



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2018/19

Thursday, 4 April 2019

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

27 March 2019

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, 4 April 2019 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 - 18)
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. Minute for Confirmation (Pages 19 - 26)

To consider a Minute for Confirmation from the Cabinet:

- Minute 77 – Reference from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

7. Motions

(a) Motion - Changes to Election Cycle
Councillor David Renard will move:

“That this Council:

Notes that:

- Borough Council Elections in Swindon are undertaken 'by thirds'. All councillors are elected for a term of four years, with one third being elected for three consecutive years followed by a fourth 'fallow' year when there are no elections.
- Most wards have three councillors and these are chosen one at a time. This means that voters in a given ward may need to vote three times within four years under the "thirds" system.
- Under the 'Whole Council' elections model, all seats are up for election in the same year, with elections only taking place once every four years.

Recognises that:

- Councils can resolve to change their cycle subject to complying with certain conditions. These conditions include undertaking a consultation, convening a special meeting of Council to consider the matter, and a two-thirds majority of members in attendance being required to pass the resolution.

Requests that:

- A consultation exercise be commenced immediately to explore the merits of the two systems.
- An All Party Group of Members be established to oversee the consultation with residents, businesses and partner agencies.
- An Extraordinary Council Meeting takes place following consultation in the new municipal year to formally consider the findings of the consultation and to put forward a proposal based on the recommendations of the All Party Working Group.”

(b) **Motion - Fly Tipping**
Councillor Kevin Parry will move and Councillor Cathy Martyn will second:

“Council notes that:-

1. Fly-tipping is defined as the ‘illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a licence to accept it’.
2. Between April 2018 and February 2019, 46.64 tonnes of fly tipped waste was removed during 2,250 separate incidents costing the Council taxpayer approximately £6,000 in disposal costs only per incident (i.e. this does not include collection costs).

Council Recognises that:

1. Fly-tipping causes damage to Swindon’s natural environment and wildlife.
2. It needs to be easy for people to do the right thing otherwise we will see an increase in fly-tipping.
3. “Your rubbish means YOUR rubbish - it's your responsibility and that doesn't change when you hire someone to take it away for you. If they dispose of it illegally it remains your responsibility”.
4. The Council has already embarked on a programme of education and awareness around individual responsibility in a number of ‘hot-spots’ around the town.

Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment:

1. Prepares a Cabinet Report that considers:
 - Investing in further CCTV and automatic number plate recognition technology (ANPR) to help police fly tipping hotspots, such as Eldene Centre, Broad Green, Old Town and the Area in Wroughton around Brimble Hill.
 - Working towards removing all fly tipped waste, whether hazardous or non-hazardous, in line with Government recommendations.
 - Committing to taking enforcement action against **all** those identified who dump rubbish in this way, without exception.”

(c) **Motion - End Section 21 Evictions**
Councillor Emma Bushell will move and Councillor Paul Dixon will second:

“This Council notes that:

- Most of England’s 11 million renters are on tenancies with fixed terms of six months or a year. After this period has ended landlords can evict their tenants with just two months’ notice, without giving a reason. These ‘no fault evictions’ were introduced under Section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act.
- The role of Section 21 ‘no fault evictions’ in causing homelessness, which in turn places a financial burden on local authorities in terms of temporary accommodation costs.
- 80% of evictions are on no-fault grounds and 63% of private renters who were forced to move in 2016 were evicted not due to any fault of their own but because the landlord wanted to sell or use the property.
- In 2017, the Scottish government made tenancies indefinite and banned no-fault evictions under the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.
- Cambridge Croydon, Brent, Southwark and Lewisham councils have all agreed motions to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions with cross-party support.

This Council believes:

- Insecurity harms quality of life for tenants and that the threat of being evicted gives landlords huge power over tenants, who may decide not to complain about disrepair, big rent increases or other problems in case they are evicted.
- Removing the leading causes of homelessness should be a priority.
- Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions would help to make renting more secure, improve standards and increase tenant confidence and halt the rising homelessness in Swindon.

This Council requests:

- That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety bring a report to the next Adults' Health, Adults' Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee reporting on the proportion of homelessness cases caused by private sector evictions in Swindon.
- To write to Swindon’s two MPs and the Minister for Housing urging them to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions.”

8. Indicative Calendar of Meetings 2019/20 and 2020/21 (Pages 27 - 46)

9. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

(Pages 47 - 66)

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) and in respect of individual Cabinet Member delegated decisions.

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

Stephen Gerrard

Interim Director of Law

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 Shaun Banks (07980752047 sbanks@swindon.gov.uk) or to the Interim Director of Law, 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?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.