

GROWING THE ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 22 MARCH 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Cathy Martyn (Chair), Emma Bushell, Wayne Crabbe, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Gary Sumner and Steve Weisinger

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carol Shelley.

31. 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.

32. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Steve Weisinger in the list of attendees.

33. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

34. 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 in Agenda Item 7 on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 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 36 refers.)

35. Swindon Museum and Art Gallery - Update

The Committee considered an update report by Hadrian Ellory-van Dekker, Director and Chief Executive of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Trust about proposals for a new Swindon Museum and Art Gallery (SMAG).

Mr Ellory-van Dekker reported that the SMAG Trust unveiled its architectural concept for the SMAG in December 2016, a statement building located in the town centre and due to be opened in 2021. The building would constitute the first phase in the development of the Cultural Quarter in the town centre and first step in Swindon achieving UK City of Culture status during the late 2020's. He commented on the substantial commitments to the capital costs, detailed business planning and on-going revenue models. It was noted that Swindon Borough Council had made a commitment to undertake a transfer of the running costs of the current SMAG to the new facility on an on-going basis.

The Corporate Director, Economy, Regeneration and Skills, Cabinet Member for

Economy, Regeneration and Skills, and Director and Chief Executive of SMAG Trust responded in detail to the following questions and issues raised by members:

- Consideration of locations for the SMAG, including the Carriage Works.
- Councillor invites to publicity events.
- Budgets for publicity material.
- Revenue costs for the new SMAG in comparison to current levels.
- The vision for the Carriageworks and the Mechanics Institute.
- Options available in the event of an unsuccessful National Lottery Fund bid.
- Potential public realm improvements to the proposed Cultural Quarter.
- Gathering public support for the SMAG proposals and wider development schemes.
- Promoting the benefits of the SMAG to all residents.
- Construction costs and the effects of inflation.
- Accessibility of artefacts and collections from the Science Museum and Earls Court for display purposes.
- A statement building for the town centre.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Director, Economy, Regeneration and Skills, Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration and Skills, and Director and Chief Executive of SMAG Trust for their responses to the questions and issues raised by members.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

36. Town Centre Projects

The Committee considered a report from Deborah Heenan, Chief Executive of Forward Swindon Ltd (FSL), about a number of regeneration projects for the town centre area of Swindon.

The Chief Executive - FSL, supported by Paul Chamberlain - FSL, Councillor Garry Perkins – Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration and Skills, and Andy Evans – Corporate Director, Economy, Regeneration and Skills, spoke in detail about the projects listed below and responded to questions and issues raised by the Committee:

- Kimmerfields
- Kimmerfields 'enabling works'
- Carriage Works/Bristol Street/GWR tunnel
- Aspen House and Granville Street
- Corn Exchange
- Carriage Works Phase 1 (units 3 and 5)
- Mechanics Institute
- Public realm improvements
- 1-3 Farringdon Road

Resolved – That the update be noted.

37.

Work Programme 2016/17

The Committee received the report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services setting out the agreed items for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme 2016/17.

Resolved – (1) That the Committee's Work Programme 2016/17 be noted, subject to discussions on traffic flows within the town centre being considered for inclusion in the 2017/18 Work Programme.

2) That a site visit to FSL offices be arranged for the Committee.