

GROWING THE ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 29 JUNE 2016

PRESENT:- Councillors Cathy Martyn (Chair), Steve Allsopp, Wayne Crabbe (Vice-Chair), Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey and Des Moffatt

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Weisinger.

1. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Resolved – That Councillor Crabbe be appointed Vice-Chair of the Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

2. 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.

3. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the former Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9th March 2016, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. Public Question Time

Mr Gerry Hannon, a representative of the Sports Forum, asked a question regarding the Council working with sports/leisure/recreation organisations to ensure (i) the establishment of a suitable form of social enterprise which is sustainable in the medium and long term and (ii) to continue to sustain community sport/leisure/recreation programmes and facilities (outside of the GLL contract) and the achievement of the Swindon Sports Strategy.

The Chair thanked Mr Hannon for his question and explained that the appropriate Cabinet Member would provide a written response.

5. Swindon's Economic Strategy

The Committee received a report from the Interim Director of Economy, Regeneration and Skills, which provided an overview of the Economic Strategy and a review of the current progress for 2016/17, which in turn would help develop the Committee's Work Programme.

The Interim Director explained that the report also summarised the delivery arrangements for the Strategy across the Council and Forward Swindon Limited (FSL) and outlined the role and priorities of the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP).

The Committee considered in detail the following priorities detailed in the Economic Strategy:

- Creating a place of opportunity for young people
- Develop Swindon's Higher Education provision
- Position Swindon as a hub of Engineering and Manufacturing technology
- Swindon's Town Centre Masterplan
- Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
- Establish Swindon as a regional leisure destination
- Create a low carbon Swindon
- Inward investment
- Supporting our existing businesses to grow
- Development of the new Swindon Economic Strategy Work Programme
- The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP)
- Resourcing and delivering economic development in Swindon

In considering the above priorities, the Committee highlighted the following areas that it would like to explore further as part of the Committee's Work Programme 2016/17:

- The impact of leaving the EU – to include funding issues and house building
- The draft Economic Strategy - to include inward investment
- Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership – with a request for Paddy Bradley to provide an update and respond to questions
- Apprenticeships and Higher Education – to include how the Council encourages companies to provide meaningful apprenticeships resulting in jobs and how the Council engages with sixth form colleges.
- Attracting a university to Swindon – update and timescale
- Update on town centre regeneration - Deb Heenan (Forward Swindon Limited) to be invited to provide the update, including:
 - Carriageworks
 - Re-development of the station by Network Rail
 - Movement Strategy including gateways into the town centre and Whalebridge
 - Parking Strategy
 - Fusion of retail, residential and night-time economy
 - How other towns overcome constraints & difficulties to regenerate their town centres
 - Forward Swindon Limited's 5 focus areas, monitoring delivery & progress, ensuring the correct skill sets, monitoring progress and value for money
 - Locarno
 - 1-3 Faringdon Road, monitoring delivery & progress and ensuring a profit
- Swindon Museum and Art Gallery – to include an update on monitoring and progress

Resolved: (1) That the report on the overview of the Economic Strategy and the review of progress be noted.

(2) That the suggested Work Programme areas identified above be considered further at agenda item 6 below.

6.

Work Programme 2016/17

The Committee received the report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services setting out suggested items for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme 2016/17.

The Committee considered the proposed Work Programme items along with the suggestions detailed in Minute 5 above.

Resolved: (1) That the proposed Work Programme 2016/17 be noted.
(2) That the Chair and Officers give further consideration to the Work Programme areas identified at Minute 5 above and assign areas of work to meeting dates.

7.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 21st September 2016, commencing at 6:00pm.