

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 8 JULY 2015

PRESENT:- Councillors Oliver Donachie (Chair), Wayne Crabbe (Vice-Chair), Emma Bushell, Mary Friend, Richard Hurley, Cathy Martyn, Des Moffatt, Kevin Parry, James Robbins, Joe Tray and Chris Watts

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration and Skills, Councillor Toby Elliott, Cabinet member for Communities and Strategic Planning

31. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved:

That Councillor Wayne Crabbe be appointed Vice-Chair of the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

32. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

33. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th March, 2015, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

34. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

35. Swindon 175 Committee

The Committee received an update report from Ian Surtees, Income Generation Manager, Museums and Heritage about the activities under development for the celebrations of Swindon's 175 years since the birth of the Swindon Railway Works and the formation of New Swindon in 1841.

The Committee were reminded of the history of the railway in Swindon and the major impact it had on the growth of the town. The Income Generation Manager spoke about the arrangements for the celebrations and in particular the relocation of two iconic steam locomotives – King George V and City of Truro. It was noted that agreement had been reached in principle with the National Railway Museum in York for their relocation to Swindon on a medium to long term basis. The locomotives would become the centre piece of the museums new displays. The project was being driven by STEAM Museum and supported by many partners. In addition to the relocation of the locomotives, many other projects were in development including a retail element (books, pens, watches, '00' gauge models), and replica Swindon

Works 'Hooter', School materials, history talks and art and photography exhibitions were amongst many other projects.

The Income Generation Manager responded to members' specific questions and observations on the following topics:

- The Project Team and business partners working together to make the Swindon 175 a successful event. The business partners meetings were always open to Councillors with an interest in helping with the arrangements
- The relocation of the locomotives, access to the STEAM building and use of Section 106 funding to pay for the transportation costs, with a potential for sharing transportation costs with another Council on-route to Swindon
- Work with commercial partners on promoting events, merchandising and complimentary products
- The use of the original Swindon Works Hooter and the use and placement of the replica Swindon Works Hooter, possibly at the UTC or the STEAM building
- The marketing strategy, the rebranding of existing events, encouraging the involvement of Trade Unions in the project taking into account their historical connection with the railways, projected increase in visitor numbers and the overall impact on Swindon
- The need for an overall project co-ordinator to manage the project to its conclusion
- Invitations to members of the Royal Household to attend the celebrations during 2016, in particular Prince George

The Chair thanked Ian Surtees and Alan Greer for their very informative presentation and wished them well with all the arrangements being made for the celebrations.

Resolved

1. That the report be noted
2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports
 - a. An invitation to the Royal Household to attend the celebrations in 2016, in particular Prince George and his family
 - b. Consideration being given to the relocation of the replica Swindon Works Hooter at the UTC or the STEAM building
 - c. the following Councillors involvement with the preparations for the Swindon 175 celebrations:
 - i. Councillor Crabbe
 - ii. Councillor Hurley
 - iii. Councillor Bushell
 - iv. Councillor Robbins

36. Work Programme 2015/16

The Committee received the report of the Committee Officer setting out details of the Committee's work programme for 2015/16.

The Committee considered the proposed Work Programme and suggested a number of additions as detailed below:

- Devolution in Local Government – To consider devolution options available to Swindon Borough Council and to assess their value
- EU Referendum – To consider the current Economic Strategy alongside information about Swindon businesses import/export data in relation to Swindon Borough Councils preparedness for the in-out referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union. . It was noted that as the Referendum approaches, many think-tanks are likely to produce reports estimating the impact of the decision either way.

Resolved –

1. That the Work Programme be noted
2. That the following items be added to the Work Programme –
 - a. Devolution in Local Government – scheduled for 25th November 2015;
 - b. EU Referendum –scheduled for 27th January 2015

37. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee be held at 6:00pm on 23rd September 2015.