

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2012

PRESENT:- Councillors Roderick Bluh (Chair), David Renard (Vice-Chair), Fionuala Foley, Jim Grant, Garry Perkins, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak and Bob (Robert) Wright (Deputy).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mark Dempsey.

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved – 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 Agenda Item No. 8 of the Notice of the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned. (Minute 7 refers.)

4. Public Question Time

No public questions were asked under Standing Order 28.

5. Adjustment to the Organisational Structure

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive submitted a joint report concerning proposed changes to the Council's Stronger Together Tier 1 and 2 Management Structure following recent restructuring consultation processes.

The Head of People and Change commented on the proposed changes to the Council's management structure and explained the reasons why these were necessary to enable the on-going delivery of Stronger Together and the Council's aims under One Swindon, as well as providing necessary savings from management posts.

Councillor Jim Grant asked for clarification regarding the financial contribution to be made from the proposed restructuring to meeting the previously agreed £1.2m of savings in Council management costs by April 2013.

Committee Members noted that a number of the posts affected by the proposed structural changes had only been created and appointed in March 2012,

and expressed a wish for further clarity to be provided on the rationale behind the proposed changes and the re-alignment of functions and responsibilities.

The Chair noted the comments expressed at the meeting and agreed to request the Chief Executive to arrange an urgent meeting with the political group leaders to address the issues highlighted by Members and to provide further clarity on the reasons for the changes being required at this time.

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

- (a) Approves the changes to the Council's Stronger Together Tier 1 and 2 Management Structure, as referred to in the joint report, and agrees that this revised structure, as set out in Appendix 2 to the joint report, be implemented by 1st April 2013 or on such date as may be determined by the Chief Executive.
- (b) Authorises the Director of Law and Democratic Services to amend the Council's Constitution accordingly.

6. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a report concerning proposed changes and appointments to Committees and other Council bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2012/13, that were required following the death of Councillor Doreen Dart and the election of Councillor Steve Weisinger in the subsequent by-election.

Resolved – (1) That the Special Committee, on behalf of the Council approves the following appointments –

Committee	Councillor(s) Appointed	Councillor(s) Replaced
Appeals Committee	Steve Weisinger	
Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Steve Weisinger	
Children's Trust Board	Claire Ellis	
Corporate Parenting Advisory Board	Claire Ellis	
Footpaths and Rights of Way Committee	John Haines	
Joint Safety Committee	Steve Weisinger	
Joint Strategic Planning Working Party	Alan Bishop	
Licensing Committee	John Haines	
Local Development Plans Working Party	Alan Bishop	
Planning Committee	Vera Tomlinson Alan Bishop	Toby Elliott
School Admissions Forum	Alan Bishop	
SACRE	Alan Bishop	
Standards Committee (Deputy)	Brian Ford	

Other Council Outside Bodies		
Cricklade Country Way Partnership	Alan Bishop	
Cotswold Water Park Joint Committee	Alan Bishop	
Equalities Advisory Forum	Alan Bishop	
Local Government Association Rural Commission (Deputy)	Alan Bishop	
Swindon Dance Board	Mary Friend Cindy Matthews	
Swindon/Ocotal Link	Richard Hurley	
Town Twinning Network	Richard Hurley	
Chair and Vice Chair Appointments		
Chair – Footpaths and Rights of Way Committee	Andrew Bennett	
Vice-Chair Planning Committee	Brian Ford	

(2) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be requested to ask the Swindon/ Ocotal Link Group to consider an increase in the Council representation on that Group by the appointment of a further Councillor, and that if this is supported by that Group Councillor Cindy Matthews be appointed to serve on that outside body.

7. Redundancy Severance

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive submitted a joint report concerning the redundancy severance arrangements for Employee No. 1440826A.

The Chair advised that, in view of the requirement for further clarification on the issues of the nationally agreed terms and conditions applying to senior officer contracts, the placing of post and project responsibilities from 1st April 2013, and the financial implications associated with the proposed redundancy severance arrangements in this case, consideration of this item should be deferred and the officers requested to submit a revised report to a meeting of the Committee to be held on 20th December 2012.