

Swindon Borough Council

Special Committee

Monday, 16 January 2012

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

At 11.00 a.m.

Conservative Councillors

Roderick Bluh (Chair)

Garry Perkins (Vice-Chair)

Brian Mattock

David Renard

Deputies: *All other*

Cabinet Members

Labour Councillors

Mark Dempsey

Jim Grant

Deputies: *All other*

Labour Shadow Cabinet

Members

Liberal Democrat Councillors

Stan Pajak

Deputies: *All other Liberal
Democrat Members*

(Copies to all other Members of the Council – For Information)

Committee Officer: Ian Willcox (Telephone: 01793 463601)

email: iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street,
Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

PART 1 (PUBLIC ITEMS)

1. Apologies for Absence.

2. 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.

3. Minutes. (Pages 1 - 2)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 31st October 2011.

4. Public Question Time.

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

5. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

Certain items are expected to include the consideration of exempt information and the Special Committee is, therefore, recommended to resolve "That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public

be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information".

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>
7	1 and 2

6. Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee. (DPT-E) (Pages 3 - 6)

PART 2 (TO BE CONSIDERED WITHOUT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC PRESENT)

7. Request for Early Release of Pension Entitlement. (CE) (Pages 7 - 26)

Date of Despatch: 06 January 2012

Key:

Officers:

- CE - Chief Executive
- DPT-E - Director of Planning and Transport - Environment
- DLDS-B - Director of Law and Democratic Services – Business Transformation
- HHR-B - Head of Human Resources – Business Transformation

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements – The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

Special Committee - Terms of Reference

The Special Committee shall have delegated to it the power to act for the Council on the advice of the Chief Executive on any policy decision or any particular matter that is urgent and necessary in the best interests of the Council.

The quorum of the Committee shall be three.

Deputy Members may be appointed at the Annual or any meeting of the Council.

Minutes of any proceedings of this Committee shall be submitted to the Council.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2011

PRESENT:- Councillors Roderick Bluh (Chair), Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Brian Mattock, David Renard, Stan Pajak and Russell Holland (Deputy).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Garry Perkins (Vice-Chair).

14. Declarations of Interest

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

15. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

16. Public Question Time

No public questions were asked under Standing Order 28.

17. Adjustment to Stronger Together Organisational Structure

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive submitted a joint report concerning proposed changes to the “Stronger Together” Tier 1 and Tier 2 structure, as outlined in the Council report of 21st July 2011 (Minute 22 of the Council refers) as a consequence of recommendations made in respect of Tier 1 appointments by the Chief Officer Appointments Sub-Committee on 29th September 2011.

The Chair, the Chief Executive and the Head of HR commented on the reasons behind the decisions taken by the Chief Officer Appointments Sub-Committee and the implications for the proposed Stronger Together organisational and management structure.

The Chief Executive reported that details of the appointments and the proposed changes to the Stronger Together Tier 1 and Tier 2 structure had been communicated to all Council staff. The Head of HR confirmed that she and the Director of Law and Democratic Services were confident that the correct procedures had been followed during the recruitment process in terms of the Council's Constitution and employment law. She confirmed that no formal concerns or feedback had been received following the decisions made by the Appointments Sub-Committees.

The Chief Executive commented on the progress being made in identifying the savings in management costs required by April 2013. He also agreed to provide Councillors with more detailed information on the roles and responsibilities within the new organisation structure as these were further developed and refined in forthcoming weeks. He recognised that whilst job descriptions were available these did not necessarily clarify for Members the new relationships between tiers and teams within the new structure and the services they would deliver.

Resolved – That the Special Committee, on behalf of the Council: -

- Approves the changes to the Council's Stronger Together Organisational Model and Management Tier 1 and Tier 2 Structure, as referred to in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.12 of the joint report, and as recommended by the Chief Officer Appointments Sub-Committee on 29th September 2011, with the revised structure to be implemented by 1 April 2012.
- Notes and endorses the appointments made by Chief Officer Appointments Sub-Committee on 29th September 2011.
- Authorises the Director of Law and Democratic Services to amend the Council's Constitution accordingly.

Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee

Special Committee

Date: 16th January 2011

Author: Cabinet Member for Council Transformation, Transport and Strategic Planning and Director of Planning and Transport

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To consider recommendations by partner local authorities for the dis-banding of the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee (CWPJC) and establishment of future governance arrangements.

Recommendation

Special Committee, on behalf of the Council is requested to endorse proposals from partner local authorities:

- To dis-band the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee on 31st March 2012 by agreement of all Local Authority partners;
- For the Cotswold Water Park to remain an outside body to which Council nominates a Member as its representative;
- To form a liaison or co-ordination group for the Parish Councils (and potentially other community organisations) within and neighbouring the Cotswold Water Park ;
- To authorise Council officers to continue to attend meetings of the Cotswold Water Park Officer Liaison Group to ensure effective cross-boundary working and liaison on strategic issues;
- For Individual funding and delivery arrangements to be set up between each Local Authority and the Cotswold Water Park Trust.

In consequence of the latter point, the Special Committee is also asked to recommend that:

- the Cabinet is requested as part of the Budget setting process to consider whether the Council continues to earmark funding within the Revenue Budget from April 2012 relating to the Cotswold Water Park.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 Local authority signatories to the Cotswold Water Park (CWP) Partnership Agreement (1994) are proposing that the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee be dis-banded as from 31st March 2012 with the agreement of all the constituent local authorities.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Jonathan Wilshaw on Direct Dial No. 466322 or Email jwilshaw@swindon.gov.uk.

Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee

Special Committee

Date: 16th January 2011

- 1.2 In the absence of the CWP Joint Committee new governance arrangement will be established to make more effective use of limited staff and financial resources, reduce bureaucracy and increase accountability, and provide opportunities for more direct local community involvement, including closer involvement of Swindon Borough Parishes neighbouring the Water Park.

2. Detail

- 2.1 The Cotswold Water Park (CWP) administrative boundary is contiguous with the Borough along the line of the River Thames, although the 'functional' boundary as described in the CWP Master Plan overlaps with that of the Borough, south of Lechlade, Hannington Wick and Castle Eaton.
- 2.2 The CWP is a major recreational destination for Swindon residents and visitors to the area. The CWP attracts well over 500,000 visits per year, with an estimated 30- 40% coming from Swindon. Alongside increased pressure on local communities, the potential of the area for recreation, tourism and biodiversity is set to increase as the Water Park continues to develop and surrounding populations, including Swindon, continue to grow.
- 2.3 Whilst the Council (SBC) is not a formal signatory to the Partnership Agreement, the Borough has been a voting member on, and has made an annual financial contribution to the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee (£10,000) to further the development and strategic delivery of the CWP Master Plan.
- 2.4 The Council's contribution, which is considerably less than that of the other local authority partners, has been used as a means to influence and play an active role in shaping the strategic direction and development of the Cotswold Water Park. The contribution was agreed in the first place as other partners believed that only authorities making a financial contribution should play a direct role in decision making over the future development of the CWP. As a result of the contribution, Swindon has been able to work closely with the CWP on a number of related strategies and projects, improving access for Swindon's communities to the landscape, nature and leisure opportunities that the Water Park offers. In view of this, it is considered that the £10,000 has represented good value for money for the Borough and its residents.
- 2.5 SBC Officers have been involved in on-going discussions on the future of the Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee and have helped to shape the proposals for future governance arrangements. These will involve more direct relationships between the Cotswold Water Park Trust and individual

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Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee

Special Committee

Date: 16th January 2011

local authorities. Officers are in support of these proposals as set out in this report.

- 2.6 Councillor Doreen Dart has represented SBC on the CWP Joint Committee for many years, and is supportive of the proposed recommendations around future governance. Councillor Dart hopes to attend the Special Committee to comment on the contents of this report.
- 2.7 With the disbanding of the Water Park Joint Committee, the Council is no longer required to make an annual financial contribution in order to secure an involvement in its decision making and strategic direction. This offers the opportunity for Members to review the sum within the Revenue Budget of £10,000 that has been included for this purpose. Options available are:
- a) Apply the sum towards future improvements in the Water Park or similar facilities within Swindon;
 - b) Re-direct all or part of the sum to other services;
 - c) Realise a saving of the full sum to contribute towards the overall financial position.
- 2.8 The Special Committee is asked to request the Cabinet to consider these options in recommending a final Budget to Council in February 2012.

Alternative Options

- Members could choose to cease all involvement with the Cotswold Water Park Trust in the future. This would undermine the Council's ability to influence the strategic direction and development of CWP through the officer and parish forums identified in the report.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- The financial implications are covered in the main body of the report.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into account in compiling this report. A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has not been undertaken as this report does not make any recommendations or have implications that affect services

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies

- Core Strategy

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Jonathan Wilshaw on Direct Dial No. 466322 or Email jwilshaw@swindon.gov.uk.

Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee

Special Committee

Date: 16th January 2011

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

- None.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Jonathan Wilshaw on Direct Dial No. 466322 or Email jwilshaw@swindon.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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