

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2012

PRESENT:- Councillors Roderick Bluh (Chair), David Renard (Vice-Chair), Mark Edwards, Fionuala Foley, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Brian Mattock, Garry Perkins and Vera Tomlinson.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Keith Williams.

Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 49, 50 and 51.
Councillor Stan Pajak attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 49, 50, 51 and 54.
Councillor Kevin Small attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 51, 55 and 56.
Councillor Steve Wakefield attended the meeting in respect of Minute 51.

45. Councillor Doreen Dart

The Chair advised that Councillor Doreen Dart had sadly died on 5th October 2012 following a short illness. Councillor Dart had been a Swindon Councillor for 24 years and was a former Cabinet Member and Mayor of the Borough (Thamesdown Borough Council 1993/94). The Cabinet held a Minute's Silence in respect of Councillor Doreen Dart.

46. Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda item 10 (Draft Local Bus Strategy 2012) as she was a Council appointed non-executive Director of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.

47. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

48. Public Question Time

The following questions were asked in accordance with Standing Order 28 –

Questioner

Mr James Lockhart, Whitmarsh-Lockhart Chartered Surveyors and Commercial Property Agents and Valuers, Swindon.

Question

Is the Council happy for the land owners agents (of which I am one) and other stakeholders to work with the Planning officers to see whether the wording of the Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft can be further strengthened to highlight the economic opportunity that Swindon can promote to the rest of the

UK and beyond by maximising the allocation of employment land at this strategic location (A420/A419)?

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Lockhart for his comments and question and advised that a response had been prepared and circulated at the meeting. The Chair and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting to the question.

Questioner

Mr Brian Cockbill, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon.

Question

(1) Was Swindon Borough Council or any of its senior officers given any prior indication that BBC Wiltshire was to stop the Graham Mack Breakfast Show?

(2) Since the Show has:- (a) only recently received a National Award; (b) has developed an invaluable and is for many residents and visitors to and passing through Swindon a valued Community asset, what representations will the Council be making to the BBC to reverse their decision?

(3) If, the BBC does not satisfy local representations on this matter, will the Authority consider an embargo on Council News to the BBC and only use alternative means of publicity?

(4) Will the three Cabinet members, four officers and any of the four other Councillors attending this evening's meeting who have received copies of my letter (to an officer of the authority who will not be named at this meeting) dated 12th October 2012 have the complete correspondence that I sent available to answer a series of further questions I intend to table?

(5) How many Occupational Therapists (OTs) do the Council
(a) employ directly or (b) through an agency?

(6) What is the lead time between a grant application being made and an OT report?

(7) Where the Council has admitted fault(s) that have delayed consideration of a grant application, what steps do the department make in compensation e.g. by giving priority to that application?

(8) There are a number of Bus Stop locations in the Borough where it appears either the materials used or how it had been laid is clearly inadequate, examples being Stratton Road (now rectified), Fairfax Close, Bus Stop R in Fleming Way and a number of Bays in the Bus Station itself. What investigation is being made to determine the cause, rectify and prevent further failures?

(9) How much money has been contributed by way of Section 106 monies to the Town Centre regeneration from: - (a) Central Public Realm and (b) Public Realm?

(10) How much money was raised in 9 (a) from: - (i) the Town Centre ward(s) i.e. Central and Eastcott; and (ii) the other Borough wards?

(11) How much of 10 (i) above: - (i) been spent and (ii) on what?

(12) How much money was raised in 9(b) from (i) the Town Centre ward(s) i.e. Central and Eastcott; and (ii) the other Borough wards?

(13) How much of 10 (ii) above: - (i) been spent and (ii) on what?

(14) Where is the 'surplus', (i.e. the difference between the total receipts

(9)(a) and (9)(b) above) and total expenditure, held at present?

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Cockbill for his questions and advised that a response had been prepared and circulated. The Chair advised that a written response would be provided to those questions where it had not been possible to get the information requested in the time available. He further advised that it would be helpful if Mr Cockbill could clarify in writing the detail of the information he was seeking in respect of question (9). He could then arrange for an appropriate written response to be prepared. The Chair and the Chief Executive responded at the meeting to a supplementary question and comments from Mr Cockbill regarding his questions (4) to (7).

Questioner

Mr Tim French, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon.

Question

Would the Cabinet, Forward Swindon Ltd. and the Contractors concerned be prepared to respond to a number of issues that had been identified as being problematical for people with disabilities associated with the new Swindon Station Forecourt scheme, in particular, issues of disabled access and the location of dropped kerbs, short term parking for people with disabilities and the distance of disabled parking from the Station, and the use of disabled parking spaces for temporary buildings during the construction phase and subsequent works?

Response

The Chair thanked Mr French for his question and advised that he would ask Forward Swindon Ltd officers involved in the project to contact Mr French to discuss and respond to the issues raised in his question.

49. Adoption of the Corporate Strategy 2012/13

The Leader of the Council and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning the preparation of the Council's Corporate Strategy, and in particular proposed amendments to the wording of the proposed five Priorities forming Part One of the Council's Corporate Strategy, and proposals for seventeen measures of success that would form Part Two of the Strategy.

The Leader of the Council commented on the work that had been undertaken to progress the Strategy and its importance to the future of the Council. The final document would be submitted to the Council for adoption.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, advised that the Labour Group was broadly supportive of the emerging Strategy. However, he would wish to see the words "health inequalities" included in the revised wording proposed for the priority relating to Health.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group, expressed his Group's support for the emerging Strategy. He suggested that the proposed revised wording of the priority relating to the economy should begin with the words "Create the environment for good economic growth". He also referred to the reference in the success measures to "370 troubled families" and to what this term meant and the limitation that could be imposed by including a number in a strategy that would be in

use for a number of years. He noted the use of the words “to no more than the average” in the section on obesity and wondered whether “less than the average” would be a more appropriate phrase to use.

The Chair commented on the work that had been undertaken to ensure that the words used in the priorities and measures of success were as understandable as possible to the widest number of people. The term “troubled families” was used as there was a Government definition for this and there were 370 families in Swindon that currently met the Government’s criteria. However, he noted the points raised by Members and together with the Head of Strategy and Innovation he would review the wording to be included in the Strategy, and also arrange for the Group Leaders to comment on the wording prior to the strategy document being presented to the Council for adoption.

Resolved – That, subject to the inclusion of any further amendments arising from Group Leaders’ comments on the final wording of the strategy document prior to it being presented to the Council -

(i) The revised wording of the Council’s proposed five Priorities, as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the joint report, be approved for inclusion in the Council’s ‘Corporate Strategy’ to be submitted to Council on the 8th November 2012.

(ii) The suite of seventeen measures of success listed in paragraph 3.5 of the joint report be approved to be submitted to Council as Part Two of the Council’s ‘Corporate Strategy’.

(iii) The Board Director, Commissioning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to finalise the ‘Corporate Strategy’ for submission to the Council on 8th November 2012.

(iv) The Board Director, Commissioning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to develop and implement a system for embedding the approved ‘Corporate Strategy’ into commissioning, financial and business plans, other key strategies, and the Council’s corporate performance management framework.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

50. An Economic Strategy for Swindon

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment submitted a joint report setting out a proposed Economic Strategy for Swindon.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, welcomed the proposed Strategy and commented on its importance to Swindon and its link to the Council’s Corporate Strategy and Local Plan. He explained that the proposed Strategy contained the actions required to improve the economic performance and competitive advantage of Swindon people and business. There would also be associated documents that would address the outcomes and delivery targets and timescales for the Strategy once adopted. He commented on the proposals to undertake a wide consultation with the whole of Swindon’s diverse business community and local residents on the proposed Strategy, and on the importance of this in ensuring that the Strategy delivered what Swindon required.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, advised that the Labour

Group was broadly supportive of the proposed Strategy and that it reflected many of the aims of his Group's own economic policy document. He believed that whilst the Strategy was good at putting forward the Council's aspirations for the Borough, the measurable outcomes and their delivery would be the key factors to its success and these had yet to be put forward.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group, commented that his Group too was broadly supportive of the emerging Strategy. He welcomed the involvement of the Swindon people in formulating the final document and commented that he would wish to see an even greater emphasis given to the promotion of Swindon to those living in the Borough as well as nationally and internationally.

Councillor Perkins thanked Councillors and Cabinet colleagues for their comments. He reiterated that the proposed Strategy formed the base document that outcomes and delivery would be built upon. He cautioned that delivery was affected by factors such as the national and world economic climate that it was hard for Swindon to control or influence. However, a robust Strategy would put Swindon in a good position to react quickly to the economic conditions in which it found itself.

Resolved – (1) That the draft Economic Strategy for Swindon, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be approved for the purposes of public consultation.

(2) That the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment be authorised to undertake a consultation programme on the draft Economic Strategy for Swindon as set out at Appendix 2 of the joint report.

(3) That it be noted that that this wider programme of consultation on the draft Economic Strategy for Swindon also includes a period of three weeks from the 24th October to the 14th November 2012 for formal written responses.

(4) That the results of the consultation referred to in (2) and (3) above, be reported back to the Cabinet at its meeting on 12th December 2012, and it be noted that the Cabinet will be asked to recommend that the Economic Strategy for Swindon be adopted at the meeting of the Council on 17th January 2013.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

51. Swindon Borough Local Plan - Pre-Submission Draft (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning and the Head of Planning submitted a joint report setting out the Pre-Submission Draft of the Swindon Borough Local Plan for the period to 2026.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning, explained that the Local Plan was the main Planning policy document for shaping the development and growth of the Borough over the period to 2026. It provided the policy framework to deliver sustainable growth, and a clear strategy for how Swindon could address the challenges it faced, identifying how much, where, when, and how new development would take place in Swindon. He commented on some of the Plan's key policies, in particular those relating to the provision and funding of infrastructure. He explained the way in which it linked to the Council's emerging Corporate and Economic Strategies, and its importance to the future of the Borough. He explained the consultation and inspection process associated with the adoption of the plan and encouraged all local residents, organisations,

businesses and developers to contribute to the process.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, welcomed the Consultation Draft and commented on the importance of the Plan to the future of the Borough. He referred to the designation of housing and employment land at Kingsdown and enquired why the status had changed. He welcomed the proposals to create a green corridor of important open spaces.

Councillor Kevin Small, Mannington and Western Ward Councillor, referred to the proposed Purton to Ifley Road link and asked whether this remained in the Local Plan. He advised that whilst the exact route might need to change to reflect the current development of the area, it remained a key project that local residents would wish to see achieved. He also welcomed the green corridor proposals and policy and the continued designation and protection of Martins Farm within the draft document.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group, welcomed the Plan and encouraged all residents to engage with the consultation process to ensure that the Council was aware of residents' views and that the adopted Plan reflected what they wished to see the future Borough become.

Councillor Steve Wakefield, Mannington and Western Ward Councillor, reiterated the comments regarding the importance of the Purton to Ifley Road link road and hoped to see its actual construction. He drew attention to the amount of proposed office development in the Town Centre area and wondered where this would be accommodated.

Councillor Heenan thanked Councillors and Cabinet colleagues for their contributions. He explained the policy in relation to green open space and corridors and confirmed that the route of the Purton to Ifley Road link road was protected in the draft Plan. However, he cautioned that construction costs were considerable with a £60m cost given four years ago. There could be no guarantee as to when and by whom this road might be constructed, but the route was protected by the Plan. He explained that much of the office development in the Town Centre would be delivered by the future phases of the Union Square development, but as the Plan covered the period until 2026 and it was likely that proposals for other Town Centre schemes would come forward as time progressed. He commented on the proposals for Kingsdown and for the Eastern Villages and explained the reasons for the changes in designations and housing numbers since the original Core Strategy had been published.

Councillor Heenan advised that he recognised that there would always be contentious and controversial issues in any plan of the magnitude of the Local Plan but he believed a great deal of effort had gone into producing a draft Plan for consultation that would provide for the sustainable growth of Swindon and its economy whilst protecting the interest and amenity of the vast majority of Swindon's residents.

Resolved – The Council be recommended that –

- (a) The Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft be endorsed for an eight week public consultation as soon as reasonably practical, in accordance with the arrangements detailed at paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 of

the joint report.

- (b) The Head of Planning and the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to make minor changes to the content of the document (if required) prior to publication, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning.
- (c) The factual data, including technical studies and other relevant information used to inform the Local Plan Pre-Submission document, as well as the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) incorporating Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Diversity Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment be made available for public inspection and comment alongside the Local Plan, in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.
- (d) The Head of Planning and the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to submit the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 for independent examination once the period of consultation is complete, together with the relevant documents and all comments received from the public consultation, subject to there being no material significant changes arising as a result of that consultation.
- (e) The Head of Planning and the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to undertake any further consultation if directed by the Inspector at the Examination of the Local Plan and/or make any minor changes in order that the Plan be found sound through the Examination, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning.
- (f) The Head of Communications and Head of Planning be requested to produce an explanatory summary to assist local residents during the consultation period.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

52. Financial Update 2012-13 and 2013-14.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property submitted a joint report concerning (a) the current forecast outturn position of the Council's Revenue Budget as at the end of August 2012, (b) the proposed move of the Integrated Community Equipment Store, (c) proposed Budget Virements, (d) the current financial position of the Housing Revenue Account and the Dedicated Schools Grant, (e) a response to a Motion at Council concerning possible financial support to first time buyers, (f) arrangements for bringing empty properties into use, (g) the transfer of Private Finance Initiative Schools to Academy status, (h) proposals for the 2013/14 Budget, and (i) proposed changes to fees and charges for Leisure services from 1st January 2013.

Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, highlighted the contents of the report and the projected outturn of the Council's Budget. He referred to the actions being taken to manage spending and the demand pressures that the

Council continued to face. Whilst he remained confident that a balanced Budget would be achieved at year-end as a result of the actions now being taken, he did not underestimate the difficulties the Council would face in both setting and achieving its Budget for 2013/14. He referred to the uncertainties around Government funding that made it extremely difficult to predict the financial position that the Council would find itself in over the next few years. He congratulated the Council's officers on their hard work and actions that they were undertaking now to equip the Council to be best placed to respond to the challenges it would face over future financial years.

Councillor Edwards commented on the various schemes available to support first time buyers in the housing market and in particular drew attention to the NewBuy Guarantee Scheme. He explained how the Council would continue to monitor the success and costs of this and similar schemes as delivered by other authorities. The Council would then be in a position to identify if this solution best met Swindon's need and to make an appropriate provision in its Budget as part of the Budget Planning process.

Resolved – (1) That the projected out-turn position of the Council's Revenue Budget for 2012/13, as set out in Table 1 and Appendices 1 and 2 of the joint report, be noted.

(2) That capital funding of up to £165,000 be made available to SEQOL to support the move of the Integrated Community Equipment Store from Waterside to Enterprise Works, in order to help SEQOL secure a more sustainable on-going financial position, and this be funded from available Capital grants for Social Care.

(3) That the Revenue Budget virements, as set out in Appendix 3 to the joint report, be approved.

(4) That the position in relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) be noted.

(5) That the balance of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) School Academy conversion costs be met from within the PFI Equalisation Reserve after contributions from the schools' existing budgets, and the White Horse Federation.

(6) That, further to the decision in (5) above and noting the contents of Appendix 4 to the joint report, the Board Director, Commissioning (DASS/DCS) be authorised to negotiate and conclude agreement with the appropriate parties in respect of all necessary and ancillary documentation to be completed for a Swindon Private Finance Initiative (PFI) School to convert to an Academy, on such terms as may be approved by the Director of Law and Democratic Services in order to protect the Council's interests.

(7) That the Chief Executive, and relevant Board Directors and Directors, be authorised to progress in-year savings in connection with the Council's 2013/14 Budget, that do not impact front-line services, and to implement these as soon as possible to create cash flow capacity, including incurring severance expenditure for staff leaving the Council's employment.

(8) That approval be given to the proposed changes to Recreation (Leisure) fees and charges from 1st January 2013, noting that a further change in pricing will also be effected part-way through 2013 following a review of the overall pricing strategy.

(9) That the update provided on the options available to support first time buyers entering the housing market be noted and the Government's NewBuy Guarantee Scheme be endorsed as the most appropriate response to the Council motion of July 2011 (Minute 25, 2011/12 of the Council).

(10) That the Council be requested to note the contents of sections 9 and 10 of the joint report in response to the Motion to Council on 21st July 2011 regarding

“Financial Support to First Time Buyers” (Minute 25, 2011/12 of the Council).

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

53. Draft Local Bus Strategy 2012

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport and the Board Director, Service Delivery submitted a joint report concerning the progress made on the development of a revised Local Bus Strategy for Swindon, and setting out the draft principles to underpin the strategy and the next steps in the development of the revised Strategy.

The Head of Highways and Transport commented on the contents of the report.

Resolved – (1) That the draft principles that will be used to shape development of a new Local Bus Strategy for Swindon Borough Council, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, titled “Towards an Updated Local Bus Strategy for Swindon Borough Council”, be approved.

(2) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to consult with local bus operators and other interested suppliers on the draft principles referred to in (1) above, and, informed by feedback through this consultation, to update the Cabinet on the draft Local Bus Strategy at its meeting on 12th December 2012; and that following any feedback from the Cabinet that officers should proceed to consult with other stakeholders on the draft strategy in December 2012 and January 2013, at the same time as consultation on the Council’s draft 2013 /14 Budget proposals.

(3) That the receipt of a petition regarding the future of Bus services 18 and 23 and that this will be dealt with in accordance with the Council’s Petition Scheme, be noted.

(Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, made a personal declaration of interest in respect of the above item as she was a Council appointed non-executive Director of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.)

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

54. Draft Statement of Community Involvement

The Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning and the Head of Planning submitted a joint report setting out a revised draft Statement of Community Involvement in the Planning Process.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning, explained that in view of legislative and other changes it was necessary to revise the Council’s existing Statement of Community Involvement. This document set out details of how the Council would involve the local community in the undertaking of its planning functions. He commented on the main features of the revised draft Statement, which would itself be subject to a public consultation exercise.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, advised that the Equalities Advisory Forum had requested more information about the Statement and about how it might become more involved in the Planning Process. Councillor Heenan agreed to ask the Head of Planning to arrange for a member of his team to attend a future meeting of the Forum to address this issue.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group, welcomed the revised statement and the encouragement given to residents and, in particular, local community groups to participate in the Planning process.

Councillor Heenan thanked Councillors for their contributions and commented that the Statement was about engagement and not just consultation with local communities.

Resolved – (1) That the draft Statement of Community Involvement in the Planning Process, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report be approved for consultation in accordance with the arrangements detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report.

(2) That the Head of Planning and the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to make minor changes to the content of the Statement of Community Involvement, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and with the Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, prior to publication for consultation.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

55. Review of Town Twinning

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report setting out a review of the current position of Town Twinning activities in and around Swindon and highlighting issues raised by members of the Town Twinning Network in response to the review.

The Chair commented on the importance of Town and Civic Twinning to Swindon.

Councillor Kevin Small, a member of the Town Twinning Network, welcomed the report and highlighted the views of the Network on the merits of Town Twinning. He believed more could be done to link Town Twinning with the Council's economic development goals and, in particular, to secure access to European Union grant funding through utilising Twinning and Twinning links. He believed that more effort should be put into encouraging young people to become involved in Twinning activities. He felt that newer Councillors should also be helped to learn more about, and become involved in, Twinning activities and that Cabinet Members should act as ambassadors within their portfolio areas to promote Twinning opportunities and service involvement.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group, welcomed the report and commented that he believed that Twinning was not often taken as seriously in the UK as it was by its international partners, where it was often seen as a matter of considerable civic pride. He referred to the Friendship Agreement with Torun in

Poland and how this had developed over the years.

The Chair thanked Councillors for their thoughtful contributions and he endorsed the importance of international links to achieving a successful local economy.

Resolved – (1) That the Cabinet confirms its commitment to Town Twinning activities in and around Swindon and recognises the potential of twinning in promoting international links involving Swindon's citizens, groups and businesses.

(2) That the Cabinet records its recognition of the value of the Town Twinning Network in providing a forum for discussion and exchange of information, in addition to supporting the development of other international links.

(3) That the importance of the Civic and Mayoral roles in supporting and promoting Town Twinning activities and that formal recognition by the Mayor's Office would provide support to the development of important international relationships, be noted.

(4) That the Council be recommended that the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor be formally appointed as *ex officio* members of the Town Twinning Network.

(5) That Cabinet Members and Board Directors be asked to consider what further support could be provided to support Town Twinning activities such as promotional and marketing activities, through the use of existing Council services.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

56. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes 2012/13

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report setting out details of the Annual Overview and Scrutiny work programmes for the Scrutiny Committee and each of the Council's four Overview and Scrutiny Committees in order that the Cabinet and Cabinet members could better co-ordinate their own work programmes with those of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Kevin Small, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, presented the report and highlighted some of the aspects of the Scrutiny Committee's and other Overview and Scrutiny Committees' work programmes for the coming Municipal Year. He commented on the involvement of Cabinet Members in the process and highlighted the need for Cabinet Members to indicate as soon as possible if they were unable to attend a meeting to which they had been invited or believed that an item appearing on a work programme was inappropriately timed.

The Chair welcomed the opportunity for Cabinet Members to engage at an early stage with the work programmes of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Resolved – That the work programmes for the Council's Scrutiny Committee and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees for the 2012/13 Municipal Year be noted, and that Cabinet Members be requested to liaise directly with those Committees and their Chairs to ensure the effective co-ordination of work programmes and the most appropriate timing of investigations and reports to be undertaken by those Committees.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the

report to the meeting.