

## **CABINET**

**WEDNESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT:-** Councillors David Renard (Chair), Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Martin, Cathy Martyn, Garry Perkins and Keith Williams

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Russell Holland

Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of Minute Nos. 32 and 35.  
Councillor Jane Milner-Barry attended the meeting in respect of Minute No. 37.

### **25. David Haley - Director of Children's Services**

On behalf of members, the Leader of the Council welcomed David Haley, the Council's newly-appointed Director of Children's Services, to his first Swindon Borough Council Cabinet meeting and wished him every success in his new role.

### **26. Declarations of Interest.**

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

### **27. Minutes.**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **28. Public Question Time.**

There were no public questions.

### **29. 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 the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraphs 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.

Item No.	Paragraph No.	Minute Nos.
13 and 14	3	37 and 38

### **30. Budget Management Update**

Councillor Russell Holland, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercialisation, and the Corporate Director for Resources and Growth, submitted a joint report presenting the 2017-18 revenue budget forecast out-turn and quarter one of the capital monitoring position.

In the absence of Councillor Holland, the Leader of the Council and the Director of Finance, introduced the report, making particular reference to the impact on the budget of the increasing nationwide pressure on Children's Services provision.

Resolved – (1) That the projected revenue budget out-turn position for 2017-18, set out in Table 1 in the report and Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

(2) That the virements set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved.

(3) That the capital monitoring position, as set out in Tables 1 and 2 in the report and Appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

(4) That the expenditure incurred in phase 1 of the Queens Drive Regeneration project, outlined in paragraph 3.6.2 of the report, be endorsed.

(5) That the distribution of the Devolved Formula Capital funding to the Local Authority maintained schools, as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of the report, be noted.

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

### **31. Social Enterprise & Inclusion**

Councillor Russell Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercialisation, and the Head of Revenues and Benefits, submitted joint report providing an update on progress with addressing Social Inclusion and seeking authorisation to underwrite loans by Credit Unions to replace Local Welfare Assistance grants.

Councillor Brian Ford, the Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care, remarked on the need for continued collaborative work to assist those with long term illness or disabilities in finding employment.

Resolved – (1) That the progress in relation to Financial Inclusion since the appointment of a Social Inclusion and Welfare Manager in March 2016, as set out in the body of the report, be noted.

(2) That the underwriting of credit union loans, to be granted by the Credit Union instead of Council funded Local Welfare Assistance, for the purchase of kitchen appliances or furniture to households in emergency need, be agreed. The maximum value of loans to be £500 and the maximum amount the Council will guarantee to the Credit Union at any one time to be initially be set at £25,000.

(3) That the Head of Revenues and Benefits be authorised to review the existing post of Social Inclusion and Enterprise Manager, as set out in the report.

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

### **32. Swindon Skills and Employment Strategy and the outcome of the Post 16 Area Review**

Councillor Oliver Donachie, the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment, and the Director of Children's Services, submitted a joint report seeking agreement on the priorities and activities outlined in the Skills and Employment Strategy for 2017 – 2020, which was a refresh of the 2013-2016 strategy. It was noted that the draft Strategy had been developed to summarise the skills and

employment priorities and activities that need to take place to achieve the vision and overall aims for skills as outlined in the draft Economic Strategy.

The report also provided (a) an update on the Skills and Employment Board and its sub groups and key activity to date, and (b) a summary of the outcomes and recommendations for the Swindon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Post 16 Area Review, completed in February 2017 and published on 3 August 2017.

Cllr Jim Grant, the Leader of the Labour Group, advised of his Group's support for the of the strategy report. Councillor Donachie accepted Councillor Grant's offer to meet to discuss options to promote a merger of New College and Swindon College.

Resolved – (1) That the draft refreshed Skills and Employment Strategy for 2017-2020, as set out in summary in paragraphs 3.12 to of the report and in detail in Appendix 1 to the report, be endorsed.

(2) That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills and the Skills and Employment Board, be authorised to make arrangements for the implementation of the delivery of the Skills and Employment Strategy.

(3) That the outcomes and recommendations of the Post 16 Area Review and the update on progress to implement the recommendations be noted.

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

### **33. Draft Economic Strategy (Minute For Confirmation)**

Councillor Oliver Donachie, the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, and the Corporate Director for Resources and Growth, submitted a joint report informing Cabinet of the responses to consultation on the draft Economic Strategy and seeking its endorsement of the draft being recommended to Council for approval.

The report also sought authority for the Corporate Director of Resources and Growth, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to develop an implementation plan for the strategy by March 2018.

It was noted that the economic strategy sets out the Vision, objectives and high level actions that will accelerate growth in Swindon's economy over the next ten years and allow Swindon to remain one of the UK's fast-growth, high value economies and also achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. The strategy will facilitate bids for funding for infrastructure, skills and other investment to enable economic growth and also attract investment from private sector companies.

Resolved - That Council be recommended that the draft Economic Strategy, attached to the report at Appendix 1, which sets out the Vision, Objectives and high level actions for Swindon's economy over the next ten years, be approved.

(2) That, subject to Council's approval, the Corporate Director for Resources and Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, be authorised to finalise the delivery plan which will contain more detail on the actions over the next 1-2 years.

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

### **34. References from the Health and Wellbeing Board**

Councillor Brian Ford, the Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, submitted a joint report inviting Cabinet to consider recommendations arising from the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 12th July 2017.

Councillor Ford drew Cabinet's particular attention to the health and financial costs associated with treatment of conditions resulting from obesity.

Resolved – (1) That the draft Swindon Early Help Strategy 2017-2022 be adopted.  
(2) That the Swindon Healthy Weight Strategy 2017-2022 be adopted.  
(3) That the Restorative Youth Services Plan 2017/2018 be noted.

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

### **35. Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme 2017**

Councillor Toby Elliott, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and the Corporate Director for Communities and Housing, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's agreement of the Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2017, including joint working arrangements with Wiltshire Council, and of the arrangements to make it publicly available.

It was noted that the LDS programme of development is the process requiring all Local Planning Authorities to maintain an up-to-date programme of the Development Plans that they intend to produce (principally the Local Plan) and when they intend to produce them. The LDS was last published in 2013 and, since that date, the Swindon Borough Local Plan had been adopted and evidence base work in respect of the Local Plan Review had commenced. It was emphasised that, in order to formally commence the Review, it was critical that an updated LDS was published to inform stakeholders and the public on the work programme and key dates in its production.

Councillor Elliott responded at the meeting to several questions put by Councillor Jim Grant, the Leader of the Labour Group, regarding the level of importance that planning inspectors were likely to attribute to the plans and also the effect on Plan commitments of developments outside the Borough's immediate boundaries.

Resolved – (1) That the Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme, at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and published in accordance with the arrangements set out in paragraph 3.15 of the report.  
(2) That the Head of Planning, Regulatory Services, and Heritage, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to make minor non-material changes to the content of the Swindon Borough Local Development Scheme if required, prior to publication.

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

### **36. Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman - Annual Review 2016/17**

Councillor David Renard, the Leader of the Council, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, submitted a joint report on the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's (LGO) Annual Review for 2016/2017, including a summary of LGO decisions in respect of complaints and enquiries received by the LGO with regard to Swindon Borough Council, a summary of LGO decisions in respect of upheld decisions with regard to complaints and enquiries about the Council, a summary of the numbers of complaints and enquiries made nationally, and details of trends in Swindon for the period 2010-2017.

The Leader of the Council thanked Officers and colleagues for ensuring that the number of complaints was low but encouraged all to do more to reduce this further still.

Resolved – (1) That the LGO's Annual Review 2016/17, including the summary of National Statistics, and the trends across service areas in Swindon 2010-2017, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

(2) That it be noted that, of the total number of complaints submitted to the LGO in relation to Swindon in 2016/17 (47), 5 were upheld.

(3) That the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, Directors and Heads of Service continue to ensure that, where possible, complaints are resolved internally in order to try and limit the number of such matters being referred to the LGO and that requests for information from the LGO are dealt with promptly.

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

### **37. Kimmerfields: Central Business District**

Further to Minute 20 of the Council, Councillor Garry Perkins, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, and the Corporate Director of Resources and Growth, submitted a joint report seeking approval for the termination of the Development Agreement (DA) for the Kimmerfields development to allow other options for delivery of the scheme to be assessed and brought to the December 2017 Cabinet meeting for consideration. The report also sought approval to increase the amount previously allocated by Cabinet for payment of compensation for the land and interests acquired under the Swindon Borough Council (Kimmerfields) Compulsory Purchase Order 2014 ("Kimmerfields CPO").

Councillor Perkins responded to a question put by Councillor Jane Milner-Barry regarding the level of private sector investment in the Kimmerfields project to date and also agreed to provide a detailed written response.

Resolved – (1) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Resources and Growth and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, be authorised to agree the termination of the Development Agreement (DA) with the parties named in the report, on the basis set out in paragraph 3.12 and 3.13 in the main body of the report, and on such terms as he may require to protect the Council's interests.

(2) That an increase in capital expenditure, as detailed in paragraph 3.17 of the

report, be approved.

(3) That, subject to the termination of the DA, it be noted that the Corporate Director of Resources and Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, will develop options to bring forward development on the Kimmerfields site and report back to the December 2017 Cabinet meeting.

(4) That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration report the outcome of this report to the Council meeting scheduled for 28th September 2017.

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

### **38. Swindon & Wiltshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Functional Economic Market Area Assessment**

Councillor Toby Elliott, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, Councillor Oliver Donachie, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, and the Corporate Director for Communities and Housing, submitted a joint report inviting Cabinet to consider the draft Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and Functional Economic Market Area Assessment (FEMAA), and agree to their publication as part of the evidence base for the Review of the Swindon Borough Local Plan.

It was noted that a first stage in the process of preparing a revised Local Plan was to establish the future housing and employment land needs of the Borough and that consultants were procured jointly by Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council to undertake a SHMA and FEMAA for the area for the period 2016 to 2036. The report summarised the key findings of the draft SHMA and FEMAA.

Resolved – (1) That the draft Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (Appendix 1 to the report) and the draft Functional Economic Market Area Assessment (Appendix 2), be approved for the purposes of the evidence base for the review of the Swindon Borough Local Plan.

(2) That the Head of Planning, Regulatory Services and Heritage, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability and the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, be authorised to publish the Swindon and Wiltshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Functional Economic Area Assessment on an agreed date with Wiltshire Council, with a clear explanation of their status in the plan-making process and planning system.

(3) That the Head of Planning, Regulatory Services and Heritage, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability and the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, and in consultation with Wiltshire Council, be authorised to make minor non-material changes to the documents, as referenced in paragraph 2.1 of the report, prior to their publication.

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