unions.
- Did the current government grants cover higher expenditure rather than lost income? It would not be possible to comment until the Council had received the final round of grants. Prior to Covid-19, the Council still faced higher demand for personalised care services due to demographic pressures, although in the main spending area, Adult Social Care, officers had already generated additional savings to reduce any potential overspend.

Resolved – (1) That the 2020/21 revenue budget forecast out-turn for each service area set out in Table 1 and Appendix 1 to the main report be noted;
(2) That the update on the COVID-19 funding support be noted;
(3) That it be noted that the Corporate Management Team will develop plans to mitigate the current forecast overspend;
(4) That the virements set out in Appendix 2 to the main report be approved;
(5) That the maintenance of Members' Allowances at the current approved level be approved.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

19. Capital Monitoring Quarter 1 update

Councillor Russell Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet for Commercialisation, Education, and Skills along with the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets introduced a joint report that presented the year-end monitoring position for the Council's capital programme and some proposed changes to the programme.

Resolved - (1) That the 2020/21 year end projected out-turn position as set out in Tables 1 & 2 and Appendices 1 and 2 to the main report be noted;
(2) That the additions to the programme detailed at paragraphs 3.5 to 3.9 in the main report and set out below be approved
(a) That funding from Line 5 - HR & Finance System be re-allocated to provide a capital contingency for investment or improvement as required.

- (b) That Line 31 - M4 Junction 15 be updated to show the inclusion of £12.35m of funding from other sources in addition to the contribution previously agreed by the Council bringing the total scheme value to £17.15m.
- (c) That Line 50 - South Marston Primary School be amended from £3.1m to £4.9m to cover high construction costs, amended specifications for the kitchen, meeting the latest environmental standards, providing a temporary community car park and pedestrian routes.
- (d) That £2.137m of developers' S106 contributions be allocated to allow Dorcan Academy to increase in its Permitted Admission Numbers (PAN) of 20 pupils per year group.
- (e) That £115.5k of Section 106 and Diocese funding be allocated to Swindon Rugby Football Club to replace pitches lost to the construction of a primary school.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

20. Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme Review 2020

Councillor Gary Sumner, Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport, and Planning, along with the Director of Strategic Development, introduced a joint report seeking agreement for the revised Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2020. This Scheme outlines the work programme for the production of Local Development Plans, (principally the Local Plan), including joint working arrangements with Wiltshire Council, and for the arrangements to make it publicly available.

Resolved – (1) That the Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme as attached at Appendix 1 is approved and authorised for publication in accordance with the arrangements set out in paragraph 3.27.

(2) That the Director of Strategic Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning, is authorised to make minor non-material changes to the content of the Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme if required, prior to publication.

(3) That the Director of Strategic Development is authorised to commence joint working with Wiltshire Council in the review of Minerals and Waste Development Plan documents.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

21. School Place Planning Study 2020

The Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education, and Skills along with the Corporate Director, Children's Services, submitted a joint report to identify the number of school places required to meet Swindon's long-term educational place planning needs until 2026. The report included the expected demographic projections, proposed housing development areas, and the need to support attainment and opportunities for young people across the Town and Borough.

Councillor Holland informed the meeting of an error in the body of the report and the

words with sixth form should be deleted from paragraph 3.31. He also referred to a communication that he had received from the Principal of New College.

Councillors Gary Sumner - Cabinet Member for Strategic Initiatives, Transport and Planning - and Brian Ford - Cabinet Member for Adults and Health - asked the Cabinet Member if the study could take into account the need for town centre provision so as to reduce the need for pupils to travel to existing schools. Councillor Holland and the Strategic School Admissions Manager agreed to note these issues.

Resolved That the School Place Planning study update 2020 attached as Appendix 1 to the main report be approved.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

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Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker: Councillor Maureen Penny, Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance, and Waste Services

Subject: Covid-19 Emergency Active Travel Fund – Tranche 1

Decision(s): (1) The Director of Strategic Development and the Head of Highways and Transport is authorised to use the Phase 1 EATF funding to implement the proposed measures recommended as part of Tranche 1 work. The proposed improvements are for Station Road, Farnsby Street/Commercial Road, Crombey Street, Faringdon Road, Marlborough Road, Old Town railway path, Kingsdown Lane, Plymouth Street, Magic and Roundabout/Fleming Way, as set out in sections 3.9 and 3.10 of the Cabinet Member Decision Note.

(2) The Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services is authorised to make any adjustments to the schemes, as necessary.

Consultation: All Opposition Spokespersons / Ward Members have been consulted on the recommendations of the report and their responses are in Appendix Two to Cabinet Member Decision Note.

Councillor Nick Burns-Howell: St Margaret's Road - Winifred Street - Evelyn Street (Rat running). Wood Street (partial closure).

Councillor Jim Grant: Akres Way (crossing needed).

Councillor Oladapo Ibitoye: Beechcroft Road / Hyde Road (Pavements too narrow). Hyde Road (crossing needed).

Councillor Jane Milner-Barry: St Margaret's Road - Winifred Street - Evelyn Street (Rat running). Wood Street (partial closure). Crombey Street/Old Town railway path (improvements).

Councillor Stan Pajak – Commercial Road (cycling), Crombey Street (parking, cycling), Crombey Street / Eastcott Hill (No safe crossing). Spring Gardens (No safe crossing).

Councillor Roger Smith: - Drakes Way, Queens Drive, Cirencester Way, Princes Street and Commercial Road (cycling) d provision in the locality. All areas need more crossing points.

Councillor Nadine Watts: St Margaret's Road - Winifred Street - Evelyn Street (Rat running). Wood Street (partial closure).

Date of Publication: Thursday 23rd July 2020

Date for receipt of requests for call-in: 16:00, Thursday 30th July 2020

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note please contact: Syed Shah on telephone 07970 771013 or via email sshah@swindon.gov.uk or Douglas Campbell, Committee Services, Mobile: 07779 413886 or Email committeeservices@swindon.gov.uk.

The Decision Note (report) sets out the background to, and reasons for, the decisions referred to in the Notice above. Details of the alternative options put forward for consideration (if any) are also recorded in the Decision Note (report). Any alternative options considered that did not appear in the initial report will be recorded as part of the above Notice of Decisions. The Decision Note is available via the following link on the Council's website =

<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=652&RP=285>

Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker: Councillor Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Subject: Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Capital Investment Strategy 2020/21

Decision(s): (1) That the Corporate Director - Children's Services has noted the responses to the consultation.

(2) That the draft Special Educational Needs and Disability Capital Investment Strategy attached at Appendix 1 is approved following the consultation with stakeholders.

(3) That the Corporate Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets (Section 151 Officer) is authorised to retain £50,000 of SEND Capital Investment grant as an access fund for the Local Authority to commission low-level adjustments or equipment to schools as set out in paragraph 3.10 below.

(4) That the Corporate Director of Children's Services is authorised to spend £570K of SEND Capital Investment grant to fund 13 secondary pods/appropriate provision (or similar project) to support pupils with SEND including a £50K allocation for variations to the 2 PFI schools.

Consultation: All Opposition Spokespersons / Ward Members have been consulted on the recommendations of the report and their responses are in Appendix Two to Cabinet Member Decision Note.

Councillor Carol Shelley (Opposition Group Spokesperson) responded:

I have a number of concerns

1. 'Local Authority opened a bidding round for match funded projects in order to increase the overall level of investment in SEND provision, but also meet as wide a range of needs as possible.'

Projects that do not have the resources to match fund are potentially missed opportunities. Each project could benefit from being looked at for its overall benefit, regardless of resource. Too much reliance on the schools/ providers to put forward project, no overall strategy across the town. Equity between schools/providers an issue.

Thorough Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the SEND Capital Investment Funding project, we have not received any feedback from any schools or settings that they have not able to match the 25% match funding. A report has been sent out to all schools giving them an insight of the projects that have been approved from low budget sensory rooms to bigger projects such as well-being centres. This will be fully investigated in the review of the project which is due to commence in September 2020.

2. The consultation did not reach enough users, especially parents, the quality of the consultation was poor overall and therefore could not inform decision making.

Local Authority officers tried to ensure that the Consultation reached as many different people as possible. The consultation was advertised on Schools on line, on the Local Offer page, emailed out to all schools and settings and advertised in the Governors Bulletin.

Local Authority officers also worked closely with the Swindon Family Voice to ensure as many parents were reached out to as possible. Officers attended various parent meetings, coffee mornings, training events offering parents support to complete the consultation either on line or paper form. Many parents responded by explaining that their children's schools was aware of the consultation and that they were going to submit a response to the consultation.

A huge amount of work was done with STEP to ensure that young people also participated in the consultation.

Additional measures will take place with future consultations to try to ensure a better response rate particularly from parents/carers.

3. 'The capital funding will allow investment and innovation within the mainstream sector and links to the SEND and inclusion Strategy where we have committed to the majority of children and young people with SEND attending mainstream settings.' The allocation of money per school needs to be monitored, this process has not been identified.

All successful bids are monitored and a measurement of impact assessment will be completed. We will monitor and feedback on where the funds have been allocated whether it to a mainstream or other settings as part of the overall review which will commence in September 2020.

Having discussed these points with the Lead Member and the Local Authority officers I am happy to support this Decision Note.

Councillor Stan Pajak (Minority Group Leader) responded - I am happy to support the decision note.

Councillor Oliver Donachie (Minority Group Leader) – no comments received.

Date of Publication: Thursday 10th September 2020

Date for receipt of requests for call-in: 16:00, Thursday 17th September 2020

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note please contact: Sophie Fletcher, 07823 525462, sfletcher2@swindon.gov.uk or Douglas Campbell, Committee Services, Mobile: 07779 413886 or Email committeeservices@swindon.gov.uk.

The Decision Note (report) sets out the background to, and reasons for, the decisions referred to in the Notice above. Details of the alternative options put forward for consideration (if any) are also recorded in the Decision Note (report). Any alternative options considered that did not appear in the initial report will be recorded as part of the above Notice of Decisions. The Decision Note is available on the Council's website in the [Cabinet Forward Plan](#) for the call-in period.