

Swindon Borough Council

Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday, 31 January 2018

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Emma Faramarzi (Chair)
Wayne Crabbe
Dale Heenan (Vice-Chair)
Gemma McCracken
Gary Sumner

Labour Councillors

Mark Dempsey
Paul Dixon
Jane Milner-Barry
Chris Watts

Committee Officer: Stuart Figini (Committee Officer) 01793 463612
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Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

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.

AGENDA

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. 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.

4. Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2017.

5. Business Rates (Pages 7 - 10)

6. Apprenticeships, Higher Education and Skills (Pages 11 - 18)

7. Business West

The Head of Place Marketing will provide a verbal update on the recent meetings held by Business West.

8. Work Programme 2017/18 (Pages 19 - 30)

Date of Despatch: 19 January 2018

Public Question Time - 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://www5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sched=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

GROWING THE ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors Emma Famarzi (Chair), Wayne Crabbe, Dale Heenan (Vice-Chair), Gemma McCracken, Jane Milner-Barry, Gary Sumner and Chris Watts

Councillors Oliver Donachie (Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills) and Garry Perkins (Cabinet Member for Regeneration)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Dempsey and Paul Dixon.

6. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. Councillor Gemma McCracken made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 5 “Update on Swindon’s Economic Development (Town Centre Regeneration), on the grounds that her husband is a tenant of a commercial unit in the Town Centre.

7. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

8. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9. Update on Swindon's Economic Development (Town Centre Regeneration)

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director, Resources and Growth, setting out the progress made against the delivery of a number of Town Centre area projects.

Councillor Oliver Donachie, the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, and the Corporate Director, Resources and Growth responded to the observations and questions put by the Chair and Councillors Wayne Crabbe, Dale Heenan, Gemma McCracken, Jane Milner-Barry, Gary Sumner and Chris Watts on the following matters:

- Infrastructure developments at North Star and Whalebridge.
- Priorities of the Forward Swindon Ltd team.
- Town Centre Parking Strategy
 - Improvements to town centre car parking.
 - Car park charging levels.
 - Developments in the town centre and parking provision.
 - Residential parking permits.
- Parking spaces for Falcon House development.

- Town Centre Movement Strategy consultation results for Wellington Street.
- Improving access to the medical centre in Wellington Street.
- Car parking at North Star.
- The installation of the public telephone boxes in Wellington Street.
- Travel links between Swindon and Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge.
- Timescales for the redevelopment of the Railway Station.
- Great Western Railway franchise renewal.
- The location of Network Rail office space.
- The business case for a 13 screen cinema development at North Star.
- Alternative uses of the Kimmerfields box park.
- The portfolio of the new North Star developer.
- Potential income from the North Star development and the anticipated prices for public entry to the entertainment venues.
- Occupancy rates of hotels in Swindon.
- Transfer of artefacts to the new Swindon Museum and Arts Gallery (SMAG).
- Alternative plans for the SMAG in the event of the unsuccessful National Lottery Fund (NLF) bid.
 - Timescales for the new bid submission and potential for Member involvement.
- The estimated number of new jobs to be created at the Kimmerfields Business District.
- Deadlines for the use of Local Enterprise Partnership funding for the bus exchange development.
- Support from the Council for the development of the Carriageworks.

Resolved – That Councillor Donachie and Councillor Perkins be thanked for attending the meeting and their full and open responses to members' questions and observations raised in the report.

10. Work Programme 2017/18

The Committee received the report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services setting out the topics for inclusion in the 2017/18 Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 21st June 2017.

Councillor Oliver Donachie, the Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, and the Corporate Director, Resources and Growth, commented on the proposal to invite Swindon businesses to the next meeting of the Committee in November 2017. They explained that the Council attended regular meetings with local businesses, organised by Business West about working together for the benefit of Swindon and that inviting businesses to another meeting would be of no clear benefit to the Council nor to the businesses themselves.

It was therefore suggested that the next meeting, scheduled for 8th November 2017, be rescheduled to a later date and that the Committee receive feedback at that meeting from the various business meetings organised by Business West.

The Committee also commented on the proposal, raised by members at the last meeting, for a visit to neighbouring towns/cities to view recent retail and leisure developments, and consider how these impacted on the local economy and how

similar developments might be encouraged in Swindon.

Resolved – (1) That the next meeting of the Committee, scheduled for 8th November 2017, be rescheduled to a later date and officers prepare a report on the feedback received from the business meetings organised by Business West.
(2) That officers progress arrangements for the Committee to visit neighbouring towns/cities to view recent retail and leisure developments, to consider how these impacted on the local economy and how similar developments might be encouraged in Swindon.

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Business Rates update

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Date: 31st January 2018

Author: Corporate Director Resources & Transformation

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This reports provides an update on relevant Business Rates issues
- 1.2 The effective management of financial resources through robust financial management processes underpins the Council's ability to achieve its plans and priorities.
- 1.3 Responsible budget management underpins the Council's strategic objective of consistently making the best use of all available resources.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report.

3. Detail

General update – 2017 Autumn Budget

Indexation change to use of CPI

- 3.1 A major announcement included within the Autumn Budget was the intention of the government to bring forward the planned switch in the indexation of business rates from RPI (which is the measure of inflation currently used) to the main measure of inflation, currently CPI, by two years to April 2018. The government indicates that it will use secondary legislation to bring forward this switch and that this will apply to bills from 1 April 2018. This results in a provisional small business non-domestic multiplier for 2018/19 of 48.0p and a provisional non-domestic multiplier of 49.3p in 2018/19.
- 3.2 The letter states that 'local authorities will be fully compensated via Section 31 grant for income lost as a result of bringing forward this measure'. We take this to mean that local authorities will receive compensation for the difference between 3.0% (CPI rate) and 3.9% (RPI rate) being applied.

Future revaluations

- 3.3 The Chancellor also confirmed that the frequency of revaluations would be increased to every three years, following the next revaluation currently due in 2022. The government will consult on the detail of implementation of more frequent revaluations in the spring of 2018.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Paul Smith, Direct Dial 07500 884173, psmith2@swindon.gov.uk.

Business Rates update

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Date: 31st January 2018

Pubs relief

- 3.4 In the Autumn Budget 2017 the Chancellor announced that the pubs relief scheme would be extended by a further year. The existing guidance and terms for the current scheme will continue to apply in the same way – eligible pubs with a rateable value of below £100,000 will receive a £1,000 discount on their bill. The relief will have effect for 2018/19. Local authorities will be expected to use their discretionary relief powers (under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, as amended) to grant this relief for pubs in line with the relevant eligibility criteria.
- 3.5 Local authorities will be compensated for the cost of granting the relief through a Section 31 grant.

2017 Spring Budget – Rate Relief Schemes

- 3.6 The Business Rates Information Letter confirms that on 20 November, the Local Government Minister Marcus Jones MP wrote to all English MPs setting out the progress made by authorities in their constituency on implementing rebilling under each of the new relief schemes announced at the Spring Budget 2017.
- 3.7 The letter also reiterated that there is no end year flexibility in the discretionary scheme; and that any unspent funds below the allocation for an authority will be clawed back following the close of the 2017/18 financial year.
- 3.8 New burdens funding to support implementation of the three Spring Budget schemes has been confirmed. No additional funding is being provided in relation to the extension of the pubs measure, given that the government expects that authorities already have all necessary arrangements in place.

Provisional Finance Settlement 2018/19

- 3.9 As part of the December provisional finance settlement, the Secretary of State stated that local business rates retention would move from 50% to 75% in 2020/21. This is understood to mean all authorities would be at 75%, rather than the 75% being an average.
- 3.10 Of course, post-reset (with new potentially higher NNDR Baselines in most areas), there is likely to be a shift in the amounts/areas benefiting from business rates retention and therefore being at 75% or higher may not be as advantageous, at least in the short term.
- 3.11 The Secretary of State also confirmed that a reset of the business rates retention system will take place in 2020/21. This will see a change in methodology where baselines will be adjusted to better reflect how much local authorities are actually collecting in business rates (the current ones are based on the amount collected in 2010/11 and 2011/12). It remains to be seen (i) how DCLG will determine the

Business Rates update

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Date: 31st January 2018

new baselines i.e. what data and which years are chosen and (ii) how much of the growth since 2013/14 is taken i.e. Full vs. Partial Reset

- 3.12 On this second point, the Secretary of State stated that “Local authorities will be able to keep that same share of growth on their baseline levels from 2020 to 2021, when the system is reset”. It is understood that this was not a reference to how the reset would be determined, but just to reflect that 75% of growth would be retained from 2020/21 onwards.

Swindon current position

- 3.13 The current monitoring shows that this is on track for the current 2017/18 financial year. The estimates for this year predicated that any growth in income would be offset by rates reductions following successful Appeals made by existing Businesses and this appears to be fairly accurate. Working with the Council’s Economy and Skills team estimates for the year 2018/19 will be undertaken shortly and will take into account new business properties that will be completed within the next 12 months.
- 3.14 Following the announcement in the March 2017 budget that help should be given to those businesses having large increases in rates to pay following the revaluation, the Council has implemented 3 new scheme to help the businesses impacted the most. The schemes are to limit the increase in rates to £600 for those businesses that benefited from Small Business Rates Relief in previous years, a £1000 rates reduction for public houses, and to limit increases to 12.5% for medium sized business. Further details can be found on the Council’s website. The Council has written to all the eligible businesses and asked them to apply and confirm that they have not already received state aid relief above the legal limit. These schemes are being funded by Central Government. In Swindon, take up of these schemes has been low

Appeals:

- 3.15 For the 2017 Valuation list Central Government have introduced a new appeals system if ratepayers (or their agents) disagree with their rating assessment. Known as check, challenge and appeal. Ratepayers can appeal at any time over the next few years and the reduction will be backdated to 1st April 2017. They can only ‘challenge’ the assessment once and have to have all their information presented at this time. Due to the need to have all the information ready, because they can appeal at any time and there are reported difficulties with the Valuation office’s IT system, to date very few challenges have been made. In fact

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None

Business Rates update

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5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 None directly from this report

Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 None

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 None

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 Not applicable

Risk Management

5.5 Not applicable

6. Consultees

6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

7.1 None

8. Appendices

8.1 None

Update on Skills and Employment Strategy (Higher Education and Apprenticeships).

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 31st January 2018

Author: Corporate Director, Children's Services
Wards: All
Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report is in response to a request from the Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee for officers to report on progress on key elements of the Skills and Employment Strategy relating to Higher Education (HE) and Apprenticeships.
- 1.2 This report supports Priority Two of the Vision to "Offer educational opportunities that lead to the right skills and right jobs in the right places" and Pledge 18 (increase the number of businesses employing an apprentice) and Pledge 19, (secure a range of options to access Higher Education in Swindon).

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the attached report and appendices in terms of progress on Apprenticeships and Higher Education.
- 2.2 Provide feedback and propose any additional approaches that should be considered in order to meet the needs of residents and employers in relation to Apprenticeships and Higher Education.

3. Detail

Skills and Employment Strategy.

- 3.1 The Skills and Employment Strategy for 2017 -2020 was endorsed by Cabinet in September 2017 (Cabinet Minute 32, 2017/18 refers). The strategy was 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 Skills and Employment Board oversees the implementation of the strategy. Sub groups (Skills for Growth and HE) are in place to support development of HE and Apprenticeship activity across employers, providers, schools and other stakeholders.
- 3.2 It should be noted that the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) has Skills as its number one priority in its Strategic Economic Plan. Its focus is on ensuring that employers have the skilled workforce needed for

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sally Burnett, sburnett@swindon.gov.uk or 01793 463061.

Update on Skills and Employment Strategy (Higher Education and Apprenticeships).

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economic growth. SBC is working closely with the SWLEP to ensure resources and activities are complementary. The SWLEP has provided resources to support Higher Education and Apprenticeship work.

Higher Education

- 3.3 The Strategy outlines the key activity to secure a range of options to access Higher Education in Swindon that is responsive to employer need, contributes to narrowing the participation gap and makes sustained improvements in participation rates of young people whilst offering an opportunity for up-skilling for residents in employment.
- 3.4 Key data sources confirm that the percentage of Swindon residents with a university level qualification has increased by 3% between 2014 and 2016. The number of young people progressing to Higher Education remains below the national average but continues to increase.

Measure	Date	Swindon	National
% of residents with a level 4+ qualification (University level)	2014	31%	36%
	2015	29%	37%
	2016	34%	38%
% of 18/19 year olds progressing to Higher Education	2012/13	27%	37%
	2013/14	27%	37%
	2014/15	30%	38%
% of students completing a level 3 qualification progressing to HE	2013/14	33%	48%
	2014/15	33%	48%
	2015/16	36%	51%

Table 1, Key Data Summary.

- 3.5 Work to develop a LEP-wide Higher Education Strategy is underway with the aim of the draft strategy being in place by May 2018 and the strategy finalised by September 2018. The work will include options to develop Higher Education provision across the area. The development of the SWLEP response to the Industrial Strategy will also take place during 2018, informed by evidence for higher level skills including technical skills and university level provision. There are funding streams linked to the Industrial strategy which could potentially support HE activity.

Update on Skills and Employment Strategy (Higher Education and Apprenticeships).

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- 3.6 The strategic aims of the Higher Education Strategy are as follows:
- 3.6.1 Meet the skills needs of employers;
 - 3.6.2 Raise aspirations of learners/residents and increase progression to higher education; and
 - 3.6.3 Deliver fit for purpose Higher Education (HE) provision in the area (The strategy will include the options and recommendations to achieve this).
- 3.7 Work completed has included the following:
- 3.7.1 The evidence base and the narrative for the strategy has been commissioned and will be completed by the end of March 2018. This has been funded by the SWLEP.
 - 3.7.2 An employer survey and a learner survey has been developed as part of the commission and will be completed by the end of January. All schools and colleges are engaged in this process to ensure a good response from young people.
 - 3.7.3 The evidence base will be finalised by the end of March and all key stakeholders will be invited to a workshop in April with wider consultation on the strategy during the summer.
- 3.8 Work to support more young people to progress to Higher Education and raise aspirations has focused on ensuring schools and colleges are engaged in Study Higher, a £1.3M Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) project led by Oxford Brookes University and aimed at working with young people individually and in groups to provide information and advice and increase the understanding and awareness of university level study options. The programme has a target of progressing 361 additional young people into HE by 2020. Since May 2016, the project has worked with over 500 young people.
- 3.9 Funding has also been obtained for this project by Villiers Park and the Education, Business Partnership (EBP). Villiers Park has a good record of working with young people to improve progression to HE and are working with a larger cohort of young people to replicate their successful model. The EBP project focuses on raising awareness of university opportunities in specific employment sectors, e.g. Healthcare, IT/Technology. Study Higher will get confirmation on whether they will be funded for an additional 2 years until 2020 in spring 2018. An impact and evaluation report will be published in July 2018.
- 3.10 The Higher Education provision in Swindon is growing. Both Swindon College and New College have developed strategies to increase provision. Oxford
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sally Burnett, sburnett@swindon.gov.uk or 01793 463061.

Update on Skills and Employment Strategy (Higher Education and Apprenticeships).

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 31st January 2018

Brookes has moved to new premises in West Swindon and plans have been confirmed for the University of Wales Trinity St David to deliver a Cultural Heritage Hub from the Carriage Works. SBC continues to work with providers and employers to support the development of provision, including the work of Higher Futures, a SWLEP funded programme which aims to broker solutions to up-skilling the workforce to gain higher level skills. Higher Futures is supporting the development of Degree Apprenticeships, working with local employers and Universities across the country. There has been significant growth in the number of higher apprenticeships delivered (70 in 2015/16 and 130 in 2016/17).

- 3.11 Work is progressing to submit a bid for an Institute of Technology (IoT) meeting the needs of Swindon, North Wiltshire and South East Gloucestershire. The Post 16 Area review identified the need for higher level technical education and recommended that a bid is submitted for the SWLEP area. The Department for Education (DfE) has allocated £170M of capital funding nationally to develop a network of IoTs which will provide higher level technical education, particularly linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Provision needs to be employer led, new and innovative and with a focusing on targeting groups of residents who are not currently participating in Higher Education. If the bid is successful, the IoT will contribute to the overall strategy to grow HE provision in the area and raise aspirations.
- 3.12 Swindon College are leading the co-ordination of the bid and the Stage 1 bid will be submitted by the end of February. If the stage 1 bid is successful, a Stage 2 bid will be submitted in the summer of 2018. The first Steering Group meeting overseeing the development of the bid took place on 9th January and was well attended by key stakeholders. At least one 'anchor' Further Education provider. One University and two anchor employers are required for the bid and work to confirm roles is currently taking place. Councils and LEAs cannot bid but have a role to champion the needs of learners and employers. Locally it has been agreed that the SWLEP and councils will support engagement and collaboration of key partners and the development of the bid.

Apprenticeships.

- 3.13 The Government has set a national apprenticeship growth target of 3 million additional apprenticeship starts by 2020 as part of the policy drive to ensure employers have a skilled workforce to improve productivity. There have been significant policy changes with employers now developing the apprenticeship standard for their sector and in April 2017, the apprenticeship levy was introduced and requires employers with an annual payroll of more than £3million to pay a 0.5% levy which is ring fenced for apprenticeship training. This policy has significantly changed the role of employers and training providers.

Update on Skills and Employment Strategy (Higher Education and Apprenticeships).

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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- 3.14 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), part of the Department for Education are responsible for the implementation of the reforms. The ESFA resources to work with employers and schools on apprenticeship growth has reduced but they have focused resources on information and promotion, account management of all levy paying employers, the commissioning of specific activity to raise awareness and understanding of apprenticeship in schools and the co-ordination of a network of employer ambassadors. The ESFA works with LEPs to ensure local and national activity are complementary.
- 3.15 A SWLEP wide Apprenticeship Growth Strategy has been drafted and will be presented to the Swindon Skills and Employment Board on the 31 January 2018. The strategy includes an Action Plan, outlining actions for all key stakeholders with the SWLEP Skills and Talent sub group, supported by the two local authorities being responsible for co-ordination and monitoring of the plan.
- 3.16 SBC set a target of 10,250 apprenticeship starts by 2020. After good annual growth from 2014, there has been a 7% drop in apprenticeship starts in 2016-17. This dip occurred in the months following the Central Government's introduction of the levy, after which employers were repositioning their recruitment and workforce development strategies. The number of apprenticeship starts fell nationally during this period by 4%. The table below summarises the key data for Swindon.

Table 1, Apprenticeship Data.

Year	16-18	19-24	24+ year	Starts Actual	Starts Target	% change on previous year
2013-14	450	590	530	1,570	1,570	
2014-15	450	580	760	1,790	1714	14%
2015-16	540	550	860	1,950	1868	9%
2016-17	530	470	820	1,820	2036	-7%
				5,560	5,619	

- 3.17 The draft apprenticeship strategy outlines the key issues to address as follows:
- 3.17.1 Employers not realising the benefits of employing apprentices to grow their talent (over 80% of employers are not employing apprentices and the majority of apprenticeships are within a small number of sectors (IT, retail, business admin, Engineering/Manufacturing, Health and Care). Some small businesses report an issue with capacity to set up and support apprentices.

Update on Skills and Employment Strategy (Higher Education and Apprenticeships).

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 31st January 2018

- 3.17.2 Young people not having the information about Apprenticeships and understanding the range and level of opportunities.
- 3.17.3 Large employers not being able to commit to the number of apprenticeships anticipated following the levy.
- 3.18 Activity to support Apprenticeship Growth and to address the risks is focusing on the following
 - 3.18.1 Worked with the SWLEP Skills and Talent Sub Group and the Swindon Skills and Employment Board to develop a strategy and action plan. Officers are working with key partners including training providers, schools, businesses, business intermediaries to ensure commitment to the plan.
 - 3.18.2 Commissioned a SWLEP wide apprenticeship campaign, funded by the LEP to target employers who don't currently have apprentices, young people and parents. This will include promotion of apprenticeships to up-skill current staff as well as new recruits.
 - 3.18.3 Commissioned a data source that will provide us with employer data so that we can better understand the profile of employers taking up apprenticeships to enable targeting of interventions.
 - 3.18.4 Worked with Swindon secondary schools to ensure learners in each setting have access to the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools (ASK) programme which aims to raise the profile of apprenticeships with young people, parents and teachers. Work is planned to review data on progression to apprenticeships by school and to share best practice to increase the number of young people progressing to apprenticeships.
 - 3.18.5 Worked with three Swindon Employers (GWH, Excalibur, Zurich) to develop three 60-second videos that celebrate the diversity of apprenticeship, the benefits to the individual and the benefits to the employer. These will be used in a social media campaign that links to SBC social media. The campaign will run January – March 2018
 - 3.18.6 Jobfest is being planned and will run on March 6th 2018, aimed at raising awareness of employment and apprenticeship opportunities for young people and supporting recruitment. For the second year employer sponsorship is being secured. It is aiming to secure attendance of 45 employers, 15 training providers and 600 young people.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sally Burnett, sburnett@swindon.gov.uk or 01793 463061.

Update on Skills and Employment Strategy (Higher Education and Apprenticeships).

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 31st January 2018

3.18.7 Higher Futures, a service jointly managed by SBC and Wiltshire Council and funded by the SWLEP has worked with employers to provide advice, support and brokerage on meeting skills needs with apprenticeships as a core focus and 225 learners starting a range of skills courses including apprenticeships. The team are working with Universities and employers to support the development of Degree Apprenticeships.

3.18.8 There is further work planned as part of the apprenticeship growth strategy to review current take up of apprenticeships by vulnerable young people and identify specific activity that will support more young people progressing including Care Leavers and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Although there is a range of alternative approaches that could be implemented, the partnership sub groups have worked to outline the actions and approaches that will support the outcomes desired.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with Convention Rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other implications arising from this report,

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 A Diversity Impact Assessment has been produced to support the Skills and Employment Strategy and is available from the author on request.

Risk Management

- 5.5 A risk Assessments has been completed for the Skills and Employment Strategy. The following risks are noteworthy for this report.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Sally Burnett, sburnett@swindon.gov.uk or 01793 463061.

Update on Skills and Employment Strategy (Higher Education and Apprenticeships).

Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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5.5.1. Capital funding to develop University level provision is currently available for the development of an IoT but funding routes are generally limited

5.5.2. Raising aspirations and attainment of young people takes time and requires a longer term view to address this issue, particularly in communities where participation is very low.

5.5.3. 80% of businesses in Swindon are small or medium sized enterprises and capacity to take on Apprentices is often an issue.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None

Work Programme 2017/18

Growing the Economy

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 31st January 2018

Author: Director of Law & Democratic Services

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the topics for the Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2017/18
- 1.2 To assist Members in developing the Committee's Work Programme, a copy of the current Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan, for the period 23rd October 2017 to 23rd October 2018, is included as Appendix 2. This appendix can be inspected on the Council's website and copies can be obtained from the Committee Officer. A hard copy will be available for inspection at the meeting.
- 1.3 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to have a work programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the municipal year.
- 1.4 The work programme details the various topics and issues that each Committee intends to look into during the coming year with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies/bodies to consider.
- 1.5 Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to agree a work programme at the start of the municipal year outlining their priorities and likely outcomes of considering these issues.

The work programme is developed taking into account:

- Corporate priorities and objectives, including the Cabinet Forward Plan
 - Partnership strategic priorities and objectives
 - The interests and concerns of Members, Council officers, members of the public and other stakeholders such as community and voluntary groups and local businesses
- 1.6 Committees are encouraged to review the work programme on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to prioritise the workload of the Committee.
 - 1.7 Members are reminded that the work programme must also take into account:
 - The workload of the Committee and of individual members
 - The capacity of officers to support a review
 - The resource implications of carrying out a review

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Contact Stuart Figini, 01793 463612, sfigini@swindon.gov.uk

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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- The timescales for a review
- The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review

- 1.6 The Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to be mindful of its role and remit when considering a work programme for the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the Work Programme for the 2017/18 municipal year
- 2.2 Appoint Members to any Task Groups agreed by the Committee

3. Detail

- 3.1 It is important that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Council and the Borough and produces tangible outcomes for local people that result in real service improvements. Selecting the right topics is crucial to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny will be effective.

Task Group Reviews

- 3.2 The Committee is able to undertake individual reviews throughout the municipal year and proposals for reviews should be proposed and discussed at the Committee meeting.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Committee can choose not to have a detailed work programme although it is recommended that it is best practice to do so.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's work programme will be met by the Overview and Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

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Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required at this stage, any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage

Risk Management

- 5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage, any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Growing the Economy O/S Committee Work Programme for 2017/18

Appendix 2 – Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan, for the period 23rd October 2017 to 23rd October 2018. *(This appendix can be inspected on the Council's website and copies can be obtained from the Committee Officer. A hard copy will be available for inspection at the meeting.)*

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Process Flowchart

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Growing the Economy **Work Programme 2017-2018**

Terms of Reference of the Committee

To fulfil all the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to:-

- The review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations
- The management of performance
- The monitoring of progress against corporate priorities
- The formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders

To have specific responsibility for (but not limited to) the scrutiny of:-

- The performance of services promoting economic development and enterprise against agreed local and national performance indicators
- Regeneration
- Economic and Cultural development
- One Swindon Hub
- Volunteering
- Strategy and Research

Review of the Work Programme

The work programme will be reviewed at every meeting of the Growing the Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee to ensure that it remains relevant, to ensure that Members and Officers have sufficient capacity to deliver the work programme and to include any additional items on the work programme, if appropriate.

To assist members in developing the Committee's work programme, a copy of the current Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan, for the period 30th May 2017 to 30th May 2018, is attached at Appendix 2

Contact details

Committee Officer: Stuart Figini
Email: sfigini@swindon.gov.uk
Tel: 01793 463612

Work Programme Items Assigned to Meeting Dates

21st June 2017		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Work Programme	To consider the draft Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18	Andy Evans – Corporate Director of Economy, Regeneration and Skills
Economic Strategy	To receive an update on the draft Economic Strategy, and progress of the public consultation which commenced on 12 th June 2017. Information about the consultation can be found at this link .	Andy Evans – Corporate Director of Economy, Regeneration and Skills Sally Burnett – Strategic Commissioner – Routes to Employment
Business Rates Task Group	To consider establishing a Joint Business Rates Task Group with the Resources and Corporate Services O/S Committee to investigate how additional Council income could be generated from business rates.	

27th September 2017		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Town Centre Regeneration	<p>To receive updates on the Following Town Centre Regeneration Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindon Museum and Art Gallery • Parking Strategy • Carriageworks • Re-development of the station by 	<p>Susie Kemp – Corporate Director Resources and Transformation</p> <p>Rod Hebden - Director of SMAG Trust</p>

27th September 2017		
	<p>Network Rail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement Strategy including gateways into the town centre and Whalebridge • Fusion of retail, residential and night-time economy • How other towns overcome constraints & difficulties to regenerate their town centres • Forward Swindon Limited's 5 focus areas, monitoring delivery & progress, ensuring the correct skill sets, monitoring progress and value for money • Locarno • 1-3 Faringdon Road, monitoring delivery & progress and ensuring a profit • North Star • Kimmerfields 	Deb Heenan (Forward Swindon Limited)
Business Rates	Update on the latest position from the Government.	Susie Kemp – Corporate Director Resources and Transformation

Late November 2017 – Cancelled		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Invite to Swindon businesses	To be agreed	Susie Kemp – Corporate Director Resources and Transformation
Business Rates	Update on the latest position from the Government.	Susie Kemp – Corporate Director Resources and Transformation

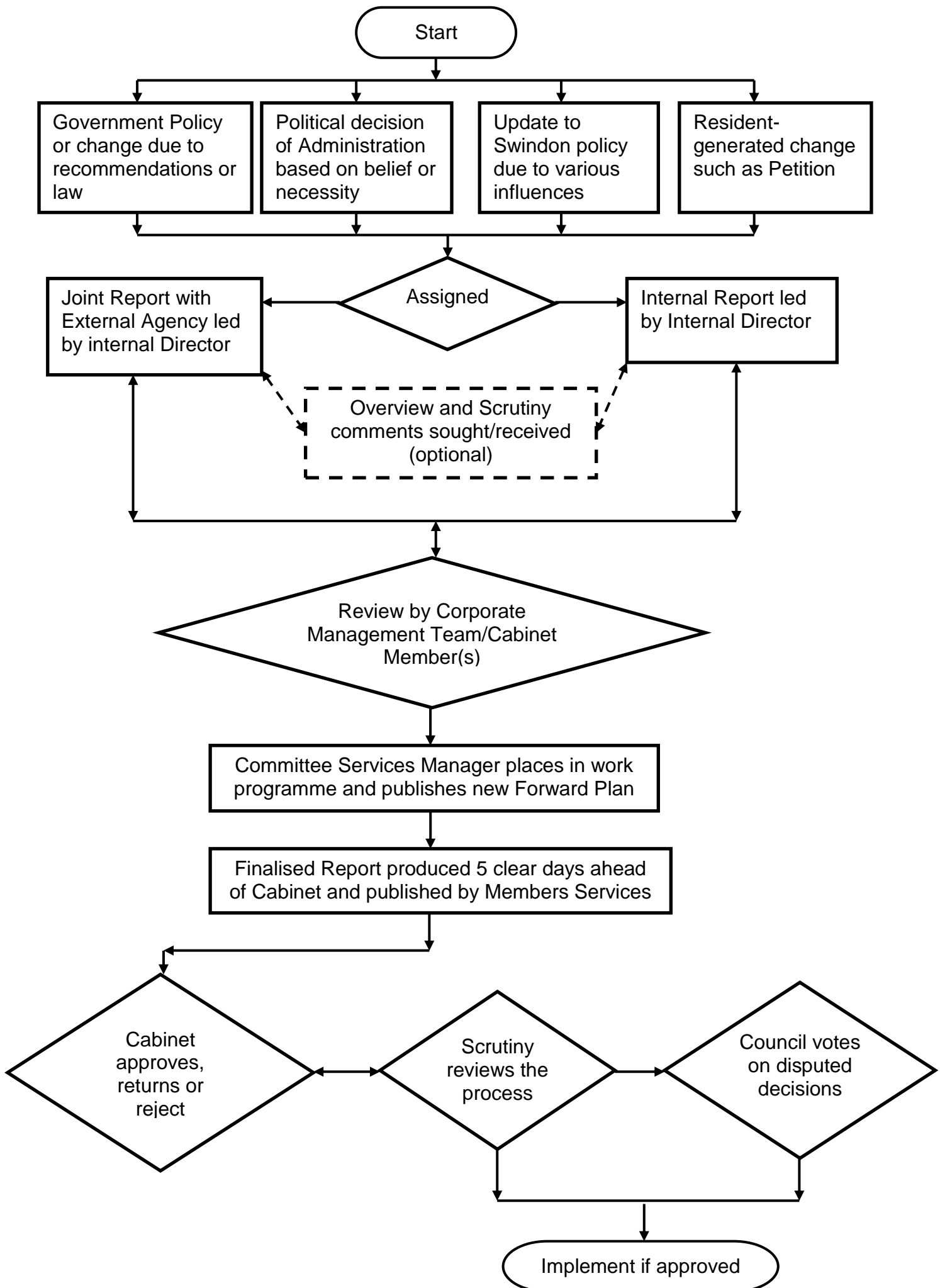
31st January 2018		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Apprenticeships, Higher Education and Skills	<p>To consider:</p> <p>(1) How the council is ensuring that more residents are able to progress to Higher Education and work to date to secure local University provision.</p> <p>(2) How the Council encourages companies to provide meaningful apprenticeships resulting in jobs and how the Council engages with sixth form colleges.</p>	<p>Susie Kemp – Corporate Director Resources and Transformation</p> <p>Sally Burnett - Strategic Commissioner – Routes to Employment</p>
Business West Meetings	To receive feedback on business meetings organised by Business West.	Philippa Venables – Project Manager, Economy and Skills
Business Rates	Update on the latest position from the Government.	Susie Kemp – Corporate Director Resources and Transformation

6th March 2018		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Employment Land	To be agreed	Cllr Toby Elliott
Business Rates	Update on the latest position from the Government.	Susie Kemp – Corporate Director Resources and Transformation

Visits to Neighbouring Towns and Cities

The Committee also suggested that they would like to undertake a field trip to neighbouring towns and cities to view recent developments, the impact on the local economy and to consider how to encourage similar developments in Swindon. Initial suggestions included Cribbs Causeway in Bristol and the Docks in Gloucester. The Committee would need to consider the field trip in more detail and consider appropriate venues to visit and the outcomes/recommendations they would be looking for, following the visits.

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