



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2017/18

Thursday, 25 January 2018

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

17 January 2018

Dear Councillor,

Summons to attend Council Meeting

A MEETING of the **Council**, which you are requested to attend, is to be held at the CIVIC OFFICES, SWINDON, on **Thursday, 25 January 2018 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business to be transacted will be as follows:-

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Communications**
To receive any communications or letters which the Mayor or Chief Executive may have to bring before the Council.
- 3. Minutes** (Pages 7 - 12)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4. 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.

5. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below.

6. Council Petition Scheme (Pages 13 - 18)

To consider a petition received in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme regarding the proposal from the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery to build a new facility and requesting that "the new-build plans be abandoned and that more concerted efforts are made to create a new Swindon Art Gallery and Museum in a more historically appropriate site".

7. Motions

(a) Motion - Great Western Railway

Councillor Dale Heenan will move and Councillor Barbara Parry will second:

"This Council notes:

- The massive investment by GWR and Network Rail in the railways serving Swindon, with new increased capacity trains coming into service.

However, this Council also notes:

- Swindon residents pay the among the highest per mile train fares in the UK for peak time travel and tickets bought on the day, an anomaly that dates back many decades.
- Young people aged 16 to 18 who are still in school, at college, in training or an apprenticeship **who may** face an undue cost simply to reach their places of education even with a Young Person's Railcard, because of the decades old distortion of the fares from Swindon.

This Council welcomes the fact that:

- The Government has launched a consultation on the future of the Great Western Franchise, that includes addressing the historical season ticket fare differences

Council requests that,

- the Leader of the Council make a submission to the consultation on behalf of the Council seeking action to tackle the high fares and its historical issues.
- Cabinet Members and Officers find ways to encourage residents and businesses to submit their own consultation responses through campaigns such as Switch On To Swindon and local media."

(b) **Motion - Universal Credit**
Councillor Emma Bushell will move:

“This Council:

- Notes that in Swindon as of November 17th there were 1,080 council tenants on Universal Credit and that 77% of these tenants are in rent arrears, with an average arrears of £655.70, so Universal Credit arrears comprise 54% of all arrears of current tenants.
- Recognises this much higher figure for people on Universal Credit is inevitably the result of the Government’s decision to delay benefit payments to claimants being processed for Universal Credit.
- Is concerned that there are 3,000 more council tenants who will have to progressively transfer onto Universal Credit.
- Believes it is the Council’s duty as a responsible landlord to defend council tenants who have or will be forced into personal debt and poverty as a consequence of the Universal Credit rollout.
- Supports the Swindon Tenants Campaign Group’s proposal that during the Universal Credit processing period claimants should continue to receive their existing benefits.
- Requests the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety to write to Swindon’s two Members of Parliament and the Housing Minister setting out the Council’s view on the processing of Universal Credit.”

(c) **Motion - Road Traffic**
Councillor Kevin Small will move and Councillor Steph Exell will second:

“This Council:

- Notes the traffic gridlock that has occurred in Rodbourne and West Swindon, as well as other areas of the borough, over the Christmas period.
- Notes that business owners in Rodbourne have expressed their intention to relocate because of the daily traffic gridlock in the Rodbourne area and that Rodbourne residents are equally frustrated with this.
- Notes that Mannington and Western Councillors wrote to the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Leader of the Council urging them to take action to alleviate the traffic problems in traffic hotspot areas of the town. At the time of this motion being submitted, Council notes that Mannington and Western Councillors have not received a reply to their letters.
- Recognises that with other planning applications approved, like the

North Star and Eastern Villages Development, the borough may face an additional traffic burden in future years.

- Requests the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place to establish a Cross-Party Cabinet Member Advisory Group to look at ways that the Council can alleviate traffic gridlock in the town both now and in the future.”

(d) **Motion - Evening Town Centre Residents Parking**
Councillor Bob Wright will move and Councillor Paul Dixon will second:

“This Council:

- Notes it has a surplus of day time car parking which should satisfy foreseeable Town Centre demand and that this demand is very low in the evening leaving large areas of unused parking.
- Recognises that the current evening Town Centre Residents Parking scheme does not have a large take up and that this is likely due to the prohibitive £625 cost. As a consequence revenue opportunities have been lost and pressure is placed on the Town Centre’s limited free parking spaces.
- Believes a more attractive charge would produce a new revenue stream for the Council and provide an attraction to home buyers wishing to locate to the Town Centre.
- Requests the Cabinet to review the current evening Town Centre Residents Parking scheme and see if more advantages for Swindon can be delivered by having an evening Residents Parking scheme to sit alongside the existing 24 hours scheme.”

(e) **Motion - Hermitage Surgery**
Councillor Nadine Watts will move:

“This Council:

- Notes a request from Hermitage Surgery to see if there were any schemes that may be available to the surgery that would allow its Doctors and Nurses to park at a discounted rate at nearby public car parks, due to the lack of parking spaces allocated to the surgery.
- In light of the fact that the surgery is a publicly funded organisation that was only able to continue thanks to it merging with another Swindon medical practice, believes there is a strong case for a discounted parking rate be offered to staff at the medical practice in nearby public car parks.
- Requests the Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills bring a report to Cabinet to review ways the Council can support the Hermitage Surgery in finding affordable parking spaces for their staff.”

- 8. Equalities Advisory Forum - Terms of Reference** (Pages 19 - 24)
To consider a recommendation from the Equalities Advisory Forum to update its Terms of Reference.
- 9. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members**
(Pages 25 - 32)
Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Cabinet Member in respect of Cabinet minutes (which are not reserved for Council for decision). There are no Cabinet Member delegated decisions to report.
- 10. Minutes of other Council Bodies**
Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Chair in respect of all other Committee minutes (not reserved to Council for decision), as set out in the Minute Book circulated separately.
- 11. Councillors Question Time**
Questions (if any) of which notice has been given by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 15.

Yours faithfully

Director of Law and Democratic Services

Questions by Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 11

Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the "Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance" available on the Council's Website (<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

Access Arrangements - The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you have any special requirements to enable you to attend the meeting or would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size, please contact the Committee Officer as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.