

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2018

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Steve Allsopp, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Matthew Courtliff, Claire Crilly, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Steph Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Janine Howarth, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Brian Mattock, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, David Renard, James Robbins, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Carol Shelley, Kevin Small, Roger Smith, Andy Spry, Gary Sumner, Timothy Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Rahul Tarar, Vera Tomlinson, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, Robert Wright and Julie Wright.

35. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abdul Amin, Emma Bushell, Fay Howard, Garry Perkins and Cathy Martyn.

36. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that a communications had been received from Great Western Railways in response to a Council Motion on Recycling.

37. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2018, be confirmed and signed.

38. Declarations of Interest

The Worshipful The Mayor reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor Jim Robins made a prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 7(a) as he was employed by a Member of the European Parliament.

39. Public Question Time

Mr Martin Costello submitted a written question regarding the Council's Members' Allowances provisions. The Council was advised that the Leader of the Council had provided a written response Mr Costello's question and this had been circulated at the meeting.

Ms Gail Grant asked a question regarding the safety benefits arising from the introduction of 30 mph speed zones in urban areas. Councillor Fionuala Foley (on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment) responded at the meeting and indicated that a written response would be provided.

Ms Gail Grant asked a supplementary question regarding the criteria used to determine road traffic schemes. Councillor Fionuala Foley (on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment) responded at the meeting.

Mr Roy Worman asked a question regarding the availability of water in the Council Chamber public gallery. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Councillor Toby Elliott responded to a public question regarding powers available to the Council to ensure developers maintained land they were responsible for after the sale of properties.

40. Minute to Note

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Gary Sumner seconded:

“That Minute 34 of the Cabinet (Rodbourne Traffic Issues) be noted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

41. Motion - European Union Referendum

Councillor Stan Pajak moved and Councillor Andy Spry seconded:

“This Council Believes:

1. That there is mounting and undisputable evidence of the damage that ‘Brexit’ would cause both to the national economy and to our regional economy.
2. The damage to our international relationships, the reducing influence with other states and the complete loss of say and control over the rules of the European Single Market and Customs Union, the largest market in the world.
3. That the Government has totally mismanaged the Brexit negotiations and has failed to work closely with large cities and towns such as Swindon and listen to our concerns on the direction followed.
4. That businesses within Swindon, like those elsewhere in the UK, are reconsidering investment plans in new production and new jobs while they await the Brexit deal.
5. That the current rights of EU citizens living in the UK should always be fully protected and not used as a bargaining chip by the UK Government.

Council Notes:

1. The increasing problems that the NHS is having in recruiting nurses and doctors since the decision to leave the European Union was made and that this is having a real impact on the health of local residents.
2. With concern the potential impact of Brexit both on our local economy and on established mutually beneficial partnerships and links with European cities.
3. That the UK economy is now the slowest growing economy in Europe, reducing the prosperity of the UK and Swindon residents;
4. That new investment in the region is being jeopardised and new job opportunities are being lost;
5. That Inflation caused by Brexit-related depreciation of the pound is driving up living costs for the poorest residents a further squeezing of living standards.

6. That Brighton Council and Hammersmith and Fulham Council have already passed motions that back a referendum on the final deal and an option to stay within the European Union.

This Council Resolves:

1. That the Mayor and the Party Group leaders be requested to write to the Prime Minister, Swindon's two MPs and Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, expressing this Council's and Swindon's strong desire for a referendum on the final terms of a Brexit deal, including the option to maintain full EU membership.
2. That the Leader of the Council be requested to submit a report to Cabinet setting out the likely effects to Swindon of a no deal conclusion to EU negotiations which must result in a treaty by 11pm on March 2019.

Councillor Mary Martin moved and Councillor Maureen Penny seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

"This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Economy bring a report to the Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlining the Council's response to Brexit through both its inward investment and business retention programs ensuring the Borough is well placed to exploit any economic opportunities that may manifest in the future."

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor Jim Robins made a prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was employed by a Member of the European Parliament.)

42. Motion - Council Procurement

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Matthew Courtliff seconded:

"This Council:

- Recognises the significant impact public sector procurement can have on local economic growth.
- Notes that in 2016/17, only 37% of the Council's total procurement spend went to local suppliers.
- Requests the Cabinet Member for Finance review the "Community Wealth Building" approach Labour-led local authorities in Manchester and Preston have taken in their procurement strategy, which has significantly boosted spending on local suppliers. This has led to 71% of Manchester City Council's procurement spend going to local suppliers and Preston City Council more than doubled its procurement spend on local suppliers, pumping tens of millions of pounds extra in to their local economies and boosting local wages by requesting that local suppliers pay the Real Living Wage.
- Requests that following this review the Cabinet Member for Finance bring a report to Cabinet on how the Council could apply the new procurement

principles within The Social Value Act (2012) to enable more council-taxpayers money to be spent on to local suppliers.

- Requests the Leader of the Council to bring a report to the next Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board meeting detailing how anchor public sector institutions within the borough can also adopt the Community Wealth Building approach to their procurement strategies, in order to further boost investment within the Borough's economy."

Councillor Roger Smith moved and Councillor Emma Faramarzi seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

"This Council:

1. Recognises the economic success since 2010 that Swindon has had. According to Centre for Cities, we are ranked third in the country out of cities with the highest employment rate
2. Further notes the commitment by the Government to invest £94m through the LEP as Local Growth Fund to promote economic growth by delivering critical infrastructure to unlock housing and jobs
3. Notes that in 2016/2017 37% of the Council's total procurement spend went to local suppliers.
4. Supports the principle of obtaining value for money while recognising the positive impact that procurement can have for local suppliers.

This Council requests that:

The Cabinet Member for Finance provides an update to the October 2013 Cabinet Report in respect of how procurement may continue to benefit local suppliers through the The Public Services Social Value Act (2012)."

With the agreement of the Council the amendment was amended to read:

"This Council:

1. Recognises the economic success since 2010 that Swindon has had. According to Centre for Cities, we are ranked third in the country out of cities with the highest employment rate
2. Further notes the commitment by the Government to invest £94m through the LEP as Local Growth Fund to promote economic growth by delivering critical infrastructure to unlock housing and jobs
3. Notes that in 2016/2017 37% of the Council's total procurement spend went to local suppliers.
4. Supports the principle of obtaining value for money while recognising the positive impact that procurement can have for local suppliers.

This Council requests that:

The Cabinet Member for Finance provides an update to the October 2013 Cabinet Report in respect of how procurement may continue to benefit local suppliers through the The Public Services Social Value Act (2012) and bring a report to Cabinet in

respect of how procurement may grow and provide increased benefit to local suppliers within The Public Services Social Value Act."

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

43. Motion - 20 mph Speed Limit Zones

Councillor Steve Allsopp moved and Councillor Jim Grant seconded:

"This Council:

- Is concerned that it is existing Council practice to not agree to any new 20mph speed limit requests on specific roads in the Borough, which have clear demonstrable support from Ward Councillors and the local community.
- Believes that 20mph speed limits should be introduced in roads and neighbourhoods which would like this and where it has the support of Ward Councillors.
- Recognises the benefits to areas with 20mph speed limits, including to public safety and encouraging more physical activity, such as walking and cycling.

Requests that the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Highways bring a report to Cabinet setting out how the Council can reverse the current Council practice of not considering 20mph speed limit requests and to grant 20mph speed limit requests on roads which have clear demonstrable support from Ward Councillors and the local community."

Councillor Caryl Sydney-Smith moved and Councillor Steve Weisinger seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

This Council:

Recognises the benefits to areas with 20mph speed limits, including to public safety and encouraging more physical activity, such as walking and cycling.

Supports the implementation, where applicable, of 20mph speed limits in line with the Council's current policy as stated on our website and where it has the support of Ward Councillors.

This Council requests that:

The Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment investigates specific cases for the introduction of 20mph speed limits as raised by ward members.

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared carried, becoming the Substantive Motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

44.

Motion - Public Safety

Councillor Bob Wright moved and Councillor Jane Milner-Barry seconded:

"This Council:

- Understands that glysohate is being used within the Borough by council employees and/or contractors for weed control.
- Notes that in 2015 the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a branch of the World Health Organisation, said that glysohate is "probably carcinogenic".
- Calls for a ban on the use of glyphosate on all land accessible by the public, by council employees, council contractors and all other bodies, by April 2019.
- Asks the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment to research alternative means of weed control and adopt a protocol on acceptable methods by April 2019."

Councillor Tim Swinyard moved and Councillor Oliver Donachie seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

"This Council notes:

1. It is important to respect concerns about chemical use.
2. The Local Authority will continue to base its decisions on science and confirmed evidenced.
3. It is important to support the promotion of Swindon as a place for inward investment and that gateway routes are kept as weed-free as possible.

This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment ensures that Swindon Borough Council continues to monitor the situation regarding the products it uses and, should the Environment Agency and DEFRA change their guidance, it will act accordingly."

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared carried, becoming the Substantive Motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

45.

Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted report inviting the Council to (a) note changes to Cabinet Membership and associated portfolios, and (b) approve changes to the Membership of the Council's Committees and Other Bodies in consequence to the changed Cabinet Membership and also the resignation of Councillor Nick Martin from the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority.

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

"(1) That the changes to the membership of the Council's Committees and Other Bodies, set out in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.6 of the report, be approved and that the

additional changes to committee memberships tabled at the meeting by the Leader of the Council, be also approved.

(3) That the appointment of Councillor Fionuala Foley as Chair of the Adults' Health, Adults' Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

(4) That the appointment of Councillor Brian Mattock to serve as a Council representative on the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority be approved."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

46. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 11th July and 5th September 2018, (b) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received, and (c) Cabinet Member Decision Notices.

47. Minutes of other Council Bodies

The Council (a) received the minutes set out in the "Minutes of Other Council Bodies" circulated with the Agenda, and (b) considered questions to Chairs relating to the work of their Committees and other bodies and answers received.

48. Councillors Question Time

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that Standing Order 15 Questions had been received from Councillor Steve Allsopp.

Councillor Steve Allsopp asked a supplementary question in relation to road traffic works in Upham Road. The Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment responded at the meeting.

Councillor Steve Allsopp asked a supplementary question in relation to Housing in Sussex Place. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety responded at the meeting.