

Swindon Borough Council

Special Committee

Wednesday, 9 December 2009

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices, Swindon (Anticipated meeting room)

At 5.30 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Roderick Bluh (Chair)
Fionuala Foley (Vice-Chair)

Brian Mattock
David Renard

Labour Councillors

James Grant
Derique Montaut

Deputies: *All other Labour Shadow Cabinet Members*

Liberal Democrat Councillors

Stan Pajak

Deputies: *All other Liberal Democrat Members*

(Copies to all other Members of the Council – For Information)

Committee Officer: Ian Willcox (Telephone: 01793 463601)

email: iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 2)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2009

4. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please phone the Committee Officer whose name and number appears at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

5. Sustainable Community Strategy – proposed Supplementary Note (DPPP-B), Leader of the Council (Pages 3 - 14)

6. Appointment to Outside Body (DLDS-B) (Pages 15 - 16)

Date of Despatch: 01 December 2009

Key:

Officers:

CE	-	Chief Executive
GDC	-	Group Director: Children
GDHSC	-	Group Director: Housing & Social Care
GDER	-	Group Director: Environment & Regeneration
GDBT	-	Group Director: Business Transformation
DF	-	Director of Finance
DLDS-B	-	Director of Law and Democratic Services: Business Transformation
DPPC-B	-	Director of Policy, Performance and Communications: Business Transformation

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements – The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

Special Committee - Terms of Reference

The Special Committee shall have delegated to it the power to act for the Council on the advice of the Chief Executive on any policy decision or any particular matter that is urgent and necessary in the best interests of the Council.

The quorum of the Committee shall be three.

Deputy Members may be appointed at the Annual or any meeting of the Council.

Minutes of any proceedings of this Committee shall be submitted to the Council.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2009

PRESENT:- Councillors Roderick Bluh (Chair), Brian Mattock, David Renard, Derique Montaut, James Grant and David Wood (Deputy).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fionuala Foley (Vice-Chair) and Stan Pajak.

Councillors Peter Greenhalgh and Keith Williams attended the meeting in respect of Minute 32.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

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

2. **Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2009, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. **Public Question Time**

No public questions were asked under Standing Order 28.

4. **Housing Revenue Account - Revised Rents for 2009/10**

The Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Care and the Director of Housing and Leisure submitted a joint report concerning an announcement of the Government on 6th March 2009, regarding Housing finance and guideline rent increases, that had the impact of requiring this Council to reconsider the level of rent increase it had agreed at its meeting on 23rd February 2009 (Average Rent of £69.80 per week – 6.2% increase).

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Care, welcomed the Government's announcement of a reduction in the proposed guideline rent increase because of the impact of the current recession, and explained that full details of the proposals were still awaited. However, he believed the timing of the announcement was unfortunate, as most Housing authorities would have by then already agreed their rent levels for 2009/10, and there would now be additional costs to the Housing Revenue Account associated with the introduction of the revised rents. He referred to the impact of the proposed changes in Housing finance and the revised guideline rent for individual rent levels in Swindon.

Resolved – That, on behalf of the Council, and subject to the formal confirmation of the Government:

- (a) The proposed average rent for Housing Revenue Account dwellings for 2009/10 of £69.80 per week (48 week basis), be reduced to £67.75 per week (48 week basis), to bring it in to line with the 3.1% increase proposed

by the Government's revised rent restructuring guidance issued in March 2009.

- (b) Rents charged on General Fund properties be reduced in line with the reduction in the average rents for Housing Revenue Account dwellings (3.1%).
- (c) Rents charged for plots at the Hay Lane Residential Gypsy Site be reduced by £1.00 per week to £38.00 per week (52 week basis).

5. The Modernisation of ICT infrastructure

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Corporate Services, the Group Director, Business Transformation and the Head of ICT submitted a joint report concerning the provision of additional Capital funding to support the procurement of a 'Microsoft Enterprise Agreement' and the associated hardware and implementation costs, in order to overcome software licence compliance issues, improve ICT System reliability and replace life-expired software and equipment, and to support the delivery of the Council's proposed New Ways of Working Programme.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Corporate Services, and Councillor Peter Greenhalgh, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Transport and Strategic Planning, expressed their support for the proposal and referred to the significant impact that it would have on the effective operation of the Council, and the development of new ways of working.

Resolved – That the Special Committee on behalf of the Council:

- (a) Approves an additional Capital investment of up to £1.98m for the purchase of a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement and associated hardware and implementation costs.
- (b) Notes that the repayment of the initial Capital investment and additional running costs, will be accommodated within the overall Business Case for the New Ways of Working initiative, which is to be reported to the Cabinet on 10th June 2009.
- (c) Authorises the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Head of ICT, to enter into an agreement with Microsoft and their Large Account Reseller, on such terms as he may consider necessary to protect the Council's interests.

Sustainable Community Strategy – proposed Supplementary Note

Special Committee

Date: 9th December 2009

Author: Leader of the Council; and the Director of Policy, Performance and Communications

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To update the statutory Sustainable Community Strategy – A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030 by way of a Supplementary Note in order to reflect the wish to enhance the local economy by establishing Swindon Commercial Services Limited as a separate legal entity from Swindon Borough Council

Recommendation

Special Committee is requested to:

- Approve the proposed Supplementary Note for inclusion in the Sustainable Community Strategy

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Council's Sustainable Community Strategy is set out in the "A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030". The aims of the Strategy (inter alia) are that 'all Swindon People are benefiting from our growing economy' (Theme 2), and that Swindon is 'a place where local people can have real influence and where they feel safe' (Theme 6). In order to help promote those aims, the Council has agreed to establish Swindon Commercial Services in the private sector and it is recommended that the Sustainable Community Strategy be updated by way of a supplementary note to recognise this.
- 1.2 The Council consulted the Swindon Strategic Partnership Board on the 10th November 2009 as to how the Sustainable Community Strategy should be amended and the proposed amendments set out below are recommended having regard to the comments received from members of the Board and the guidance of the Secretary of State.

2. Detail

2.1 Proposed amendments to the Sustainable Community Strategy

The following amendments are proposed:

- (1) as a new penultimate paragraph on page 12 "Theme 2 - All Swindon people are benefiting from our growing economy" -

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from either Matt Gott on *Direct Dial No.463097* or Email mgott@swindon.gov.uk or Stephen Taylor on *Direct Dial No. 463012* or email staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

Sustainable Community Strategy – proposed Supplementary Note

Special Committee

Date: 9th December 2009

"To achieve our ambition of maintaining a prosperous economy and looking towards the challenges of the future Swindon Borough Council has decided to establish Swindon Commercial Services Ltd which will deliver housing related services, environmental and street scene services and other services."

(2) *"Establishing Swindon Commercial Services Ltd"* to be inserted as the final item to the list of page 13 *"Theme 2 - All Swindon people are benefiting from our growing economy"*

(3) as a new third paragraph on page 20 *"Theme 6 - A place where local people can have real influence and where they feel safe"* -

"The creation of Swindon Commercial Services Ltd will be a key delivery agency in providing public services to enhance the general well-being of the place in which people live."

(4) *"Establishing Swindon Commercial Services Ltd"* to be inserted as the final item to the list of page 21 *"Theme 6 - A place where local people can have real influence and where they feel safe"*.

Alternative Options

- It is open to the Special Committee to either not approve the proposals or make alternative changes to the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are no significant financial implications in relation to the proposed Supplementary Note.
- There are no operational risks associated with the decision to amend the Sustainable Community Strategy. Risks associated with the establishment of Swindon Commercial Services Limited have been separately assessed in the risk register, which is available to members of the Partnership Board, a copy of which will be available at the meeting.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- In order to modify the sustainable community strategy the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 114 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, requires the Council to consult each partner authority and such other persons as the authority considers appropriate and must have regard to any guidance issued by the secretary of state.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

- The Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030 is the overarching vision for the Council and its partners which articulates how we want the Borough to be by 2030.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from either Matt Gott on *Direct Dial No.463097* or Email mgott@swindon.gov.uk or Stephen Taylor on *Direct Dial No. 463012* or email staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

Sustainable Community Strategy – proposed Supplementary Note

Special Committee

Date: 9th December 2009

Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- Swindon Strategic Partnership Board

Background Papers and Appendices

- Report to the Swindon Strategic Partnership Board on 10th November 2009
- Appendix - the relevant Community Strategy pages are attached as a reference guide

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from either Matt Gott on *Direct Dial No.463097* or Email mgott@swindon.gov.uk or Stephen Taylor on *Direct Dial No. 463012* or email staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

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Vision 2030 Theme 2

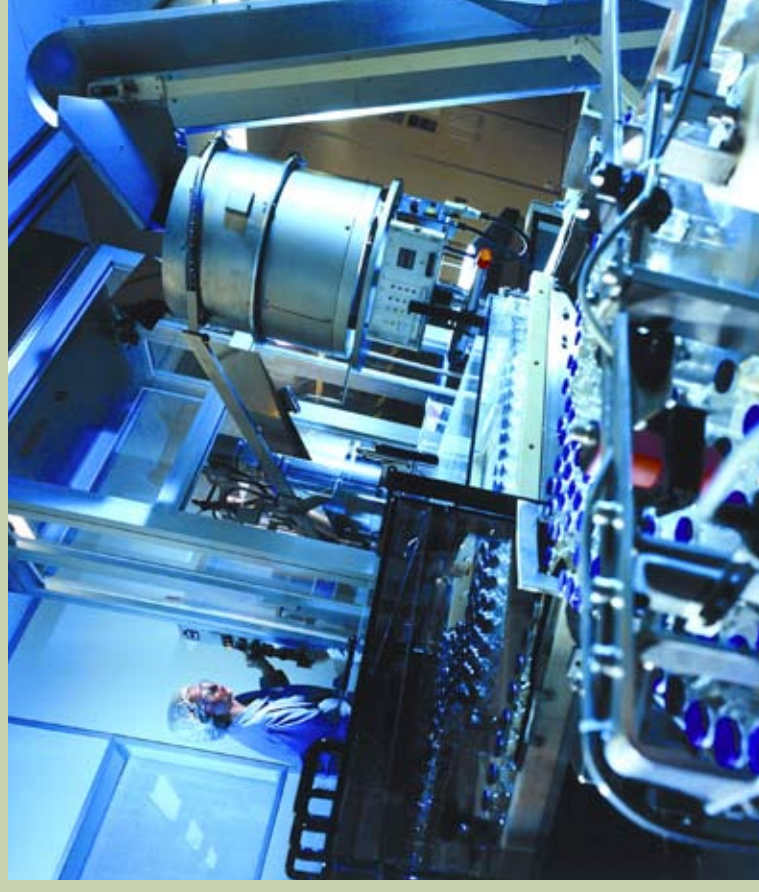
All Swindon people are benefiting from our growing economy

By 2030, Swindon will have become one of the best business locations in the UK, offering a high quality of life, not just to its 250,000 residents, but also to those from a much wider catchment area. In that period, over 32,000 new jobs will have been created and there will be the fullest range of employment opportunities for the whole community.

Swindon will enjoy an international reputation as both a centre of innovation, science and technology and an excellent example of sustainable living and commerce. Employees will increasingly choose to live within the Borough rather than commute in from elsewhere. This will be made easy thanks to the development of new, environmentally-friendly homes located in well designed neighbourhoods with an excellent local infrastructure and services coupled with a vibrant, attractive town. There will be a good balance in the types of homes built in the Borough to make sure that we can offer the full range from affordable and starter homes to those expected by senior executives.

Forward-looking investment in transport technology means that businesses will benefit from easy communications around the area without the gridlock and pollution that similar towns might be facing.

By 2030 Swindon will have long since shed the negative image that people from outside the area once held about it. Employees and potential investors will see a vibrant, regenerated town offering radically improved shopping, cultural, sporting and leisure facilities.



Innovation, science and technology in Swindon

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In 2030, people from across the region, including those with families, will want to visit the restaurants, cafes, art galleries and theatres that Swindon will have to offer. Shopping will be a delightful mix of big name stores and independent shops. The public areas in the centre of Swindon and other rural towns and villages will be attractive, clean, appealing and safe.

Swindon will be recognised internationally as a centre for emerging technologies and as a location for leading global companies as well as hugely successful home-grown businesses.

Swindon people will want to carry on learning new things so that they can benefit from the good salaries that local businesses are happy to pay for well-qualified, highly skilled people who keep their skills and knowledge up to date. Local businesses will work closely with the university, colleges and schools to ensure that courses teach people of all ages the skills which the companies require to flourish.

This economic upsurge will benefit all of Swindon. The less affluent or disadvantaged areas of 2007 will be much improved as a result of both physical transformation and the raised expectations, aspirations and achievements of the people who live there. Rural areas will benefit as much as the urban areas with work undertaken to address issues like public transport, local jobs and affordable homes.

Here's just some of the plans that will help deliver theme 4:

- Swindon's Economic Development Vision and Framework
- Swindon Borough Council's Transport Plan
- Swindon's Local Development Framework
- New Swindon Company's regeneration plans
- Developer Contributions Guidance Notes
- Local Community Partnership strategies
- Swindon's Housing Strategy



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Vision 2030 Theme 6

A place where local people can have real influence and where they feel safe

By 2030, local communities will be working with public organisations like the Police, the Borough Council and a wide range of voluntary groups to reduce crime, keep people safe and develop a sense of community and belonging.

Residents' pride in their locality will be enhanced, with local people taking more responsibility for the general well-being of the place in which they live, supported by the statutory and non-statutory bodies. Local people won't wait for the council or other public agencies to address problems in their neighbourhood. Instead, they will know how to get involved, alongside other agencies, to solve issues like anti-social behaviour or graffiti. People will also be able to access public services locally and when they want to.

All parts of Swindon, including newly built developments, will have strong communities where people are willing to help each other and particularly to help more vulnerable residents feel safe. New developments will be planned to ensure that we create communities and not just housing estates.

The factors that generate the fear of crime among residents such as large groups of young people congregating in inappropriate places, graffiti, fly-posting, abandoned cars and fly-tipping will have been addressed so that, as a result, people feel safer.



Residents from Downs View attending the Housing Information Fair for Highworth

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The local police force will have strengthened their neighbourhood policing teams to provide a visible, stronger, more responsive service that is highly regarded by local people.

The town centre will be a far more attractive place for everyone to visit in the evenings thanks to significant reductions in the amount of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The number of road accidents will have decreased through road users, local people, the Council and Police Service working together:

People who misuse alcohol and drugs will be supported to make positive changes to their lives and the harm caused by those substances, to the user and to society, will be reduced.

Hate crime and domestic violence will be increasingly rare.

People from all backgrounds, including those who are new to Swindon, will be encouraged to take part in activities that shape their local community. There will be effective routes for people to be more involved in local decisions about services in their neighbourhoods. People and communities will be encouraged to participate in community life in a way that generates confidence and trust in local engagement and civic life.

Young people will have the opportunity to participate in shaping school life and the way that their locality provides facilities for them.

Here's just some of the plans that will help deliver theme 6:

- Swindon Community Cohesion Framework
- Swindon's Local Development Framework
- Supporting People Strategy
- Swindon's Engagement Framework
- Community Safety Partnership Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Youth Matters



Giving views on improving the local area

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Appointment to Outside Body

Special Committee

Date 9th December 2009

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards Affected: None

Purpose

- To note a change in the Council's representation on the Local Government Information Unit for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to:

- note the change in this Council's representation on the Local Government Information Unit for the remainder of the 2009/10 Municipal Year and request the Director of Law and Democratic Services to make the necessary changes to the Council's Committee Composition List.

1 Reasons

- 1.1 The Conservative Group has requested that its representation on the Local Government Information Unit be amended.

2 Detail

- 2.1 The Council's Conservative Group has indicated that it wishes to appoint Councillor Roderick Bluh in place of Councillor Fionuala Foley as its representative on the Local Government Information Unit.
- 2.2 The current Membership is Councillor Fionuala Foley and Councillor Kevin Small (Deputy). Councillor Kevin Small will remain as a deputy serving on this body.

Alternative Options

- No alternative options are proposed.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are no financial or procurement implications. All costs will be met from existing budgets.

Legal/Human Rights Implications

- Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into

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Stephen Taylor on Direct Dial No. 463013 or Email staylor@swindon.gov.uk
Ian Willcox, Committee and Member Services, on Direct Dial No. 463601 or Email
iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk

Appointment to Outside Body

Special Committee

Date 9th December 2009

account in compiling this report.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

- The delivery of effective, accountable and transparent decision-making by the Council directly links to those parts of the new Corporate Plan relating to the “Role of the Council” and “Transforming the Organisation”.

Consultees / Appendices

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

Background Papers

- Annual Council Minutes 2009 - Constitution 2009/10.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from
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iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk