

Swindon Borough Council

Special Committee

Tuesday, 9 February 2010

Committee Room 5, Civic Offices, Swindon (Anticipated meeting room)

At 3.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

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

*Brian Mattock
David Renard*

Deputies: *All other
Cabinet Members*

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

PART 1 (PUBLIC ITEMS)

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 9th December 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. Appointment of Directors to Swindon Commercial Services Ltd. (SCS). (Oral) (DLDS-B)

The Council's Cabinet on 9th December 2009 approved the establishment of Swindon

Commercial Services Limited (SCS) as an “Arms Length Company” from 1st January 2010. (Minute 75 of the Cabinet refers).

The Council, as shareholder, is required to appoint the Chair and Directors of the Company, including one Councillor representative to serve on the new Company’s Board, together with such number of officer representatives as should be agreed with the new Company, and the Special Committee is asked to make the appointments on behalf of the Council.

A list of proposals for the Company Chair and Directors will be submitted at the meeting.

The Special Committee is further requested to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to exercise voting rights on behalf of the Council at shareholder meetings of Swindon Commercial Services Limited (SCS).

6. Appointments to Committees and Other Council Bodies. (DLDS-B)
(Pages 3 - 4)

Date of Despatch: 02 February 2010

Key:

Officers:

CE	-	Chief Executive
DCE /	-	Deputy Chief Executive and Group Director: Environment, Regeneration
GDERC		and Community
GDC	-	Group Director: Children
GDHSC	-	Group Director: Housing and Social Care
GDBT	-	Group Director: Business Transformation
DF-CE	-	Director of Finance – Chief Executive
DLDS-B	-	Director of Law and Democratic Services – 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.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2009

PRESENT:- Councillors Roderick Bluh (Chair), Fionuala Foley (Vice-Chair), Brian Mattock, David Renard and Derique Montaut.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stan Pajak and James Grant.

6. Declarations of Interest

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

7. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2009, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8. Public Question Time

No public questions were asked under Standing Order 28.

9. Sustainable Community Strategy – Proposed Supplementary Note

The Director of Policy, Performance and Communications and the Leader of the Council submitted a joint report concerning a proposal to update the Council's 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.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services referred to the linkages between the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy and use of the "Well Being" powers available to local authorities under the Local Government Act 2000. He referred to the proposal to establish Swindon Commercial Services as an "arms length" company, and on the reasons why the Council might wish, at some stage, to make use of the "Well Being" powers available to it to support the transition and development of that new body. He explained the proposed changes deemed necessary to the Strategy to ensure that the necessary linkages were in place.

Resolved – That the proposed Supplementary Note for inclusion in the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy ("Sustainable Community Strategy – A Shared Vision for Swindon 2008-2030"), as detailed in the joint report, be approved.

10. Appointment to Outside Body

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a report concerning a request received from the Council's Conservative group to change its representation on the Local Government Information Unit for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10.

Resolved – (1) That Councillor Roderick Bluh be appointed, as a replacement for Councillor Fionuala Foley, to serve as the Council's representative on the Local

Government Information Unit, with effect from 10th December 2009, for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10 (Councillor Kevin Small would remain as a deputy serving on this body).

(2) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be requested to make the necessary changes to the Council's Committee Composition List.

Appointments to Committees and Other Council Bodies

Special Committee

Date 9th February 2010

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

- To note a change in the membership of the Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10.
- To note changes in tenant representation on the Housing Advisory Forum.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to:

- Approve that Councillor Des Moffatt replaces Councillor Maurice Fanning as a Labour Group representative on the Council's Scrutiny Committee 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.
- Note that the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Social Care is to confirm, in liaison with the Chair of the Housing Advisory Forum, a further nomination from TASH to serve on the Housing Advisory Forum.

1 Reasons

- 1.1 The Labour Group has requested that its representation on the Council's Scrutiny Committee be changed.

2 Detail

- 2.1 The Council's Labour Group has indicated that it wishes to replace Councillor Maurice Fanning with Councillor Des Moffatt as a representative serving on the Council's Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2009/10 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 The Tenants Association for Sheltered Housing (TASH) has also advised the Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Social Care of a change in its representation on the Housing Advisory Forum, with Peter Cleary replacing Mr. Doug Read. Ms. Rita Lawrence has also resigned and this place has still to be filled.

Alternative Options

- No alternative options are proposed.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor on Direct Dial No. 463013 or Email staylor@swindon.gov.uk
Shaun Banks, Committee and Member Services, on Direct Dial No. 4636061 or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

Appointments to Committees and Other Council Bodies

Special Committee

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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 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 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
Stephen Taylor on Direct Dial No. 463013 or Email staylor@swindon.gov.uk
Shaun Banks, Committee and Member Services, on Direct Dial No. 4636061 or Email
sbanks@swindon.gov.uk