

Public Question Time
Cabinet
18th October 2017

Les Durrant, Chair of Swindon Development Delivery Panel, (Chairman & Managing Director, DPDS Consulting Group) has asked the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability

Swindon Development Delivery Panel (SDDP) has expressed its concern that SBC Economic Strategy has a timeline to 2026, Wiltshire and Swindon's Local Plan programmes have timescales to 2036 whilst organisations such as Highways England, who are responsible of the planning and delivery of key infrastructure, have Investment Strategies to 2050.

Bearing in mind the urgent need for infrastructure to support the development needed to maintain prosperity associated with growth of Swindon, the SDDP would like to see a long term strategic vision to 2050 and alignment of economic and spatial planning timescales to this date. This has already been called for by Swindon Chamber of Commerce (SCC) in their representations to the draft Economic Strategy. What are Cabinets views on the appropriateness of this, bearing in mind the amount of employment and housing development that would need to be accommodated in the period to 2050 and the position of the administrative boundary between the two authorities?

The Cabinet Member has responded.

Thank you for your question. Long-term planning for housing, infrastructure investment, and the economy is essential. Our adopted Local Plan looked at options to 2026 and within a year of it being adopted we started work on our Local Plan Review. This new Plan, working in conjunction with Wiltshire Council, will extend our horizon to 2036. This will enable both local authorities to support managed housing and business growth. Over the coming months we will also look beyond this time frame and I am happy to work with a wide range of stakeholders in developing these ideas.

I can confirm that we are currently undertaking work with key stakeholders, which includes the Swindon Development Delivery Panel, on a plan that extends up to 2050; however, these negotiations are still in an early stage of development.