



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2019/20

Thursday, 19 September 2019

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

19 September 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, 19 September 2019 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business to be transacted will be as follows:-

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Communications** (Pages 5 - 6)
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 (Pages 13 - 14)

See explanatory note below.

6. Council Petition Scheme (Pages 15 - 22)

To consider a petition received in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

7. Motions

(a) Motion - Town Centre Regeneration
Councillor Bob Wright will move:

"This Council:

- Believes that the current Conservative administration lacks a substantive cohesive plan to bring Swindon Town Centre into the 21st Century.

Notes:

- The proposal by Dr Laurie Marsh to regenerate Swindon's Town Centre- titled "Destination Swindon". Dr Marsh is a successful businessman with a proven record of regenerating buildings through Charitable Finance Initiatives.
- The proposal includes redeveloping the Mechanics Institute, creating a university in the Town Centre, a new 2000 seat conference, exhibition and concert hall and an innovative rapid transit system.
- Dr Marsh has identified a number of banks and institutions for this redevelopment programme with whom he has previously worked successfully and has already had a number of organisations and local stakeholders who have expressed a desire to cooperate with this project.
- This scheme offers £1.5bn worth of investment and requires no capital investment from Swindon Borough Council. When complete this scheme would generate an income to the Council.

Requests:

- The Cabinet to review its decision not to work with Dr Laurie Marsh and pursue this project.
- The Cabinet Member for the Town Centre bring a report to Cabinet detailing how the Council could enable this project."

(a) Motion - Eastern Villages Infrastructure
Councillor Jim Robbins will move and Councillor Kevin Small will second:

"This Council:

Notes:

- The Eastern Village Transport Schemes report agreed by Cabinet at its 10th July meeting. Cabinet approved in this report borrowing to fund transport schemes at the White Hart Junction, Gablecross

Junction, Nythe Road Junction, Piccadilly Roundabout and a new Southern Connector Road.

- In order to fund these transport schemes and other community projects, Cabinet plan to borrow £59.4m by 2025/26. This will have massive implications on the Council's revenue budget with annual debt charges expected increase by £12m by 2028/29. This is the equivalent of more than 10% increase on residents' Council Taxes.
- The Cabinet expect developers to eventually pay the Council back the money it has borrowed through its contributions to the development. The developer contributions are subject to agreements being reached and kept to by developers and housing numbers being built out as expected by the Council.
- Cabinet agreed to these spending decisions despite it being highlighted in the report that they were a "significant risk".

Believes:

- Cabinet's decision is forcing Council-Taxpayers to take all of the financial risk of the Eastern Villages housing development, with housebuilders taking all of the profit.
- Cabinet's decision would set a precedent about the Council's involvement in financing major infrastructure projects that are a part of private sector developments.

Requests:

- That a report be brought to Cabinet by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning reconsidering how much Council-Taxpayers money Cabinet is prepared to risk as part of the Eastern Villages development."

8. Appointment to Outside Body (Pages 23 - 24)

9. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members (Pages 25 - 36)

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 (Pages 37 - 40)

Questions (if any) of which notice has been given by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 15.

(a) Extended Agenda (Pages 41 - 48)

Yours faithfully

Lisa Hall

Chief Legal Officer

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 Chief Legal Officer, 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.