

# Swindon Borough Council

## Special Committee

**Thursday, 20 December 2012**

Function Room, Civic Offices (Anticipated meeting room)

At 5.30 p.m.

### **Conservative Councillors**

*Roderick Bluh (Chair)*  
*David Renard (Vice-Chair)*  
*Fionuala Foley*  
*Garry Perkins*  
*Brian Mattock*  
**Deputies:** *All other Cabinet Members*

### **Labour Councillors**

*Mark Dempsey*  
*Jim Grant*  
*Des Moffatt*  
**Deputies:** *All other Labour Shadow Cabinet Members*

### **Liberal Democrat Councillors**

*Stan Pajak*  
*David Wood (Deputy)*

**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](mailto:iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk)

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## **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 - 4)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

**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 Standards 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>
<b>6</b>	<b>1 and 2</b>

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

### **6. Redundancy Severance. (CE) (Pages 5 - 8)**

**Date of Despatch:** 12 December 2012

**Key:**

**Officers:**

CE - Chief Executive

**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.

## **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 –

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Councillor(s) Appointed</b>	<b>Councillor(s) Replaced</b>
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	

<b>Other Council Outside Bodies</b>		
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	
<b>Chair and Vice Chair Appointments</b>		
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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

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## Agenda Item 6

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

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