

Urgent Item

Motion – Honda

Councillor Dale Heenan will move, Councillor Jim Grant will second and Councillor Stan Pajak will support:

“This Council notes with extreme sadness the news of 19th February 2019 that Honda will close its Swindon factory in 2021 and agrees that an all-party, borough-wide response is needed as a matter of urgency to protect the families of Honda employees, and the supply chain to the factory.

This Council agrees with the Task Force, chaired by Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, that the priority for all parties is to work together to persuade Honda Japan to keep the plant open. Acknowledging that there is a future for car manufacturing on the Swindon site, the back-up plan must then be to find an alternative car manufacturer or comparable industry for this first class manufacturing facility.

Should Honda Japan decide, at the end of the consultation period that it will proceed with its plan to vacate the site, this Council requests, that:-

- 1) The Leader writes to the Prime Minister requesting that she provides sufficient financial assistance to support affected families and businesses in order to protect the local economy, support businesses, and meet unexpected costs in recognition of the exceptional response and recovery effort that will be needed following the departure of Honda.
- 2) The Chief Executive assigns additional resources to the Business Retention and Expansion team to work with Honda, Government departments, and Unions.
- 3) The Leader of the Council brings a report to Cabinet outlining the Council's short, medium and long term response to Honda's decision, and how the Council will work with Honda, the Government, and the Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure the necessary training and help is available for workers to secure new jobs.
- 4) The Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity requests that the Chair of Economy Overview and Scrutiny forms a Cross Party Task Group that will assess options as to how SBC can assist where possible in the recovery effort.”