



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2012/13

Thursday, 8 November 2012

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

31 October 2012

Dear Councillor,

Summons to attend Council Meeting

A MEETING of the **Council**, which you are requested to attend, is to be held at the CIVIC OFFICES, SWINDON, on **Thursday, 8 November 2012 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business to be transacted will be as follows:-

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Communications**
To receive any communications or letters which the Mayor or Chief Executive may have to bring before the Council.
- 3. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 12)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th September 2012.
- 4. 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.

5. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below.

6. Minutes for Confirmation (Pages 13 - 84)

Minute for Confirmation - Minute 51 of the Cabinet. The Cabinet report and Appendix 1a are attached for Members' information. All other appendices relating to the Cabinet report form Annex 1 to the Cabinet Agenda for the meeting held on 17th October 2012 which is available on the Council's website.

7. Motions

(a) Motion - Section 106 Funding

Councillor Bob Wright will move and Councillor Peter Watts will second:

"This Council recognises the need for Section 106 money from developers to both mitigate the effects of development on local communities and to assist local authorities in addressing future affordable housing, transport and education demand. Furthermore with substantial government funding cuts already taking place which has significantly reduced the Council's ability to commit to significant capital projects without increasing its borrowing levels, this Council is committed to negotiating Section 106 agreements with developers that gets the best deal for local residents.

This Council is concerned about recent government announcements, including from the Prime Minister, which have encouraged local authorities to renegotiate existing Section 106 agreements with developers in order to stimulate the economy. Indeed this Council is worried that measures are already taking place which could be reducing Section 106 income from developers.

This Council does not think that renegotiating existing Section 106 agreements with developers will have any impact on the local economy and should the administration be considering renegotiating existing Section 106 agreements, requests that this be done in the most open, democratic and transparent way. With this in mind Council requests the Lead Member for Strategic Planning to bring forward a report to the next Cabinet Meeting detailing which Section 106 agreements are currently in the process of being renegotiated and why they are being renegotiated."

(b) Motion - Use of Bailiffs

Councillor Des Moffatt will move and Councillor Stan Pajak will second:

"This Council recognises the fact that bailiffs need to be used by Swindon Borough Council in order to help the Council claw back as much money from those in arrears of Council-Tax, as possible. However Council believes that the bailiffs acting on its behalf should fully comply with the law and its intent and is concerned by allegations that this isn't always happening.

Furthermore, with recent proposals to make full council-tax benefit recipients pay 20% of their council-tax bill and the government's housing

benefit changes, this Council is concerned that such unseemly practices will become more widespread.

With this in mind, this Council instructs its Director of Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property to present a report to Cabinet detailing ways the Council can ensure bailiffs who are acting on behalf of the Council fully comply with the law and its intent.”

(c) **Motion -Development**
Councillor Stan Pajak will move and Councillor Ann Richards will second:

“This Council wishes the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to note the following:

Swindon Borough Council believes that local people, through their democratically elected local authorities, are the most suitable judges of what development is acceptable in an area and the suitable level of contributions that developers need to make:

This Council opposes:

- The Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to have powers to override agreements between Councils and developers over the number of affordable housing units allocated to planning applications.
- The Secretary of State's proposals for planning permission – currently required for extensions of more than three or four metres from the rear wall of any home – to only be needed for those reaching beyond 8m for detached homes and 6m for others
- The Secretary of State's intention to override Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990 which will allow developers to immediately appeal to the Planning Inspectorate over the allocation of affordable housing units in any scheme they maybe concerned with.
- The Secretary of State's proposals for the Planning Inspectorate to take planning powers away from local authorities which he deems to be slow or of making poor quality planning decisions in determining applications.

This Council notes that the current Coalition government did listen earlier in the year over concerns regarding the National Planning Policy Framework and revised its plans accordingly, so urges the Government to listen to the concerns being expressed by the cross-party LGA:

This Council however welcomes other parts of the stimulus package including:

- £300 million to provide 15,000 affordable homes across the country
- An extension of the refurbishment programme to bring an extra 5,000 empty homes back into use
- £280m for FirstBuy, the shared equity scheme to give a further

16,500 first time buyers the chance to own their own homes

- Up to £10bn of guarantees to housing associations, property management companies and developers which will be able to use the guarantees to secure lower borrowing costs. This will lead to hundreds of thousands of extra rental homes being built.

(d) **Motion - Future Cities**

Councillor Dale Heenan will move and Councillor Mark Dempsey will second:

“This Council notes the recent successful bid of £50k from the Technology Strategy Board to help towns and cities evaluate the potential benefits of integrating their city systems around energy, transport and ICT and to develop a full proposal for a large scale demonstrator project.

This Council notes that Swindon’s study will build on already innovative projects in the Borough and investigate the potential benefits of an integrated “smart” energy, data and transport system, and the wider economic benefits this could bring to Swindon.

This Council resolves in principle to support the Future Cities Demonstrator project to be undertaken if Swindon is the preferred proposal and is awarded the £24m to implement this project.

Council notes that the Leader of the Council along with the Leaders of the Opposition and Minority Groups will sign a joint letter to the Technology Strategy Board in support of the bid.”

(e) **Motion - Street Market**

Councillor Emma Faramarzi will move and Councillor Vera Tomlinson will second:

“The Council notes that:

- In 2008 the Licensing Committee restricted street trading in parts of the town centre including Havelock Square. This decision was ratified by full council in 2009.
- InSwindon decided to set up a weekly market in Havelock Square, and obtained planning consent but did not apply for a street trading consent licence.
- A Licensing Committee review of street trading in the town centre will be completed by the end of the current Municipal Year.

This Council believes that a town centre market is necessary and should be encouraged, and requests that Officers work with InSwindon to identify an appropriate site to enable a Christmas Market to be held in the town centre, and that any issues around a weekly market are resolved as soon as practicable.”

8. **Corporate Strategy** (Pages 85 - 94)
To consider the Council's Corporate Strategy.
9. **WG Little Trust Fund Properties** (Pages 95 - 98)
To consider a report relating to the assets held within the WG Little Trust Fund.
10. **Standards Committee Annual Report** (Pages 99 - 110)
To receive the Standards Committee Annual Report, 2011/2012.
11. **Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members** (Pages 111 - 122)
Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Cabinet Member in respect of Cabinet minutes (which are not reserved for Council for decision). There are no Cabinet Member delegated decisions for consideration.
12. **Minutes of other Council Bodies**
Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Chair in respect of all other Committee minutes (not reserved to Council for decision), as set out in the Minute Book circulated separately.
13. **Councillors Question Time**
Questions (if any) of which notice has been given by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 15.

Yours faithfully

Director of Law and Democratic Services

Questions by Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 11

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 Council (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.

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COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Rex Barnett, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Wayne Crabbe, Doreen Dart, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Neil Heavens, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Rochelle Russell, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Steve Wakefield, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, David Wood, Robert Wright and Julie Wright.

38. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Baker, Teresa Page, Nicky Sewell and Keith Williams.

39. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

40. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2012, be confirmed and signed.

41. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ray Ballman made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as she was a former member of Unison.

Councillor Michal Dickinson made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as he was a member of Unison.

Councillor Jim Grant made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as he was a member of Unison.

Councillor Fay Howard made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as she was a member of Unison.

Councillor Brian Mattock made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as he was a retired member of Unison.

Councillor Stan Pajak made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as he was a member of Unite and his wife was a member of Unison.

Councillor Steve Wakefield made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as he was a member of Unison.

Councillor Nadine Watts made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as she was the Secretary of the Swindon Trade Union Council.

Councillor Peter Watts made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(a) as he was a former member of Unison.

Councillor Ray Ballman made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(b) as she was an allotment holder and a member of the Swindon Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association.

Councillor Cindy Matthews made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(b) as she was a Trustee of the Swindon Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association.

Councillor Des Moffatt made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item 8(b) as he was an allotment holder.

42. Public Question Time

Mr. Brian Cockbill submitted written questions relating to (a) a leaflet circulated in parts of Coleview and Nythe by Conservative Councillors, (b) adoption of roads at Oakley Park estate at Stratton St Margaret, (c) planning related issues at Oakley Park estate at Stratton St Margaret, (d) the condition of a Council owned property at Holbein Court, Grange Park, (f) allowing a ward councillor to respond to an issues at Public Question Time, (g) the receipt of a response requested by the Scrutiny Committee, and (h) the Mechanics Institute.

Written responses were tabled at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplementary question relating to the use of land at Colebrook for a play area.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplementary question relating to whether a leaflet distributed by Conservative Group Councillors in parts of Coleview and Nythe was an official Conservative Party leaflet.

The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplementary question relating to comments made by the current Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability when a planning application for planning permission for Oakley Park, Coleview was considered by the Planning Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplementary question relating to the rescheduling of the Scrutiny Committee programme of work.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee responded at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplementary question relating to an individual application for welfare work.

The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplementary question relating to a referendum on a Canal through Swindon Town Centre.

The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplementary question relating to the future provision of bus services.

The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. Lancett made available to Councillors a Statement of Personal Interest and asked the Leader of the Council if he would consider the issues raised with it.

The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. Adye Goodenough asked the Leader of the Council a question regarding the lack of anti flood defences in the Eastern Villages and whether this was a matter of concern to the Council.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting.

Mr. Adye Goodenough asked the Leader of the Council a question about the potential development of the Large Pickards Field site.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting.

43. Minutes for Confirmation

(1) Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 32 of the Cabinet (Local Government Ombudsman’s Annual Letter 2011/12) be confirmed and adopted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(2) Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor Jim Grant seconded and Councillor Stan Pajak concurred:

“That Minute 36 of the Cabinet (Military Covenant – Motion at Council) be confirmed and adopted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried

(3) Councillor Richard Hurley moved and Councillor Andrew Bennett seconded:

That Minute 11 of the Licensing Committee (Introduction of a Licensing Regime for Sexual Entertainment Venues) be confirmed and adopted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(4) Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

That Minute 43(6) of the Cabinet (Street Lighting and Traffic Signals Review) be noted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

44. Appointment of Representative to Serve on the Joint Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor David Renard second:

“That Councillor Andrew Bennett replace Councillor Roderick Bluh as a member serving of the Joint Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel for remainder of the Municipal Year, 2012/13.”

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Kevin Small seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“That consideration of the appointment of a replacement representative to serve on Joint Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel for remainder of the Municipal Year, 2012/13 be deferred until the next meeting of this Council.

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and carried.

45. Motion - Unison

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Stan Pajak seconded:

“Swindon Borough Council recognises the role that UNISON has with regard to consultation, negotiation and representation on behalf of the Council’s employees.

Following consultation on the proposal to reduce central funding for UNISON facility time, Swindon Borough Council believes that the most efficient and effective way of meeting its responsibilities as an employer in its relationship with UNISON is to continue to centrally fund the equivalent of 1.5 full-time posts to undertake this role. Accordingly, Council urges Cabinet to request a report from the Head of People and Change as to how this can be achieved.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

A formal division was requested in accordance with Standing Order 14(2).

Members voting for the motion were Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Stan Pajak, Julian Price, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Rochelle Russell, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Steve Wakefield, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright

Members voting against the motion were Councillors Rex Barnett, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Doreen Dart, Michael Dickinson, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Brian Mattock, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard and Vera Tomlinson.

(Councillor Ray Ballman made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as she was a former member of Unison.)

(Councillor Michal Dickinson made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was a member of Unison.)

(Councillor Jim Grant made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was a member of Unison.)

(Councillor Fay Howard made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as she was a member of Unison.)

(Councillor Brian Mattock made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was a retired member of Unison.)

(Councillor Stan Pajak made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was a member of Unite and his wife was a member of Unison.)

Councillor Steve Wakefield made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was a member of Unison.)

(Councillor Nadine Watts made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as she was the Secretary of the Swindon Trade Union Council.)

(Councillor Peter Watts made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was a former member of Unison.)

46. Motion - Allotments

Councillor Cindy Matthews moved and Councillor Steve Wakefield seconded:

“This Council recognizes the role its allotments play in bringing exercise, fresh food and a sense of self-sufficiency to many of its local residents.

This Council notes that there is a large waiting list for Swindon Council allotment plots, while many of Swindon Council's allotment plots have been left unused for a number of months.

This Council notes the expression of interest from the Swindon Allotment and Leisure Gardens Association, an organisation representing the views of Swindon's allotment holders, for taking over the management of Swindon Borough Council's allotments.

With this in mind, Council requests Cabinet to consider establishing an allotments cooperative organisation, which will manage and collect the rents from the users of Swindon Borough Council's allotment sites.

Prior to Cabinet considering this, this Council requests that the Lead Member establishes a cross-party working group to produce detailed recommendations to Cabinet of how this cooperative organisation will work in practice and how the users of Swindon Borough Council's allotments can play a much greater role in managing these allotments.”

Councillor Brian Ford moved and Councillor Toby Elliott seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“This Council recognizes the role its allotments play in bringing exercise, fresh food and a sense of self-sufficiency to many of its local residents.

This Council notes that there is a large waiting list for Swindon Council allotment plots, many of which are for specific plots resulting in some plots being left unused for a number of months.

This Council notes that the Administration made an offer to start discussion on self-management on 13th June 2012 and notes the subsequent expression of interest from the Swindon Allotment and Leisure Gardens Association, an organisation representing the views of Swindon's allotment holders, for the self-management of Swindon Borough Council's allotments.

With this in mind, Council requests the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services to consider establishing an allotments cooperative organisation, which will manage and collect the rents from the users of Swindon Borough Council's allotment sites. Prior to Cabinet considering this, this Council requests that the Cabinet Member invites the Economic, Environmental and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate how this cooperative organisation will work in practice and how the users of Swindon Borough Council's allotments can play a much greater role in managing these allotments.

The amendment was put to the vote and declared carried.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor Ray Ballman made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as she was an allotment holder and a member of the Swindon Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association.

(Councillor Cindy Matthews made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as she was a Trustee of the Swindon Allotments and Leisure Gardens Association.)

(Councillor Des Moffatt made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was an allotment holder.)

47. Motion - Green Waste Collections

Councillor Mark Dempsey moved and Councillor Neil Heavens seconded:

“This Council expresses its concern at the present standard of green waste collection within the Borough and requests that the Cabinet produce a report for the next Council meeting outlining what action will be taken to improve the service”

Councillor Peter Heaton-Jones moved and Councillor Emma Faramarzi seconded that the motion be amended to read:

“This Council expresses its concern at the recent increase of green waste collection and a reduction in waste taken by residents to the household waste recycling centre.

This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services and the Streetsmart Service Delivery Manager produce a report for Cabinet as soon as practicable outlining what action will be taken to manage future demand.”

The Amended Motion was put to the vote and carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

48. Motion - Provision of Infrastructure

“The provision of Infrastructure in the Eastern Villages is of huge concern to local residents and local Councillors on the East of Swindon, particularly the issue of traffic.

This Council requests:

- The Head of Highways and Transport ensures that the option of an Eastern link road at either Dorcan or Commonhead is properly considered.
- The Head of Highways and Transport ensures that the White Hart junction rebuild, the Green bridge over the A419, an Eastern Link road and any other necessary projects are included in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan under the Community Infrastructure Levy.

- The Head of Planning ensures that any future Supplementary Planning Document for the Eastern Villages includes the appropriate transport links like the White Hart junction rebuild, the Green bridge over the A419 and an Eastern link road.
- The Board Directors of Service Delivery and Commissioning, and the Chief Executive review all of the available funding for the Eastern Villages infrastructure and opens talks with Government to provide any shortfall.”

With the agreement of the Council the Motion was amended to read:

“The provision of Infrastructure in the Eastern Villages is of huge concern to local residents and local Councillors on the East of Swindon, particularly the issue of traffic.

This Council recognises and values the hard work that has been carried out by local residents and Parish Councils to address these issues. This Council will continue to consult as part of the decision making process.

This Council requests:

- The Head of Highways and Transport ensures that the option of an Eastern link road at either Dorcan or Commonhead is properly considered.
- The Head of Highways and Transport ensures that the White Hart junction rebuild, the Green bridge over the A419, an Eastern Link road and any other necessary projects are included in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan under the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- The Head of Planning ensures that any future Supplementary Planning Document for the Eastern Villages includes the appropriate transport links like the White Hart junction rebuild, the Green bridge over the A419 and an Eastern link road.
- The Board Directors of Service Delivery and Commissioning, and the Chief Executive review all of the available funding for the Eastern Villages infrastructure and opens talks with Government to provide any shortfall.”

The Motion as amended was put to the vote and declared carried.

49. Motion - Housing

Councillor Steve Allsopp moved and Councillor Julie Wright seconded:

“This Council notes the local housing challenges over the next decade. These challenges include:

- The effects of Housing Benefit changes
- The need to kickstart housing developments at strategic sites in order to stimulate the local economy, with particular reference to Wichelstowe

- The increasing demand for social housing **and the need to ensure there are mixed developments**

- And the increasing numbers of families unable to afford home ownership, while there is a lack of medium-term private rented housing for families

In order to meet the increasing demand for private sector rented housing for families, Council requests its Board Director for Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property to present a report to Cabinet detailing how the Council can use its current property portfolio to establish a joint venture vehicle with a developer, which establishes housing developments that would orientate towards long term private sector tenancies (10 years+), with an inflation linked rent review. This would unlock the value of Council land, help stimulate an ailing construction sector and bring a new model of providing market facing rented accommodation in Swindon, driving up standards and supporting social cohesion.

This Council also requests its Board Director for Service Delivery to organise a Housing Conference with all the different kinds of local housing stakeholders invited, including tenants in private and social housing, to shape how Swindon faces the specific housing challenges detailed above.”

With the agreement of the mover and seconder the Motion was amended to read:

“This Council recognises the need to assist individuals and families to secure appropriate accommodation. This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing and the Board Director for Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property produce a report summarising the key issues and options for addressing those issues. It should include how the Council can use its current property portfolio to establish a joint-venture vehicle with a developer, which establishes housing developments that would orientate towards long term private sector tenancies (10 years+), with an inflation linked rent review.

This Council requests that Cabinet consider a conference in light of any issues raised by the report.”

The amended Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

50. Motion - Leisure Facilities

Councillor John Haines moved and Councillor Claire Ellis seconded:

“This Council welcomes the Administration’s commitment to promoting access to sport through a range of public and private sector providers.

This Council supports Moirai, the private sector company providing a £65m refurbishment of the Oasis and its bid to have an Olympics Basketball court re-sited in Swindon.

This Council congratulates the Administration for taking the bold step to seek a private sector option to rebuild the Oasis, and notes this would have been unaffordable if left to the Swindon Taxpayers alone.

This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport ensure that the Leisure Libraries, Culture and Parks options appraisal due for consideration by Cabinet contains full details of Swindon's Olympic legacy."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

51. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 11th July and 5th September 2012, (b) decisions taken by Cabinet Members relating to delegated decisions taken under their portfolio responsibilities, and (c) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received.

52. Minutes of other Council Bodies

The Council (a) received the Minutes set out in the "Minutes of Other Council Bodies" circulated with the Agenda, and (b) considered questions to Chairs regarding the work of their Committees and other bodies and answers received.

53. Councillors Question Time

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that Standing Order 15 Questions have been received from Councillors Steve Allsopp, Jim Grant, Derique Montaut, Ann Richards and Bob Wright.

Councillor Steve Allsopp asked the Cabinet Member for Finance if he would agree to circulate the analysis referred to in paragraph 4 of the Cabinet Members' response to all Councillors once it was available.

The Cabinet Member for Finance agreed to circulate the analysis to all Councillors for their information.

Councillor Bob Wright queried the response given in answers 9 and 10 indicating that he believed that there was a development not accounted for.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability indicated he was happy to discuss the sites in question with Councillor Bob Wright.

Councillor Bob Wright queried the accuracy of the response given in answers 14 and 15.

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded setting out the provision of new facilities to off-set any loss of playing pitches.

Councillor Bob Wright queried whether the actions set out in answers 16 and 17 were safe.

Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services clarified the guidance offered to dog owners.

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MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 17 OCTOBER 2012

**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.

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Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 – Pre-Submission Draft

Cabinet

Date: 17th October 2012

Author:	Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning and Head of Planning
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 is the main planning policy document for shaping the development and growth of the Borough over the next fifteen years, and provides the policy framework to deliver sustainable growth. The Local Plan provides a clear strategy for how Swindon can address the challenges we face and identifies how much, where, when, and how new development will take place in Swindon Borough
- 1.2 The Local Plan includes a series of policies to ensure new development is of the highest possible quality design and sustainable construction, meets the requirements to take account of and mitigate for flood risk, provides opens space and affordable housing where appropriate, and ensure developers contribute to the necessary infrastructure. It also includes policies to protect green spaces, historic assets and important landscape features and provides for the continued separate identity of the villages adjacent to Swindon and a 'buffer' zone between the Commonhead development and Coate Water Country Park.
- 1.3 Swindon Borough Council has a responsibility to continue delivering the much-needed regeneration of the town centre but also to plan for growth in a way that benefits existing and future residents of the Borough. Sustainable development is about providing homes, local jobs and a vibrant and successful town centre; and; it is also about creating inclusive, cohesive, safe and healthy communities. Fundamental to this is the timely provision of infrastructure.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is requested to recommend the Council;

- 2.1 To endorse the Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre-Submission Draft 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 this report; and
- 2.2 Authorise the Head of Planning and the Director of Law and Democratic Services 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.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phil Smith, Direct Dial 01793 466443, psmith@swindon.gov.uk.

Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 – Pre-Submission Draft

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Date: 17th October 2012

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- 2.3 Authorise 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 to be made available for public inspection and comment alongside the Local Plan, in accordance with the Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement.
- 2.4 Authorise the Head of Planning and the Director of Law and Democratic Services 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.
- 2.5 Authorise the Head of Planning and the Director of Law and Democratic Services 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.
- 2.6 Authorise the Head of Communications and Head of Planning to work on an explanatory summary to assist local residents during the consultation period.

3. Detail

- 3.1 Swindon Borough Council requires a new Local Plan, and the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 (NPPF), make it important that an up-to-date Local Plan is in place as soon as possible.
- 3.2 With an up-to-date plan the Borough Council will have a clear strategy for the future growth of the town and will not be reliant on the NPPF in determining planning applications. Furthermore, it allows the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy to secure pooled developer contributions for infrastructure, and ensure Swindon is in a favourable position to bid for future funding to deliver our ambitions.
- 3.3 A full draft of the Swindon Borough Local Plan Pre-Submission can be found in the Members Room, and has been distributed to members electronically. A copy of only the key policies can be found in Appendix 1a.

The Content of the Local Plan

- 3.4 The legal requirement for Local Planning Authorities is to produce a Local Plan that is "aspirational but realistic" and only include policies "that provide a clear indication of how a decision maker should react to a development proposal."

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- 3.5 The Local Plan sets out a number of strategic priorities in line with those of One Swindon, specifically enabling economic growth and continued regeneration of the town centre whilst providing a place where people have active, healthy and quality lives. A copy of the Local Plan can be found at Appendix 1b and a copy of the Proposals Map can be found at Appendix 2.
- 3.6 The Local Plan includes policies to deliver:
- 3.6.1 The homes and jobs needed in the Borough;
 - 3.6.2 The necessary infrastructure to support growth and regeneration;
 - 3.6.3 The provision of health, education, community and cultural facilities, and
 - 3.6.4 Climate change mitigation and adaption, conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment, including landscape.

Economic and Housing Growth

- 3.7 In line with the draft Economic Strategy and independent assessments, the Local Plan is based on an increase of 19,600 jobs in Swindon over the next fifteen years. To provide for business growth and investment, the location of 77.5 hectares (191 acres) of employment land, together with 90,000m² of town centre office space is set out, and is in addition to 43 hectares (106 acres) of existing permissions. This provides a large 'buffer' to ensure growth is delivered throughout the plan period, and enable investment by the business sector.
- 3.8 The housing requirement has to meet household and population projections, taking into account migration and demographic changes. The main consideration is the forecast reduction in average household size, largely as result in a growth of single person households, which is predicted to require one third of all the predicted new dwellings in Swindon, and economic migrants attracted to job opportunities in the Borough. It is critical for business retention and growth that a sufficient local workforce is provided for. A further consideration is to reduce unsustainable net in-commuting so that more people live and work in the Borough. These factors produce a requirement for 22,000 more dwellings for the period 2011 to 2026 (including those already with planning permission). This requirement is supported by independent figures and trends from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- 3.9 To maintain housing growth in line with economic forecasts and demographic changes, and prevent the unnecessary release of additional greenfield land, the annual average requirement for the Borough will be set at 1,150 for the period 2011-2016. The long term average housing completion rate over the last twenty years in the Borough between 1991 and 2011 is 1,043 per year.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phil Smith, Direct Dial 01793 466443, psmith@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.10 The completion targets will be regularly reviewed so if economic and housing growth is sustained in line with the Local Plan, then the housing target will be increased in 2017 to ensure an average of about 1,450 dwellings per annum over the plan period. If economic and housing growth is not sustained in line with the Local Plan, then the target will be reviewed.

Strategic Allocations

- 3.11 The Local Plan must allocate strategic sites within the Borough where housing should be located. It is important to recognise that while there are significant a number of houses with planning permission in the Borough, only a proportion of these can be completed within the next 5 years, including those at Wichelstowe, Commonhead and Tadpole Farm. If the Local Plan does not allocate sites then the Borough Council will be unable to properly defend against less sustainable unidentified sites coming forward, potentially through the appeal process, and small short term opportunistic sites. The Council must retain its ability to plan and deliver the required infrastructure in a timely and cost effective manner.
- 3.12 The strategic allocations and remaining distribution of housing and employment land is shown in Table 1 below for the period 2011-2026.

Table 1: Strategic allocations and remaining distribution of housing and employment land

	Dwellings	Additional Employment Land & Floorspace
Swindon's Central Area	about 1,000	90,000 m ² office
Remainder Swindon's existing urban area	about 3,500	
Northern Development Area	589	
Wichelstowe	4,064	12.5 hectares
Commonhead	890	15 hectares
Tadpole Farm	1,695	5 hectares
New Eastern Villages	about 6,000	40 hectares
Rowborough	about 1,500	

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South Marston Village: Greenfield Brownfield	500 about 140	
Kingsdown	about 1,650	
Highworth	at least 200*	5 hectares
Wroughton	at least 150*	
Other Villages	at least 100*	

*The Neighbourhood Planning process allows for the additional allocation of specific numbers of dwellings above that set in adopted Local Plans.

- 3.13 In order to provide for a continuation of employment land in the short-term it is anticipated that the allocation land at the Eastern Villages is released early within the context of the overall vision for the area.

Town Centre Regeneration

- 3.14 The Local Plan reinforces the Councils approach to Swindon Town Centre. It also includes policies to ensure the town centre is the first choice for uses that appropriate to be located there, including a regional leisure destination facility.

Other Policies

- 3.15 The Local Plan includes a series of policies to ensure new development is of the highest possible quality design and sustainable construction, meets the requirements to take account of and mitigate for flood risk, provides the requisite opens space and affordable housing, and contributes to the necessary infrastructure.
- 3.16 It also includes policies to protect green spaces, historic assets and important landscape features. It provides for the continued separate identity of the villages adjacent to Swindon and a 'buffer' zone between the Commonhead development and Coate Water Country Park.
- 3.17 The Local Plan sets the context for Neighbourhood Planning, by which Parish/Town Council or Neighbourhood Forum can develop detailed plans and strategies for their area. Any Neighbourhood Plans produced will have to be in accord with Swindon Borough Local Plan to be found sound and to proceed to adoption.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phil Smith, Direct Dial 01793 466443, psmith@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.18 This document sets out a fully costed estimate of all the infrastructure needs for Swindon over the next fifteen years and is provided alongside the Local Plan (Appendix 3). This infrastructure represents total expenditure in excess of £1.4 billion in Swindon. Examples of infrastructure include schools and roads.
- 3.19 This infrastructure will be implemented in a controlled manner over a 15-year period and will be delivered by both the public and private sector. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will serve as an important policy document to help the Council seek external funding and focus its spending. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be a key document for bidding for government funding to cover any shortfall.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 If Cabinet recommends the Pre-Submission Draft of the Swindon Borough Local Plan to Full Council and approval is subsequently endorsed, the Local Plan will be available for public consultation for a period of eight weeks as soon as reasonably practical. Copies of the Local Plan, and accompanying documents, would be distributed to a wide range of statutory consultees, including Town and Parish Councils, community councils and residents' associations. The documents would be made available for inspection at the Civic Offices, at libraries throughout the Borough, and on the Council's website. A statutory notice and press release will be made available to local media.
- 4.2 Following completion of the public consultation period, all representations and suggested minor changes by the Council to the Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State along with the Local Plan. The Local Plan will then be subject to an independent examination undertaken by an appointed Planning Inspector. The Inspector will then prepare a report which will recommend any changes to final version of the Local Plan before it is adopted. The Inspectorate has been informed of our timescales.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Council could delay the Local Plan and instead rely on the saved policy framework contained within the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2011 and the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan. However, in March 2013 the existing adopted planning documents will be superseded by the NPPF, therefore it is important that the period between March 2013 and adoption of our Local Plan is minimised so that sites do not come forward with no means of control. Without an up-to-date Local Plan, the Borough has no defence in accepting development that may be in the wrong place at the wrong time and without essential infrastructure. Additionally if the Local Plan is not adopted by April 2014 the Council would not be able to adopt a Community Infrastructure Levy, meaning that infrastructure would not be funded. Finally the Local Plan provides a means

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phil Smith, Direct Dial 01793 466443, psmith@swindon.gov.uk.

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of supporting our aspirations for how the town should develop to 2026. Without a clear strategy SBC will be at a disadvantage in bidding for infrastructure funding.

6. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1 The financial implications arising from publishing and consulting the Local Plan are to be met from existing Forward Planning budgets for 2012/2013. A reserve is in place to cover the costs of the Examination as part of medium term business planning.
- 6.2 The Swindon Local Plan is a Strategic Planning Policy document, and as such, it does not necessarily commit the Council itself to funding proposals contained within it.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 6.3 The content of this report will not have a direct implication on human rights issues, in so far as greater opportunities will be available to individuals to partake in the planning process.
- 6.4 There are no direct legal issues arising from the report. The production and adoption of the Local Plan is a process covered by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and associated regulations.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 6.5 The Council has a duty to ensure that the preparation of the Local Plan is in accordance with the sustainability principles of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 6.6 The Local Plan has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Health Impact Assessment to ensure that the impact of proposals can be minimised with the least negative impact possible on the Plan area.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 6.7 The Swindon Local Plan will have a key role in implementing many of the Corporate Plan's priorities and are fundamental in delivering key elements of the themes of "One Swindon".

Diversity Impact Assessment

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phil Smith, Direct Dial 01793 466443, psmith@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 6.8 The Local Plan has been subject to a Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) and no major adverse impacts were predicted. Updates to the DIA will be made, if required, as the Local Plan progresses to adoption.

Risk Management

- 6.9 Delay to the Local Plan could undermine the Council's vision to create and realise Swindon's aspirations for development at Swindon will not be achieved, as sites will come forward with no means of control. Furthermore, if the Local Plan is not in place by March 2013, the NPPF will serve as a material consideration until such time it is adopted. This could mean that the Borough has no defence in accepting development that may be in the wrong place at the wrong time and without essential infrastructure. If the Local Plan is not adopted by April 2014 we would be at risk of not having a development plan in place on which to base our Community Infrastructure Levy.

7. Consultees

- 7.1 The Board Director, Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Swindon Borough Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPDs – Revised Proposed Submission (March 2011) and Strategic Environmental Assessment incorporating Sustainability Appraisal.

9. Appendices (electronic copies on the Council's Website and in the Members Room)

Appendix 1a: Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 – Key Policies

Appendix 1b: Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 'Pre - Submission Document' and Appendices

Appendix 2: Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 Proposals Map

Appendix 3: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) incorporating Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA), Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and the Duty to Cooperate Statement

10. Key Decision/Decision in Forward Plan

- 10.1 This is not a Key Decision as the Council will adopt the Local Plan and is included in the Cabinet Forward Plan/ Work Programme for October 2012.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phil Smith, Direct Dial 01793 466443, psmith@swindon.gov.uk.

Appendix 1a – Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026 Policies

Policy SD1 Sustainable Development Principles

To enable the delivery of sustainable development and sustainable communities in the Borough all development proposals will:

- **be of high quality design;**
- **promote healthy, safe and inclusive communities;**
- **respect, conserve, and enhance the natural, built and historic environment;**
- **assess and address the impact of climate change through mitigation and / or adaption measures;**
- **provide or contribute to the assessed local and borough wide infrastructure and service requirements;**
- **contribute to the retention and growth of the local economy and complement town centre regeneration;**
- **be accessible by walking, cycling and/or public transport; and,**
- **use land and resources (such as water, energy, minerals and waste) in an efficient and effective way; and**

Policy SD2: The Sustainable Development Strategy

- a. Recognising its role and function in the wider area development in the Borough will be concentrated at Swindon through a combination of:**
 - **realising development opportunities within Swindon's urban area; and,**
 - **allocated strategic sites at; Wichelstowe, Commonhead, Tadpole Farm, Kingsdown and the proposed New Eastern Villages, Rowborough and expanded South Marston, as defined on the Key Diagram;**
- b. The Swindon Central Area, as defined on the Key Diagram and at Figure 7, will be the main focus and first preference for the location of built civic, cultural, further education, office, retail, leisure and regional sports facilities.**
- c. Outside Swindon:**
 - **rural development will be located primarily at Highworth and Wroughton, which (of the rural settlements) are the most accessible and maintain the largest range of facilities;**
 - **South Marston will be extended as part of the allocated strategic extension sites in part a. above;**
 - **development at Broad Blunsdon, Chiseldon, Wanborough and Bishopstone will be supported where it delivers (at least) the quantum of development identified in the Plan and responds positively to address local needs through the Neighbourhood Plan process or further site allocation work as detailed in policy LN1; and,**
 - **development proposals in rural and countryside locations outside these named settlements will be permitted where:**
 - **local needs have been identified and allocated through**

a Neighbourhood Plan or Neighbourhood Development Order, and /or;

- it supports the expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in appropriate locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities in rural service centre; or
- the proposals satisfy the policy requirements of this Plan.

d. Sustainable economic and housing growth will be delivered in Swindon Borough during the plan period through the provision of:

- 120.26 hectares of employment land through:
 - 77.5 hectares of additional employment land; and,
 - 42.76 hectares with permission and existing allocations
- About 22,000 homes between 2011 and 2026, phased as follows:
 - 1,150 per annum between 2011 and 2016; and,
 - 1,625 per annum between 2016 and 2026.

e. This quantum of employment land and housing numbers for the period 2011-26 will be distributed as set out below:

	Dwellings	Additional Employment Land & Floorspace
Swindon's Central Area	about 1,000	90,000 m ² office
Remainder Swindon's existing urban area	about 3,500	
Northern Development Area	589	
Wichelstowe	4,064	12.5 hectares

Commonhead	890	15 hectares
Tadpole Farm	1,695	5 hectares
New Eastern Villages	about 6,000	about 40 hectares
Rowborough	about 1,500	
South Marston Village:		
Greenfield	500	
Brownfield	about 140	
Kingsdown	about 1,650	
Highworth	at least 200*	5 hectares
Wroughton	at least 150*	
Other Villages	at least 100*	

The Northern Development Area, Wichelstowe, Commonhead and Tadpole Farm have existing permissions. The number of dwellings and employment land for these area are per the permissions.

* The Neighbourhood Planning process allows for the additional allocation of specific numbers of dwellings above that set in adopted Local Plans, where they have been tested through the Neighbourhood Planning process, and the Plans proceed to adoption by the Borough Council.

Policy SD3: Managing Development

- a. **When considering development proposals, a positive approach will be taken to reflect a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This means:**
 - **applicants will work with the local planning authority to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions, and promotes health and well-being, for those**

people living and working in Swindon Borough;

- **planning applications that are in accordance with the policies in this Local Plan (and with policies in adopted neighbourhood plans) will be approved, unless material considerations indicate otherwise; and,**
- **where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the Borough Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:**
 - **any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or**
 - **specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted**

b. At all major development areas:

- **following outline permission being given to proposals comprehensive Design Codes and / or Framework Plans will be adopted prior to the approval of any Reserved Matters;**
- **management strategies will be agreed to secure the long term maintenance of infrastructure prior to development, and**
- **the production of Diversity Impact Assessments and Health Impact Assessments will be encouraged**

c. For the Swindon Central Area a Masterplan will be produced to give further guidance to development proposals to realise the

aims of this Plan and the Central Area Action Plan

- d. For the Strategic Allocations a tariff or model legal agreement will be developed to ensure timely delivery of infrastructure, maintenance and mitigation and fair and equitable contributions between phases. This will require landowners to enter into equalisation agreements.**
- e. For the New Eastern Villages (including Rowborough), and South Marston Village Supplementary Planning Documents will be adopted.**

Policy DE1: High Quality Design

a. High standards of design are required for all types of development. Proposals for development shall respond to the objectives of sustainable development through high quality design and place-making principles. To ensure this, proposals should address and will be assessed against all the following design principles:

- **context and character, and**
- **layout, form and function of the development, including:**
 - **accessibility;**
 - **integration;**
 - **legibility;**
 - **inclusivity;**
 - **safety & security;**
 - **efficiency;**
 - **permeability; and**
 - **adaptability;**
- **amenity; and**
- **the quality of the public realm**

b. All development should address and incorporate the following considerations as applicable:

- **sustainable construction (in accordance with Policy DE2);**
- **managing flood risk (in accordance with Policy EN6);**
- **transport (in accordance with Policy TR2);**
- **green infrastructure (in accordance with Policy EN1); and**
- **the historic environment (in accordance with Policy EN10)**

Policy DE2: Sustainable Construction

- a. Development shall demonstrate passive solar benefits, (heating, ventilation, cooling and lighting) in accordance with Policy DE1, through the layout and design of the site, and orientation and design of buildings
- b. All major development¹ shall meet the following sustainable construction standards¹

<i>Development type</i>	<i>By April 2013²</i>	<i>2013 – 2016²</i>	<i>2016²</i>
Residential	Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 (In full)	Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 (In full)	Code for Sustainable Homes level 5 (In full)
Non-residential	BREEAM Excellent		

- c. Where on-site provision of renewable technologies is not appropriate, new development can meet CO₂ reduction requirements through off-site provision by making ‘allowable solutions contributions’. Funds gathered will be used for wider energy efficiency and energy generation initiatives.
- d. The use of combined heat and power (CHP), and/or combined, cooling, heat and power (CCHP) with district heating is encouraged. Within the identified “District Heating Priority Areas” and urban extensions, as shown on the Proposals Map, major development shall:
 - demonstrate a thermal master-planning approach considering issues such as mix of uses, anchor loads, density and heat load profiles to maximise opportunities for the use of district heating; and

¹ “Zero carbon” requirements reflect current Government timescales.

² Timescales in line with current building regulations which may be subject to change

- incorporate infrastructure for district heating and connect to existing systems where and when they are available or fully justify any alternative approach.

Policy EC1: Economic Growth through Existing Business and Inward Investment

- a. Inward investment and the growth and retention of existing business will be enabled by:
 - promoting Swindon Central Area as the first preference for office development;
 - protecting the best employment sites for employment use (B-class) and enabling development opportunities at others where it will enhance investment opportunities;
 - identifying new employment sites;
 - supporting large inward investment proposals where there is significant net economic or social benefit; and
 - the provision of a university and/or enhanced higher education facilities in Swindon Central Area to meet business skills needs, enhance the town's profile and provide a local highly qualified and skilled workforce
- b. Opportunities to develop the following key employment sectors will be particularly supported:
 - specialist manufacturing in East Swindon;
 - financial and business services at the Central Area;
 - distribution and logistics in the A419 corridor;
 - environmental, tourism and leisure, information

communication technologies (ICT), education, health, retailing and creative industries at appropriate locations; and

- low carbon development and manufacturing at appropriate locations and in conjunction with Policy IN4

Policy EC2: Employment Land and Premises (B Use Classes)

- a. The Key Employment Areas defined on the Proposals Map and listed below, shall be retained primarily for employment generating uses within the Use Classes B1, B2 and B8. Planning permission will be given for Class B1, B2 and B8 uses, and for sui generis uses, in these areas, subject to the Class B1(a) office development not adversely impacting upon the regeneration of Swindon Central Area.
- b. The change of use or redevelopment of land and buildings or development for other uses, within the key employment areas and Central Swindon, shall only be supported where it can be demonstrated that:
 - the development proposal will not adversely impact upon the regeneration of the Swindon Central Area; and
 - the premises has been vacant for 6 months or more and genuine marketing for commercial (B class) uses for that period of time, at reasonable market values, has proved unsuccessful, and
 - a sequential site search has been undertaken that takes account of the current quality of the Employment Area such that loss of the highest quality employment land is minimised, assessing the following factors:
 - strategic and local road access;
 - access to labour, public transport and services;

- compatibility of adjacent land uses;
- site characteristics, conditions and development constraints; and
- attractiveness to the market including vacancy and market activity; and,

- proposals for retail development have undertaken a sequential site search in accordance with Policy EC3

In addition the change of use proposal should demonstrate at least one of the following criteria:

- the development proposal will generate the same number, or more permanent jobs than could be expected from the existing, or any potential employment use; and/or
- the site is not appropriate for the continuation of its present or any employment use due to a significant detriment to the environment or amenity of the area; and/or
- the site is no longer capable of meeting modern business needs; and/or
- it can be shown that the loss of a small proportion of employment floorspace would facilitate the redevelopment and continuation of employment uses on a greater part of the site, providing the same number or more permanent jobs than on the original whole site; and/or
- the change of use is to facilitate the relocation of an existing business from buildings that are no longer fit for purpose to more suitable premises elsewhere within the Borough and no other B-class occupiers are likely to take up the site

- c. At the strategic allocations of Wichelstowe, Commonhead, Tadpole Farm, Kingsdown and the Eastern Villages, employment land allocations will be implemented in accordance with Policies NC1, NC2, NC3, NC4 and NC5. To ensure the delivery of

sustainable mixed-use developments, these sites will be protected for specified B class employment uses for a period of 18 months from completion of buildings. After this point, proposals for the change of use of buildings or redevelopment will be subject to Policy EC2b.

- d. Proposals for office development (Use Class B1(a)) over 1,000m² gross floorspace which are located outside of Swindon's Central Area will be supported where they:**
- do not harm or undermine the regeneration of Swindon's Central Area; and,**
 - demonstrate a sequential approach to site selection in order of preference and priority as follows:**
 - 1. Swindon's Central Area**
 - 2. Swindon's urban area well served by public transport or the employment allocation at the New Eastern Villages; within the floor space limits specified in NC4) and,**
 - 3. Peripheral sites in locations that are accessible by a choice of transport modes.**
- e. Where employment development does not comply with parking standards, development may be permitted where the impact of off-street parking, safety and amenity is acceptable, including parking provision for disabled people. Parking dedicated for the use of disabled persons should always be provided in accordance with the required standard.**

Policy EC3: The Role of the Centre and Town Centre Uses

- a. **Proposals for main town centre uses³ (not including offices covered by Policy EC2c above) outside Swindon Central Area shall be permitted:**
- **where they do not harm or undermine the regeneration of Swindon's Central Area; and,**
 - **where they do not undermine the vitality and viability of existing District, Primary Rural Centres and Local Centres**
 - **a sequential approach to site selection has been undertaken and demonstrated, where a proposal's delivery is not dependant on location at a specific site because its use is tied to that location, in order of preference and priority as follows:**
 1. **Swindon Town Centre;**
 2. **Edge of Town Centre;**
 3. **District and Primary Rural Centres: Cavendish Square, Gorse Hill, Highworth Town Centre, Orbital Retail Park, Old Town, West Swindon, Wroughton Village Centre and the Eastern Villages District Centre**
 4. **Local Centres: as shown on the proposals map including those at Wichelstowe, Commonhead, Tadpole Farm and Kingsdown developments**
- b. **Outside the defined hierarchy of centres:**
- **proposals for new single shop units (Class A1⁴) will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they provide**

³ Defined in the Glossary of the NPPF as Retail development (including warehouse clubs and factory outlet centres); leisure, entertainment facilities the more intensive sport and recreation uses (including cinemas, restaurants, drive-through restaurants, bars and pubs, night-clubs, casinos, health and fitness centres, indoor bowling centres, and bingo halls); offices; and arts, culture and tourism development (including theatres, museums, galleries and concert halls, hotels and conference facilities)

- only for the daily shopping needs of the local population and do not harm the vitality and viability of existing centres; and
- existing single shop units (Class A1) will be protected from changes of use to non-Class A1 uses, where the proposed use is not compatible with the local area in which it is set
- c. To protect the shopping function of the Town Centre and other centres, as defined on the Proposals Map:
- in the Town Centre, Class A1 uses should occupy at least 75% of the primary frontage and 60% of the secondary frontage;
 - in District and Primary Rural Centres Class A1 uses should occupy at least 70% of the street frontage; and,
 - in Local Centres Class A1 uses should be predominant.
- Proposals for non-class A1 uses will be permitted only where they enhance the local retail centre function and do not by themselves or cumulatively harm the vitality and viability of the centre's retail function
- d. All retail development proposals with a floorspace exceeding 600m² should be accompanied by a Retail Impact Assessment to ensure they would not have an adverse impact on the town centre or hierarchy of centres.
- e. Within the town centre, or any district or Primary Rural centre, where the percentage of the street frontage is already at or below the threshold of the desired Class A1 Uses (retail) identified above, proposals for more than 323m² for non-A1 uses will normally be permitted where they demonstrate that:
- at least 12 consecutive months active marketing of the premises for Class A1 Use (retail) has been undertaken; and,

⁴ All use class references relate to Use Class Order (1995) as amended (2006).

- the proposed use is appropriate for its location
- f. Street trading will be permitted where it satisfies other development management policies, and is in accordance with the adopted Street Trading & Ancillary Retail Kiosks Development Management Guidance Note.

Policy EC4: Conversion of Buildings to Employment Use in the Countryside

In the countryside, proposals for the conversion of a building or structure for employment use not related to policy EC5 shall be permitted provided:

- it is structurally sound and capable of conversion without substantial reconstruction;
- the conversion maintains the original character of the building and does not have a detrimental effect on the fabric and character of any adjacent buildings, including listed buildings, or the landscape character type generally;
- utilities can be provided and the building has adequate access to a metalled road without creating traffic hazards and without involving road improvements incompatible with the character of the area; and
- the conversion does not lead to a dispersal of employment activity on such a scale as to adversely affect the vitality of neighbouring rural settlements.

Policy EC5: Farm Diversification

In rural areas, proposals for economic activities that bring about farm diversification (as defined by the EU) shall normally be permitted, providing that:

- the proposals are operated as part of a viable farm holding

and contribute to the viability of the holding;

- **it is not detrimental to the character and appearance of existing buildings and their setting within the Landscape Character Area;**
- **existing buildings are used in preference to new buildings or extensions;**
- **utilities and other infrastructure is available or can be provided; and**
- **there is access by means of an existing road; no traffic hazards are created or increased; and road improvements incompatible with the character of the surrounding area are not required.**

Policy HA1: Mix, Types and Density

a. Housing development should be design-led, in particular:

- **densities, house types and sizes should be respect the character of the surrounding area;**
- **there should be a variety of densities, house types and sizes within larger developments;**
- **higher densities should be directed towards Swindon's Central Area and locations served by a good range of services and facilities; and**
- **lower densities and larger homes should be provided to satisfy the higher value end of the market where they are in accord with the context and character of the local area**

b. Large development proposals will be expected to consider the contribution self-build can make to the mix and type of development

Policy HA2: Affordable Housing

- a. On all developments of 15 homes or more, or on sites larger than 0.5 hectares and subject to economic viability assessment:
 - a target of 30%⁵ affordable homes should be provided on-site; or
 - a proportionate contribution should be provided towards affordable homes off-site where on-site provision is not suitable.
- b. Where affordable homes are to be provided on-site affordable housing should be integrated within the design and layout of a development and of a mix and tenure that reflects current need.

Policy HA3: Wheelchair Accessible Housing

Development proposals for 50 dwellings or more should provide at least 2% of the dwellings to be suitable for occupation by wheelchair users to ensure all delivered housing is of a high quality and there is a wide choice of housing available.

Policy HA4: Subdivision of Housing and Houses in Multiple Occupation

- a. Proposals for sub-division of dwellings into flats and for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), where planning permission is required shall only be permitted where:
 - the internal floorspace of the original dwelling is at least 100m²;
 - they will not harm the character of the area, streetscene or amenity of neighbouring residents including through the

⁵ This level of provision should be delivered with nil public subsidy, unless otherwise agreed by the council

- provision of parking, refuse and cycle storage;
- the application of car parking standards does not result in the loss of the majority of existing front and rear garden space and landscaping;
 - they will not harm traffic or pedestrian safety due to increased parking pressures or exacerbate existing parking problems; and
 - room sizes and internal arrangements meet the current standards defined by Swindon Borough Council
- b. In order to support mixed and balanced communities, and to ensure that a range of household needs continue to be accommodated throughout the Borough, applications for changes of use to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO)⁶ shall only be permitted where the proposal would not adversely affect the character of the surrounding area or lead to an unacceptable concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation within a given area.

Policy HA5: Rural Exception Sites

- a. As an exception to the rural strategy principles in Policy SD2c, housing development to meet local affordable housing needs may be permitted outside defined rural settlement boundaries where it can be demonstrated that the following criteria can be met :
- no other suitable sites are available within the settlement boundary;
 - the housing shall remain affordable in perpetuity to people with a local connection;

⁶ For the purposes of this policy, dwellings in use as Class C4, mixed C3/C4 use and HMOs in *sui generis* use will be considered to be HMOs.

- there is evidence of local need, through the Council's Strategic Housing Market Assessment and/or a Local Needs Survey;
 - the proposal is appropriate in scale and style taking into account landscape value, settlement character, and site characteristics;
 - environmentally sensitive sites such as SSSIs are not affected;
 - good design principles are demonstrated that meet the Council's residential design standards, with the design process beginning from the outset;
 - an option with the landowner is secured at an early stage in the development process to ensure the scheme can proceed.
- b. Where such a proposal is initiated and supported by the local community and it is aligned with the Local Plan policies, there will be a presumption to grant.
- c. In exceptional circumstances, where it is demonstrated, by means of a viability assessment, that there is insufficient public funding to make the scheme viable, an element of private market housing will be acceptable to provide a cross subsidy, secured through a legal obligation. The market housing would need to meet the same design principles as the affordable element.

Policy HA6: Agricultural Workers Dwellings

- a. Planning permission for a new dwelling in the countryside based upon the essential needs of agriculture and forestry shall only be granted provided that:
- an independent appraisal is submitted with the application demonstrating that there is a functional need for the proposed dwelling which cannot be met by existing suitable accommodation available in the area, or by rearranging duties

and responsibilities between workers; and

- **the size of the proposed dwelling is appropriate to its functional need; and**
- **in all cases a financial test is also submitted to demonstrate the viability of the business proposed or as proposed to be expanded; and**
- **the dwelling cannot be provided by adapting an existing building on the holding; and**
- **the proposed dwelling is located within or adjacent to the existing farm buildings or other dwellings on the holding; and**
- **the design of the proposed dwelling is in harmony with the landscape character type and appearance of the countryside, particularly in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and**
- **occupancy is limited by way of a planning condition or obligation**

- b. Any proposal for a farm unit which has been subject to fragmentation, or is known to be about to be affected by it, shall be subject to planning obligations to tie the dwellings to adjacent farm buildings to prevent them being sold separately.**

Policy HA7: Conversion of Buildings to Residential Use in the Countryside

In the countryside, proposals for the conversion of an existing building or structure to residential shall be permitted provided they comply with the following criteria:

- **the building is worthy of retention, structurally sound and capable of conversion without substantial reconstruction; and**
- **the conversion is in keeping with the original character of the**

building and enhances the fabric and character of any adjacent buildings, or the landscape character type generally; and

- **the number of units and density of development is appropriate to the building's location; and**
- **the building shall have an existing curtilage or a curtilage can be created which does not adversely affect the landscape character type, the building itself or any adjacent structure; and**
- **utilities can be provided and the building has adequate access to a metalled road without creating traffic hazards and without involving road improvements incompatible with the character of the area**

Policy HA8: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Pitches and Sites

- a. **Provision for gypsies and travellers and travelling show people will be made in accordance with the updated Need Assessment. The location(s) of this additional requirement will be identified in a Site Allocations Development Plan Document**
- b. **Development to accommodate Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People will be permitted provided that the site:**
 - **is accessible to shops, schools and health facilities by public transport, on foot or by cycle;**
 - **has good access to the highway network and will not cause traffic congestion or safety problems;**
 - **has sufficient space for the parking and manoeuvring of all**

vehicles associated with the occupiers;

- **is provided with adequate on-site services for water supply; power; drainage; sewage disposal; and waste disposal facilities;**
- **includes appropriate landscape measures to avoid any adverse visual impact and to ensure adequate levels of privacy and residential amenity for occupiers and adjacent occupiers, that avoid the use of high walls and fences;**
- **does not accommodate non-residential uses that would not cause, by virtue of smell, noise or vibration, significant adverse impact on neighbouring business or residents; and**
- **is in accord with the Flood Risk Policy EN6**

c. In addition, development for travelling show people will be permitted provided that the site:

- **be occupied by bona fide members of the Showmen's Guild, and**
- **includes sufficient space for storage and maintenance of equipment separate from residential caravans.**

d. Unless the site is in close proximity to an existing children's recreational area, the site should also include a designated area for children's games and recreation.

Policy TR1: Sustainable Transport Networks

- a. The council will use its planning and transport powers to help reduce the need to travel, and support and encourage the sustainable, safe and efficient movement of people and goods within and through the Borough. This will be achieved by:**

- **enabling a reliable and efficient transport network that:**
 - **minimises congestion;**
 - **maximises consistent journey times;**
 - **prioritises trips to and from Swindon town centre; and**
 - **supports the distribution and logistics employment sector**
- **promoting and improving safety, security and healthy lifestyles through:**
 - **maximising opportunities to walk and cycle;**
 - **reducing severance caused by transport corridors and the dominance of the car on the streetscene;**
 - **education, training and enforcement;**
 - **engineering and design and highway maintenance; and**
 - **overlooking and surveillance of bus stops, car parks, footpaths and cycleways to increase safety.**
- **promoting equality of opportunity and access to services and facilities for all by:**
 - **delivering walkable mixed use development;**
 - **inclusive design;**
 - **good public transport provision; and**
 - **encouraging innovative transport initiatives for rural areas**
- **minimising emissions from transport by:**
 - **reducing the need to travel;**
 - **promoting more sustainable travel choices;**
 - **personal, workplace and school travel planning; and**
 - **designing the built environment to encourage healthy lifestyles and travel choices.**
- **supporting and contributing towards improving Swindon's sense of place and quality of life by:**
 - **integrating public realm and green infrastructure into**

the design of transport schemes;

- **minimising the impact of congestion, noise and air quality;**
- **improving the legibility and ease of movement within Swindon town centre; and**
- **improving the image and experience of using Swindon's public transport.**

- **targeted investment to improve key junctions and corridors**
- **enabling the provision of a rapid transit network from the new urban extensions to Swindon Town Centre**
- **medium to long distance vehicle movements will be positively encouraged through site access/egress locations, road design, and other highway measures to access the strategic highway network at its nearest point in Swindon rather than rat-run through inappropriate rural roads in the Borough, Wiltshire and adjacent areas**

- b. The route of the Purton Road to Iffley Junction Relief Road as shown on the Proposals Map is safeguarded to enable its future construction.**

Policy TR2: Transport and Development

- a. New development should be located and designed to reduce the need to travel and to encourage the use of sustainable transport alternatives, particularly walking and cycling, and provide the potential to maximise bus travel.**
- b. Development shall be permitted where proposals provide access that is appropriate to the scale, type and location without detriment to highways safety and local amenity, and where there is an existing safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle access or provision is made for such access.**

- c. Development shall be permitted where proposals will not prejudice or impede an existing or planned cycle route, or provision is made for a more satisfactory route.**
- d. Development that results in the loss of existing rights of way or their disruption shall only be permitted when adequate, acceptable alternative provision or diversions be arranged.**
- e. Development shall be permitted where proposals do not remove, narrow or materially impair the approved line of the Thames Path or Ridgeway National Trails, and/or public access to them.**
- f. Developments shall provide appropriate mitigating measures to offset any adverse impacts on the transport network at both the construction and operational stages.**
- g. To assess and mitigate the impact of development and to promote sustainable travel choices, the following information will be required to support planning applications:**
 - A Transport Assessment: where the proposed development is likely to have significant transport and related environmental impact (in accordance with Department for Transport guidance);**
 - A Transport Statement: where the development has relatively minor transport implications (in accordance with Department for Transport guidance); and**
 - A Travel Plan: where the proposed development is likely to have significant transport and related environmental impact (in accordance with Department for Transport guidance).**
- h. Parking provision, including secure cycle and motorcycle parking, should be provided in accordance with the Council's adopted parking standards.**

Policy IN1: Infrastructure Provision

- a. In order to make a positive contribution to the sustainable growth of Swindon, all development, including development adjacent to but outside the Swindon Borough boundary, shall where appropriate, and within the context of economic viability make provision to:
- meet the cost of new infrastructure made necessary by the development;
 - mitigate the impact of development on existing infrastructure;
 - provide for the ongoing maintenance of infrastructure delivered as a result of development where appropriate;
 - contribute to the delivery of strategic infrastructure to address the cumulative impacts of development; and,
 - contribute to initiatives to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of infrastructure

Policy IN2: Water Supply and Wastewater

- a. Future water supply will be addressed through the implementation of demand management measures in new development to reduce the use of water and the prevention of leakage to increase supply.
- b. The development or expansion of water supply or sewerage waste/water treatment facilities, including sewage sludge, shall normally be permitted either where needed to serve existing or proposed new development, or in the interests of long term water supply and waste water management provided that the need for such facilities outweighs any adverse land use or environmental impact that any such adverse impact is minimised.

- c. Future wastewater treatment and improvements in related river quality will be addressed through the timely expansion of the Rodbourne Sewage Treatment Works and / or an additional Sewage Treatment Works to the east of Swindon to serve the New Eastern Villages developments, if proven to be the most sustainable option, particularly to ensure delivery of the housing trajectory.**
- d. Development proposals should take account of the capacity of existing off-site water and sewerage/waste water treatment infrastructure and the impact of development proposals on them. Where necessary, the Council will seek improvements to water and/or sewerage/waste water treatment infrastructure related and appropriate to the development so that the improvements are completed prior to occupation of the development.**

Policy IN3: ICT and Telecommunications

- a. All Information Communication Technology (ICT) and telecommunications proposals should be sited and designed in such a way that the appearance of the surrounding area is not adversely affected by the development. Proposals for ICT and telecommunications developments shall be supported provided that:**
 - the siting of the proposal and any other additional equipment involved with the development does not unduly detract from the appearance of the surrounding area or form an intrusive addition to the street scene; and**
 - the amenities of any neighbouring sites are not unacceptably harmed by the proximity of the proposed telecommunication development; and**

- the colour and profile are sympathetic to the sites surroundings and the size of the development is kept to a technical minimum to ensure any adverse impact on the environment is minimised; and
 - there is justification demonstrating that all alternative sites and potential mast sharing opportunities which fulfil the functional requirements of the development have been assessed
- b. Development should where possible make provision to incorporate super-fast broadband.

Policy IN4: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy

- a. Appropriate renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure which has benefits for local communities and the local economy will be encouraged and supported. Proposals for low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure, including large-scale freestanding installations, will be assessed under national policies and against the following:
- social and economic benefits (including local job creation opportunities);
 - the impacts on, and benefits to local communities; and,
 - environmental impact.
- Any heat produced as part of a renewable energy or combined heat and power (CHP) installation should be productively used on-site or linked to a district energy network.
- b. A locally delivered modular district energy network shall be enabled and supported which is
- focused around areas of high and constant heat demand, and
 - capable of incorporating additional low and zero carbon energy sources and generation technologies e.g. biomass,

waste and combined heat and power.

- c. Energy efficiency and low carbon energy generation schemes brought forward by communities, or with major community benefits, will be encouraged and supported in principle.**
- d. Proposals for wind turbines, including any ancillary buildings and structures, shall be permitted only where there is no unacceptably adverse impact due to noise, shadow flicker, amplitude modulation, reflected light or electronic disturbance on:**
 - the built and natural heritage, and/or**
 - the amenity of properties, and/or**
 - areas important for tourism or recreational use of the countryside**

Visual impact shall be minimised through siting, landscaping, design and use of materials.

Policy CM1: Education

- a. To meet the long-term primary and secondary school place needs the provision for the following should be made:**
 - 11 new primary schools (or 22 new forms of entry in total);**
 - 3 new secondary schools, expansion of existing schools and the use of projected surplus places (or 22 new forms of entry in total); and**
 - Additional temporary primary and secondary school accommodation at the urban extensions to manage the temporary demographic peak in pupils**
- b. To meet the long-term needs for post-16 education provision, the following will be enabled:**
 - expansion of Swindon College and New College;**

- provision of a 13-19 year-old Specialist Vocational Centre;
- provision of new 6th Forms at existing and new Secondary Schools; and,
- a new university or enhanced tertiary facility in Swindon's Central Area

c. To meet long-term Special Education Needs (SEN) the following will be enabled:

- the extension of existing SEN facilities;
- provision of Special Resource facilities at new and existing primary and secondary schools; and
- provision of a new 0-19 SEN facility as part of an integrated education campus for severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties

d. To meet the long-term early years needs the following will be enabled:

- the provision of nursery facilities at all new primary schools; and
- the provision of facilities by the private and voluntary sector

e. Schools should be sited within the heart of their communities and be designed to provide safe walking and cycling access

Policy CM2: Active, Healthy and Safe Lifestyles

a. Active, healthy and safe lifestyles will be enabled by:

- increasing opportunities to walk and cycle and encouraging more sustainable travel choices;
- increasing access to green spaces to promote health and mental wellbeing;

- designing out crime and designing in health;
- the provision of open space, sports and leisure facilities;
- the protection and improvement in the stock of playing pitches; and,
- the provision of cultural, health, fire, police, faith and multi-use community facilities

b. To meet demand, promote sporting participation and achievement the following will be enabled:

- measures to increase the capacity and quality of existing sports centres;
- the provision of new sports centres;
- the development of a network of sporting centres of excellence; and
- the co-location of sports centres with schools

c. To improve the cultural offer in Swindon Borough the following will be enabled:

- the development of a cultural quarter in Swindon Town Centre as a focus for cultural activities;
- the promotion Swindon Town Centre as a key centre for the arts and creative industries; and
- the enhancement of tourism and cultural venues to help sustain their viability, particularly:
 - The Wyvern Theatre;
 - The Steam Museum;
 - The Science Museum at Wroughton;
 - The Swindon & Cricklade Railway; and
 - The Wilts & Berks Canal

- d. Proposals for the redevelopment of Swindon Town Football Club at the County Ground will be supported where they deliver enhanced facilities and do not conflict with town centre regeneration.**

Policy CM3: Integrating Facilities and Delivering Services

- a. increased local and integrated service delivery will be supported in conjunction with local communities, particularly:**
- flexible multi-use buildings in public and community ownership;**
 - co-location of sports centres and playing pitches with schools;**
 - agreements to use schools and other public buildings for community use;**
 - co-location of doctor, dentist and pharmacy facilities; and**
 - to share and integrate police, fire and ambulance facilities.**
- b. To meet the long-term health, social care and emergency service needs in the Borough and the wider population the following will be enabled:**
- expansion of The Great Western Hospital as required;**
 - enhanced and new social care and local healthcare facilities; and**
 - a reorganisation of existing fire infrastructure and provision of new fire stations.**

Policy CM4: Maintaining and Enhancing Community Facilities

- a. **Proposals for new or extended community facilities will be supported, particularly where:**
 - **the site is located within or adjacent to existing settlements;**
 - **it is accessible for all members of the community and promotes social inclusion, and**
 - **if possible they can be co-located with other community uses**
- b. **Proposals that result in the loss of established community facilities shall only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:**
 - **commercial facilities have been genuinely marketed for the established use for at least one year;**
 - **the facility is no longer economically viable for the established use, or there is a suitable and sustainable alternative to that facility nearby, or the facility is no longer required.**

Policy EN1: Green Infrastructure Network

- a. **Development shall protect and enhance green infrastructure and assets as identified in Appendix 5. This includes the requirement that development must provide for the protection and integration of existing trees, hedges and woodlands.**
- b. **Development shall design green infrastructure to maximise its connections and functions and ensure the sustainable maintenance and management of it.**

Policy EN2: Community Forest

Development shall contribute towards the aims and objectives of the Great Western Community Forest (GWFC) in Swindon. This will be achieved by:

- **ensuring a net increase in tree cover through the planting of new woodland and trees;**
- **creating or enhancing habitats for biodiversity, including built structures in accordance with Policies EN1 and EN4; and**
- **ensuring access to local woodlands and opportunities for communities and businesses to benefit from GWCF**

Policy EN3: Open Space

A. All development shall provide or contribute towards public open space in line with open space standards as set out at Appendix 4, including:

- **children and teenager's play areas**
- **outdoor sports facilities**
- **general recreational Areas**
- **Allotments**

Residential development of 25 dwellings or more should provide open space on site.

B. Public open space assets defined on the Proposals Map will be protected from development unless:

- **it can be demonstrated that alternative provision can be made locally of equivalent or better size, quality and accessibility; or**
- **the proposed development is ancillary to the main use of the site and protects its public open space function; or**

- the proposed development is subject to an appraisal to ensure it does not adversely affect local needs and existing quality of open space within the area in accordance with the Council's Standards, as set out in Appendix 4 and in the most recent Open Space Audit and Assessment); or
- the proposed development provides community benefit which outweighs the loss of open space.

Policy EN4: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- a. Development will avoid direct and indirect negative impacts upon biodiversity and geodiversity sites as identified on the Proposals Map. This will be achieved through sensitive site location and layout, and by maintaining sufficient buffers and ecological connectivity with the wider environment. Damage or disturbance to local sites will generally be unacceptable, other than in exceptional circumstances where it has been demonstrated that such impacts are:
 - unavoidable and reduced as far as possible or are outweighed by other planning considerations in the public interest, and
 - where appropriate compensation measures can be secured
- b. All development shall protect and enhance biodiversity and provide net local biodiversity gain. Where this is demonstrably not achievable, mitigation and compensation measures may be acceptable.

Policy EN5: Landscape

(Landscape Character and Historic Landscape)

- a. **Proposals for development should ensure that:**
- **the intrinsic character, diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape within Swindon Borough are protected, conserved and enhanced;**
 - **the design of the development and materials used are sympathetic to the surrounding landscape;**
 - **unacceptable impacts upon the landscape are avoided; and,**
 - **where other negative impacts are considered unavoidable, they are satisfactorily mitigated**
- b. **In meeting the requirements of EN5a, applicants for development should demonstrate how they have taken into account Landscape Character Assessments and assessed the potential impact of the proposal upon the following attributes of the landscape:**
- **existing landscape form, features, topography and character;**
 - **the contribution of the landscape to biodiversity and wildlife;**
 - **local geology and geo-diversity;**
 - **views, visual amenity and the landscape setting;**
 - **valuable historic and heritage areas and assets;**
 - **environmental amenity such as tranquillity & noise, pollution and light pollution); and,**
 - **the existing social, physical, economic and environmental roles and functions of the landscape at the local and strategic scale (for example as a place of cultural and leisure activity, living, employment and separation of settlements)**
- c. **The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**

(AONB) is a nationally recognised area of landscape protection. Proposals within the Borough which are within and / or about the North Wessex Downs AONB must accord with relevant criteria set out in the AONB Management Plan. Proposals outside the AONB should not adversely affect its setting.

Policy EN6: Flood Risk

- a. The risk and impact of flooding will be minimised through:**
 - directing new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding;
 - ensuring that all new development addresses the effective management of flood risk;
 - ensuring that development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere including on adjoining and surrounding land; and
 - ensuring wider environmental benefits of development in relation to flood risk.
- b. The suitability of development proposed in flood zones will be assessed using the Sequential Test, and, where necessary, the Exceptions Test. A sequential approach should be used at site level.**
- c. A site specific flood risk assessment will be required for development proposals of one hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1 and for all proposals for new development (including minor development and change of use) in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and Critical Drainage Areas, and also where proposed development or a change of use to a more vulnerable class may be subject to other sources of flooding. Appropriate mitigation and management measures must be implemented.**
- d. All development proposals must be assessed against the**

Swindon Surface Water Management Plan and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to address locally significant flooding. Appropriate mitigation and management measures must be implemented.

- e. All development shall be required to provide a drainage strategy. Developments will be expected to incorporate sustainable drainage systems and ensure that run-off rates are attenuated to greenfield run-off rates. Higher rates would need to be justified and the risks quantified.**

Policy EN7: Pollution

Development that is likely to lead to emissions of pollutants such as noise, light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, soot, ash, dust, grit or toxic substances that may adversely affect existing development and vulnerable wildlife habitats, shall only be permitted where such emissions are controlled to a point where there is no significant loss of amenity for existing land uses, or habitats.

Policy EN8: Unstable Land

- a. Development of land that is either known to be unstable, or is strongly suspected of instability, shall only be permitted when:**
- an evaluation has been submitted of the level and precise nature of any instability; and**
 - there are no significant adverse effects on adjacent sites; and**
 - the extent of remedial measure required to achieve a level of land stability suitable for the propose use, capable of supporting future development loads has been identified.**
- b. Where planning permission is granted, conditions may be**

imposed requiring the execution of any necessary remedial works.

Policy EN9: Contaminated Land

- a. Development of land that is either contaminated, or is strongly suspected of being contaminated, shall only be permitted when:**
- an evaluation has been submitted of the level and precise nature of any contamination and need for removal or treatment; and**
 - the potential of existing contaminants to pollute both surface water and ground water, both during and after construction has been established; and**
 - the decontamination measures required to achieve a level of land quality suitable for the proposed end use have been identified; and**
 - measures are taken to ensure that migrating gas is safely dealt with where development is proposed on land adjacent to an uncontrolled 'gassing' landfill site**
- b. Where planning permission is granted, conditions may be imposed requiring the execution of any necessary remedial works.**

Policy EN10: Historic Environment & Historic Assets

- a. Swindon's historic environment shall be sustained and enhanced. This includes all heritage assets including historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens, landscape and archaeology.**
- b. Proposals for development affecting heritage assets shall conserve or enhance their significance and setting.**

Policy EN11: Canals

- a. The alignments of the Wilts & Berks Canal and North Wilts Canal, as shown on the Proposals Map, shall be safeguarded with a view to their long term re-establishment as navigable waterways, by:
 - ensuring that development protects the integrity of the canal alignment and its associated structures; and
 - ensuring that where the canal is affected by development, the alignment is protected or an alternative alignment is provided; and
 - ensuring associated infrastructure of development does not prejudice the delivery of the canal
- b. Proposals will be permitted that are designed to develop the canal's recreational and nature conservation potential, in particular, the use of the old line of the canal for walking, cycling and interpretation.

Policy SC1: Swindon's Central Area

In order to improve and enhance Swindon's Central Area:

- a. High quality design shall be required of all new development in Central Swindon, in particular delivering clearly defined public and private space, improved public realm and access for all.
- b. The following areas will have their own specific role within Swindon's Central Area:
 - The Retail Core - the focus of retail-led development;
 - The Promenade - the focus for cultural activities, but will also provide civic and leisure facilities;
 - The Commercial Quarter - the focus for a flagship new office area;

- **The Railway Corridor - the focus for a vibrant, high-density, mixed-use development scheme;**
- **North Star - the location for a new regional leisure facility;**
- **Railway Heritage Area - the focus of visitor activities that are sympathetic to the historic character of the area, would not adversely impact on the amenity of Railway Village residents, and would complement and not undermine the Town Centre offer; and**
- **Old Town - the focus niche shopping and leisure uses, complementing the shopping and leisure offer in the Town centre.**

c. Provision shall be made in the Central Area for:

- **at least 53,700m² net comparison retail floorspace in the Town Centre Primary shopping area (retail core);**
- **at least 90,000m² of new office floorspace;**
- **about 1,000 additional homes;**
- **a new bus interchange;**
- **a new 1,000 space car park to the north of the railway line; and**
- **a community wide approach to renewable energy**

d. A 'Green Spine' will provide:

- **a primary north-south green route that will link Old Town, the Town Centre and North Star; and**
- **a focal point connecting Swindon's green infrastructure corridors**

e. High quality, safe and continuous pedestrian routes and cycling networks will be provided, including:

- a new rail crossing to address the severance from the Town Centre to North Star, and
- f. To secure Central Swindon as the focal point for Swindon's network of specialist leisure facilities
 - the Oasis Leisure Centre will be enabled to be redeveloped and expanded to reinforce its role as Swindon's flagship regional leisure destination; and
 - the historic role of the Health Hydro will be enabled to be enhanced for water sports and as a spa facility
- g. Education provision will be made for:
 - a new university and/or higher education facilities; and
 - 2 new primary schools (or 3 forms-of-entry) if required.
- h. Carfax Street Health Centre will be enabled to be relocated to increase the capacity and improve the quality and accessibility of health facilities within Central Swindon.
- i. The route of the Wilts & Berks Canal as set out on the Proposals Map will be safeguarded to enable the re-instatement of it as a navigable water body, subject to detailed route assessments
- j. The regeneration and development of Swindon's central area must integrate positively with, and contribute towards improvement of and mitigate their impact upon existing adjacent communities.

Policy SC2: Swindon's Existing Urban Communities

- a. In Swindon's existing urban communities, the priorities are:
 - the regeneration of the central area; and

- the protection and enhancement of existing built, semi-natural and natural assets of economic, social and / or environmental value to residents, employees and visitors; and,
- regeneration at targeted areas in need of renewal and investment, particularly at the local centres

b. These priorities will be implemented through application of the adopted Central Area Action Plan and other policies of this Plan, in particular:

- the protection and delivery of green infrastructure and open space in accordance with Policy EN1 and EN3;
- the provision of educational facilities in accordance with Policy CM1;
- the provision of sports facilities in accordance with Policy CM2;
- the provision of emergency service facilities in accordance with Policy CM3;
- the provision of a district heating network in accordance with Policy IN4; and
- improvements to the transport network in accordance with Policy TR1

Policy NC1: Wichelstowe

- a. Land at Wichelstowe, as defined on the Proposals Map, is allocated for a mixed-use development.
- b. The development at Wichelstowe shall provide:
- a total of 4,500 homes (including those already completed) an average density of 40 dwellings per hectare and a mix and

percentage of affordable homes in accordance with Policy HA2;

- **12.5 hectares of employment land within use class B1 and B2;**
- **a total of 4 local centres, one of which includes a food store with 2,000 – 2,500m² floorspace in the central neighbourhood;**
- **a total of 3 (2-forms of entry) primary schools (or an additional 6 forms-of-entry);**
- **a secondary school (or contributions towards the delivery of 6 forms of entry off-site);**
- **public open space in accordance with the Borough Council's Open Space Standards and extending the River Ray green corridor to the wider countryside;**
- **high quality public realm**
- **community facilities as follows:**
 - **a leisure centre associated with the secondary school; or a combination of on-site leisure facilities and increased capacity and improvements at Croft and Ridgeway; and**
 - **buildings for use by the community, service providers and for worship, including dual-use facilities at all schools; and**
 - **police / emergency services point; and**
 - **health care facilities including GP surgery, dentist and pharmacy in the central neighbourhood; and,**
- **a community wide approach to renewable energy, preferably with a district heating system**

c. Development at Wichelstowe shall protect, enhance and integrate with existing environmental assets, including:

- **the historic environment including the Scheduled Monument of Westleaze Medieval Village**

- biodiversity, including Old Town Railway Path County Wildlife Site, the river corridors and natural springs
- the North Wessex Downs AONB landscape and views from it ,
- off-site landscape and biodiversity mitigation south of the M4

d. The development at Wichelstowe shall provide sustainable transport links that integrate with Swindon including:

- a rapid transit link to Swindon town centre and additional public transport links within the site;
- walking and cycle links to Swindon's existing communities and the wider countryside;
- a link to Junction 16 of the M4;
- a link from Croft Road to Hay Lane; and
- a Park and Ride site

e. The risk of flooding shall be minimised, both within the development and adjacent properties, in accordance with Policy EN6;

The route for the Wilts & Berks Canal as set out on the Proposals Map shall be safeguarded and protected from development.

The character and identity of Wroughton will be protected by a principle of non-coalescence between the settlements. The land between Wichelstowe and the village shall remain part of the countryside. However, small scale development within this area, as defined on the Proposals Map, will be permitted where it retains or enhances the existing character of the countryside and:

- involves the re-use, conversion or extension of existing buildings at a scale appropriate to their location, in

accordance with the criteria specified in Policy DE1; or

- **is an essential requirement directly related to the economic or social needs of the rural community.**

Policy NC2: Commonhead

- a. **Land at Commonhead as defined on the Proposals Map, is allocated for a mixed-use development.**
- b. **The development at Commonhead shall provide:**
 - **a total of 890 dwellings at an average density of 30 dwellings per hectare**
 - **affordable homes in accordance with Policy HA2;**
 - **15 hectares of employment land within use-class B1 and/or B2**
 - **a local centre of a maximum of 1000m² retail floorspace ;**
 - **a primary school (or 1 form-of-entry) incorporating community facilities;**
 - **contributions towards the delivery of 1 form of entry secondary school places off-site;**
 - **temporary accommodation to manage the demographic peak at primary, and contributions as such at secondary schools;**
 - **Green Infrastructure in accordance with Policy EN1 and which connects to the urban area and wider countryside ;**
 - **sport, leisure and community facilities in accordance with Policy CM2;**
 - **high quality public realm;**
 - **a community wide approach to renewable energy; and**
 - **5.5 hectares of land safeguarded for future expansion of the Great Western Hospital, incorporating provision for emergency**

services if required.

- c. Development at Commonhead shall provide sustainable transport links that integrate with Swindon including:**
- **public transport links to Swindon town centre;**
 - **walking and cycle links to Swindon's existing communities, Coate Water Country Park and Great Western Hospital; and**
 - **access to the site from Marlborough Road.**
- d. Development at Commonhead shall protect, enhance and integrate with existing environmental assets including:**
- **Coate Water Country Park and Day House Copse;**
 - **views to and from the North Wessex Downs AONB and Coate Water Country Park;**
 - **protection of the existing historic environment, including the setting of listed buildings and on-site archaeological features**
 - **habitat connectivity and enhanced biodiversity**
- e. The area between Coate Water and the new development will be protected from development, and the function of Day House Lane as a green corridor will be safeguarded.**
- f. The route for the Wilts & Berks Canal as set out on the Proposals Map will be safeguarded and protected from development.**

Policy NC3: New Eastern Villages - including Rowborough and South Marston Village Expansion

- a. Land to the East of the A419as defined on the Proposals Map, is allocated for a mixed-use development. The form of the development shall comprise a series of new distinct villages and**

an expanded South Marston village.

b. The development shall provide:

- **an overall average density of 40 dwellings per hectare; comprising:**
 - **about 6,000 dwellings at the New Eastern Villages (south of the A420);**
 - **about 1,500 dwellings at Rowborough (north of the A420), and**
 - **500 dwellings at South Marston.**
- **high quality public realm including outdoor civic public space; and**
- **sustainable transport links including:**
 - **a rapid transit link to Swindon town centre from the Eastern Villages through the district centre as part of phase 1 of the development;**
 - **additional public transport services to connect with Swindon and internally within the development;**
 - **an improved gateway junction at White Hart to manage additional demand and deliver high quality public realm;**
 - **improvements to the Oxford Road/Drakes Way and Covingham Road/Dorcan Way transport corridors;**
 - **a green bridge across the A419 near Covingham Drive to provide for walking, cycling and public transport;**
 - **a new road link to the Commonhead Roundabout;**
 - **a new road link under or across the Bristol to London railway line connecting the development north and south;**

- a 1000 (3ha.) space Park and Ride site;
 - measures to minimise rat-running through existing adjacent villages and east Swindon.
- an extensive green infrastructure network that maximises opportunities for habitat connectivity and enhanced biodiversity including a parkland extending the River Cole Green Infrastructure Corridor and connecting with Nightingale Wood;
 - sports and leisure facilities, including playing pitches a leisure centre and a 25m swimming pool;
 - about 40 hectares of employment land in total (B Class uses) to be located south and east of the A420 and A419 respectively adjacent to the White Hart Junction, in a form that complements the mixed-use District Centre, and safeguards its connection with the wider residential development in the Eastern Villages and distributed as follows:
 - 2.5 hectares within B1a use-class to be located at and/or adjacent to the District Centre;
 - 7.5 hectares. within B1b/c or B2 use-class to be located south and west of the District Centre; and
 - 30 hectares within B8 use-class to be located south and west of the District Centre.
 - a maximum of 12,000m² (gross) of retail and complementary uses, of which no more than 20% will be comparison goods. This will comprise a maximum 10,000m² (gross) anchor food store as well as 1,000m² of other small scale retail and complementary uses within the District Centre. The remaining 1,000m² of retail floor space will be distributed across the three new Local Centres and within the expanded South Marston;

- **a new learning campus, comprising an 8-form entry secondary school, a 2-form entry primary school, a special school for children with profound, multiple and severe learning difficulties for ages 0-19, and a Children's Centre;**
- **3 new 2-form entry primary schools with early years facilities as well as a 1-form entry extension to the existing primary school at South Marston;**
- **capacity to manage the demographic peak at primary and secondary schools (for up to 4 forms of entry);**
- **community facilities by the means of safeguarded land and/or developer contributions, including flexible, multi-purpose buildings for use by the community, the public sector and for worship at the district centre, local centres and the learning campus;**
- **a health care facility with GP, dentist and pharmacy at the District Centre;**
- **safeguarded land for a fire station towards the southern part of the site, and**
- **a sewage treatment works if required.**

c. The development will ensure:

- **the landscape context and views to and from the North Wessex Downs AONB are respected, including potential off-site mitigation;**
- **the risk of flooding from the development is minimised, both within the development and at existing neighbouring communities in accordance with Policy EN6;**
- **biodiversity including the River Cole Corridor and River Cole Meadow County Wildlife Sites is protected, integrated and enhanced; and**

- the historic environment, including the Scheduled Monument, Earls court Manor, Great Moorleaze Farm and other Listed Buildings are protected, acknowledged and enhanced.
- d. The route for the Wilts & Berks Canal as set out on the Proposals Map will be safeguarded and protected from development.
- e. The character and identity of Wanborough, Bishopstone and Bourton will be protected by a principle of non-coalescence between the settlements. The land between the Eastern Village site boundary and the existing villages shall remain part of the countryside. However, small scale development within this area, as defined on the Proposals Map, will be permitted where it retains or enhances the existing character of the countryside and:
 - involves the re-use, conversion or extension of existing buildings at a scale appropriate to their location, in accordance with the criteria specified in Policy DE1; or
 - is an essential requirement directly related to the economic or social needs of the rural community.
- f. The character and identity of South Marston will be protected as set out in Policy RA3.

Policy NC4: Tadpole Farm

- a. Land at Tadpole Farm is allocated for a new mixed-use development as defined on the Proposals Map including:
- b. The development shall provide:
 - a total of 1,695 dwellings;
 - 5 hectares of employment land (B1 and or B2 Class uses);
 - a mixed use local centre of no more than 1000m² retail

floorspace

- **a 2 forms of entry primary school (or 2 forms of entry);**
- **contributions towards the delivery of 2 forms of entry secondary school places off-site;**
- **temporary accommodation to manage the demographic peak at primary and contributions as such for secondary schools;**
- **green Infrastructure in accordance with Policy EN1 which connects with the urban area and countryside, particularly the Cricklade Country Way;**
- **a wildlife corridor associated with the River Ray;**
- **sport, leisure, and community facilities in accordance with Policy CM2 , including off-site contributions towards indoor leisure facilities; and**
- **a community wide approach to renewable energy.**

c. Development at Tadpole Farm shall provide sustainable transport links that integrate with Swindon including:

- **a Rapid Transit link between Tadpole Farm and Swindon town centre and other public transport links;**
- **contributions towards mitigation on the highway network;**
- **vehicular access routes from Tadpole Lane and a new route north to connect to Swindon via the former A419**
- **measures to avoid through traffic from Thamesdown Drive to Blunsdon via Tadpole Lane;**
- **additional pedestrian and cycle connections between the development and North Swindon**
- **walking and cycling links to North Swindon, and**
- **a link to the National Cycle Route 45 at the Cricklade Country Way,**

- Development at Tadpole Farm shall protect, integrate and enhance existing assets including habitat connectivity and biodiversity, particularly at the River Ray Corridor

d. The development shall include mitigation to reduce the impact of development upon:

- the strategic landscape of Blunsdon Hill
- the rural area to the north of the site
- the risk of flooding at new and existing communities and avoid development in the area of flood risk associated with the River Ray

Policy NC5: Kingsdown

a. Land at Kingsdown is allocated for a new mixed-use development as defined on the Proposals Map including:

b. The Development shall provide:

- a total of 1,650 dwellings;
- a mixed use local centre of not more than 1000m² retail floorspace with no more than 20% of that as comparison goods
- a 2 forms of entry primary school and a children's centre;
- contributions towards the delivery of 2 forms of entry secondary school places off-site
- temporary accommodation to manage the demographic peak at the primary school and contributions as such for secondary schools;
- green infrastructure in accordance with Policy EN1 which connects with Broad Blunsdon and the wider countryside;

- landscape mitigation to reduce the visual impact of development to the north and east of the site;
- sport, leisure, and community facilities in accordance with the objectives of Policy CM2;
- high quality public realm; and;
- a community wide approach to renewable energy in accord with Policy DE2;

c. Development at Kingsdown shall provide sustainable transport links that integrate with Swindon including:

- •public Transport links from the first phase of development
- •mitigation contributions for the highway network;
- •vehicular access routes from Cold harbour Junction, the B4109 east of Broad Blunsdon;
- a new all vehicular bridge across the A419 to connect to the Swindon urban area;
- •measures to minimise rat running through Broad Blunsdon village and from Cold Harbour Junction; and
- •connections for walking and cycling to Swindon and Broad Blunsdon

d. Development at Kingsdown will protect, integrate and enhance existing assets including:

- Bydemill Brook and its tributaries
- Stratton Wood

e. Development at Kingsdown shall include mitigation to reduce the impact of development upon:

- existing biodiversity and geodiversity assets in accordance with Policy EN4

- the risk of flooding at new and existing communities in accordance with Policy EN7
- the historic environment, including listed buildings and any archaeological features in accordance with Policy EN10.
- the context and character of Broad Blunsdon at the northern edge of the site, through the design of the development

f. The character and identity of Broad Blunsdon shall be protected by a principle of non-coalescence between the settlements. The land between the Kingsdown development and the village shall remain part of the countryside. However, small scale development within this area, as defined on the Proposals Map, will be permitted where it retains or enhances the existing character of the countryside and:

- involves the re-use, conversion or extension of existing buildings at a scale appropriate to their location, in accordance with the criteria specified in Policy DE1; or
- is an essential requirement directly related to the economic or social needs of the rural community.

Policy RA1: Highworth

a. Development at Highworth shall be in accordance with Policies SD1 and SD2 and should support the following local priorities:

- maintain the separate identity of Highworth as a hill top market town and respect its landscape setting;
- rejuvenation of Highworth town centre to create a lively, thriving and attractive focus for the town by:
 - maintaining and enhancing the character and function of Highworth town centre;
 - seeking that appropriate development contributes

- preventing the loss of existing shops, services and facilities from Highworth town centre;
 - focusing shops, services and facilities at Highworth town centre in accordance with Policy DS1; and
 - improving the accessibility of Highworth by means of public transport, walking and cycling
- **Support a sustainable market town economy for Highworth by:**
 - supporting the expansion of existing business and encouraging economic development opportunities in accordance with Policy EC1;
 - realising tourist potential, in the form of appropriate attractions and accommodation, as a historic market town and gateway to the Cotswolds; and
 - improving the visual and physical appearance of the key points of access into the town.
- **Prevention of significant adverse environmental impact.**
- **Provision of a range of social and recreational facilities.**
- **Protection and enhancement of the role of Pentylands Park, as defined on the Proposals Map, as a place to visit for recreational purposes and related activities; and**
- b. **Land north of Blackworth Industrial Estate as shown on the proposal map is allocated for B-Class employment use, with no more than 50% of it being used for B8-use.**

Policy RA2: Wroughton

- a. **Development at Wroughton shall be in accordance with Policies SD1 and SD2 and should support the following local**

priorities at Wroughton:

- retain Wroughton's independent identity from Swindon by maintaining separation between Wichelstowe and the village;
- strengthen links, particularly by public transport, between Wroughton and Swindon including to:
 - Swindon's southern employment areas
 - the Great Western Hospital
 - West Swindon;
- strengthen the role of Wroughton village centre as a focus for the village by:
 - strengthening links between Wroughton High Street and the Ellendune Centre;
 - preventing the loss of existing shops and facilities;
 - focusing shops and facilities at Wroughton village centre in accordance with Policy EC3; and
 - maintaining and enhancing the character of Wroughton High Street.
- maximise opportunities associated with the Science Museum and Wichelstowe to benefit Wroughton and the Borough through:
 - realising tourism benefits associated with the Science Museum;
 - allowing expansion of museum activities providing the benefits are delivered sustainably and do not conflict with other policies in the Local Plan; and
 - access to new services, jobs and facilities.
- the provision of further sports and play facilities.

Policy RA3: South Marston

- a. Development at South Marston shall be in accordance with

Policies SD1 and SD2 and must contribute towards the creation of an integrated village with a distinct and separate identity from Swindon and other settlements. Expansion of the village will be as part of the Proposed Eastern Villages strategic allocation and through allocated brownfield opportunities as shown on the Proposals Map.

b. Development at South Marston shall:

- **ensure it respects the character of the existing village by:**
 - **providing housing at an average of 30 dwellings per hectare; and**
 - **providing affordable housing in accordance with Policy HA2, but at a proportion of no more than 20%.**
- **provide community, recreation facilities and retail provision of an appropriate scale, as part of a village centre; and**
- **provide Green Infrastructure in accordance with Policy EN1 proportionate to the scale of expansion; and**
- **provide an extended recreation ground to include the field to the south-west of the current recreation ground with recreational facilities of an appropriate type and scale; and**
- **protect historical landscape features, archaeological assets and existing green-infrastructure; and**
- **deliver primary school places within the village to meet the needs of an expanded South Marston; and**
- **provide a new road connection between Thornhill Road and Old Vicarage Lane, within the limits of the expanded village and designed so that it does not form a bypass to South Marston; and**
- **provide traffic management and sustainable transport measures to minimise the volume of traffic, including through traffic, and to reduce the impact on the village, in particular at**

Pound Corner; and

- **ensure other development/redevelopment opportunities on existing (brownfield) sites in the west and north of the village provide strong links with the village and make the appropriate infrastructure contributions to mitigate their impact in broad accordance with the South Marston Village SPD; and**
- **provide mitigation measures to protect the village from flood risk; and**
- **realise opportunities to facilitate main drainage and utilities supply to existing properties that currently lack connections where possible.**

c. To ensure non-coalescence of South Marston with Swindon and the other proposed Eastern Villages the land between the expanded village and the railway to the south shall remain part of the countryside. Development within this area, as defined on the Proposals Map, shall only be permitted where it retains or enhances the existing character of the countryside and:

- **involves the re-use, conversion or extension of existing buildings at a scale appropriate to their location, in accordance with the criteria specified in Policy DE1; or**
- **is an essential requirement directly related to the economic or social needs of the rural community.**

Policy LN1: Local and Neighbourhood Planning

a. In order to maximise opportunities for Swindon's community to comment on and influence growth and change in the Borough, good communication between the Borough Council, local community, and developers will be maintained through:

- **engagement and consultation in the preparation of development plans, masterplans, supplementary planning**

documents and in determining planning applications;

- encouraging pre-application discussions between developers and the local community; and,**
- ensuring that the Borough Council's decision making process is transparent and with reasons for decisions communicated effectively.**

- b. The production of non-statutory community plans by Parish Councils and other recognised organisations representative of the local community will be supported where possible to help ensure objectives, priorities and policies are broadly aligned with those of this Plan.**
- c. The preparation of statutory Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Development Orders by designated Neighbourhood Forums will be supported in accordance with the Council's Neighbourhood Planning Protocol and the requirements of local planning authorities set by the Localism Act 2011 and accompanying Regulations.**
- d. Should Neighbourhood Plans and / or Neighbourhood Development Orders not be commenced to bring forward sufficient allocations of local housing development in conformity with this Plan, or sufficient developer proposals for such housing development not have been approved within the first five years of the plan period, the Borough Council will seek to identify such sites through further separate site specific development plan allocations.**

Adoption of the Corporate Strategy 2012

Full Council

Date: 8th November 2012

Author:	Board Director Commissioning
Wards:	All Wards
Locality Affected:	All localities
Parishes Affected:	All parishes

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's Corporate Strategy for consideration and adoption by full Council.
- 1.2 The Corporate Strategy, which is attached at Appendix One, has been approved by Cabinet in two parts. Part One gained approval on 11th July 2012; Part Two was approved on 17th October 2012.

2. Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Adopt the document in Appendix 1 as the Council's Corporate Strategy for the period up to and including 2015.
- 2.2 Authorise the Board Director Commissioning in consultation with the leaders of the political groups, to make minor changes to the content and presentation of the Corporate Strategy (if required) prior to publication.
- 2.3 Authorise the Board Director, Commissioning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, 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.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Corporate Strategy is critical to the Council's success because it translates One Swindon, Stronger Together and our very challenging and radically changing context into the Council's Priorities for the next three years.
- 3.2 In doing so our Corporate Strategy clearly states *what* the Council's Priorities are, *why* we've chosen them, *how* we will achieve them, and our *measures* of success. It pays particular attention to the changes we need to make as a Council in order to continue to be successful.
- 3.3 The Corporate Strategy will help consistently focus the Council's people and resources on addressing the most important challenges and opportunities being faced by the people we serve. It provides a clear sense of purpose and direction against which decisions and plans can be made, implemented and reviewed, and spending reprioritised. Furthermore, it applies to all of the Council's functions

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from James Griffin
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Adoption of the Corporate Strategy 2012

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and responsibilities and sets the expectation that they will be focused in service of the Council's Priorities.

- 3.4 The Corporate Strategy has been developed by Members and officers over the past six months and has been through a number of iterations to reflect the many helpful suggestions made.
- 3.5 As the Council's Corporate Strategy shifts from formulation to implementation and review, a key next step will be to embed it into the commissioning, financial and business plans, other key strategies, and the Council's corporate performance management framework.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The Priorities, Strategies and Measures set out in the proposed Corporate Strategy, together with the more detailed plans being developed beneath them, will enable officers to work with Members to re-prioritise how the Council spends its money. The aim of this is to achieve the maximum value from the reducing level of resources available to contribute to the Council's Priorities and deliver the savings necessary to balance the Council's finances

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights implications have been taken into account in drafting this report. It is considered that the report's recommendations are compatible with Convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 Delivery of the Corporate Strategy will require a wide-ranging programme of capability development and culture change so that local people are at the heart of everything we do. Staff will need to work with communities and individuals to support them to find their own solutions to challenges they face.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 There are close links with One Swindon and Stronger Together, and with the Council's Commissioning Plan.

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Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 In the development of the proposed Corporate Strategy, equality considerations have had significant focus. The Equalities Task Group has been involved on a number of occasions to assist in maintaining this focus. This report, together with the supporting appendices forms a high level Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) including our justification for this choice of priorities.
- 5.6 The Priorities, Strategies and Measures will be delivered in ways which will achieve Swindon's Equality vision. Each will be based in understanding who our local communities are and then making our services and employment accessible to them. They will be the subject of separate DIAs as part of the business planning process.

Risk Management

- 5.7 The main risks to the Corporate Strategy are
- 5.7.1 The Priorities and Strategies are insufficient to meet the Council's most important challenges
- 5.7.2 The Corporate Strategy is not implemented sufficiently well to realise the Priorities and we do not consistently allocate resources to our Priorities
- 5.7.3 Both these risks continue to be mitigated through a robust process of Corporate Strategy development, implementation and review. This will ensure that Priorities and Strategies are evidence based and that operational feasibility is addressed through close working with Members and officers responsible for resource allocation decisions and implementation of the Strategies.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix One – The Corporate Strategy

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Swindon Borough Council's Corporate Strategy 2013-2015

Foreword

It has never been more important for the Council to have a clear set of priorities that are linked to spending and available resources. Like all local authorities we continue to face huge challenges of increasing demand across for our services and reducing resources. This strategy will guide our decision making and spending over the next three years so that we maintain a focus on what really matters most to the people of Swindon.

The Priorities in this strategy describe what we will do and even more importantly they begin to demonstrate how we will work in new and different ways to achieve them. It is based on our belief that it is better to work with people, businesses and communities rather than simply deliver services to them. It is based on our belief that the Council should increasingly enable, facilitate and support rather than simply provide services.

There is great pride in Swindon and the Council will encourage this and actively help individuals, community groups and businesses who want to do more for themselves, more for others, and more for Swindon.

Introduction

Our Corporate Strategy is critical to our success because it translates One Swindon, Stronger Together and our hugely challenging and radically changing context into the Council's Priorities for the next three years. In doing so our Corporate Strategy clearly states *what* our Priorities are, *why* we've chosen them, *how* we will achieve them, and our *measures* of success. It pays particular attention to the changes we need to make as a Council in order to continue to be successful.

Our Corporate Strategy will help consistently focus the Council's people and resources on addressing the most important challenges and opportunities being faced by the people we serve. It provides us with a clear sense of purpose and direction against which decisions and plans can be made, implemented and reviewed, and spending reprioritised.

Our Corporate Strategy applies to all of the Council's functions and responsibilities and sets the expectation that they will be focused in service of the Council's Priorities. It will direct the Council's resource allocation decisions through commissioning, financial and business planning, and other key strategies such as the Local Plan. Crucially, it will also aim to inspire and support people in the Council and in Swindon to rise to the challenges we face and make our biggest positive contribution possible.

Our Priorities

Our five Priorities are:

- Work with residents to create well cared for neighbourhoods
- Right skills, right jobs, in the right places
- Together, find new ways to reduce vulnerability and improve health for all
- Work with people and families to help them fulfil their potential
- Consistently make the best use of all available resources and focus them on what matters most

Our two supporting priorities are:

- Realise in full the benefits of Stronger Together
- Develop a national profile in order to secure maximum benefit for Swindon

Our Priority is to work with residents to create well cared for neighbourhoods

We have chosen this Priority because:

- Residents consistently cite clean streets as one of the most important factors in creating a good place to live and one of those most in need of improvement.
- Residents who feel they can influence decisions about their local area are far more likely to be satisfied with their local area

We will help achieve this Priority by:

- Working with local communities to understand what matters most about their local environment and to develop their participation in caring for their neighbourhood
- Working with StreetSmart to streamline the delivery of local services such as waste collection and recycling, grass cutting and road maintenance

We will know we have been successful when:

- The majority of residents are satisfied that their neighbourhood is clean & well cared for
- The number of people who are regularly involved in caring for a neighbourhood increases year on year

Our Priority is right skills, right jobs, in the right places

We have chosen this Priority because:

- Swindon is dependent on a small number of large businesses and so must develop and retain existing businesses whilst attracting new. Whilst the rate of business start-ups is high, many do not become sustainable businesses.
- In terms of skills & qualifications, Swindon's performance at GCSE and Levels 2-4 is below average and the gap widens at higher qualification levels. This is reflected in residents' salary levels being lower than commuters in to Swindon.
- Swindon's rate of economic inactivity is above average and yet many do want to work. The number of our young people not in work or learning is higher than average.
- The national reduction in development funding means we must find innovative ways of encouraging development.

We will help achieve this Priority by:

- Seeking to retain and grow Swindon's existing business base
- Actively managing our portfolio of physical assets to promote good economic growth
- Embedding a culture within the Council to support good economic growth

- Improving the skills and qualifications of young people and adults to enable them to engage in learning and compete for jobs
- Creating the conditions to help generate more jobs, particularly in the 18-25 age group, support business start-ups and improve Swindon's productivity
- Bringing forward plans to deliver key infrastructure projects to deliver economic growth in Swindon and a more successful town centre
- Maximising all available revenue from development opportunities and establish new funding streams

We will know we have been successful when we have:

- Worked in partnership with schools, academies, colleges and other learning providers to increase the percentage of young people achieving 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C and 2 A 'Levels at grades A*-E by the age of 19 and in the adult working age population increasing the percentage with higher level qualifications such as Higher National Diplomas and degrees to reach and exceed the national average through year on year improvement
- Worked in partnership with schools and academies to increase the percentage of young people achieving five GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths to reach and exceed the national average through year on year improvement
- Provided a net increase of readily available employment land
- Reduced youth unemployment to below the national average
- Increased the rate of growth in Gross Value Added relative to our comparators
- Increased income year on year from business rates through growth

Our Priority is to together, find new ways to reduce vulnerability and improve health for all

We have chosen this Priority because:

- Our spend is skewed to the provision of high cost specialist services rather than preventing future problems arising
- Demand for all care services continues to rise, with large and unsustainable rises expected in the long term
- We must identify and take opportunities to reduce spend through early intervention, commissioning from all sectors, and working with other public sector organisations
- We must promote independence as people want to be in control of their own lives and our way of working needs to support people to help themselves

We will help achieve this Priority by:

- Investing in working models which are evidence based, cost effective, improve outcomes and protect children and vulnerable adults
- Working with partners to support individuals/communities to improve their own well-being

- Reviewing and redesigning services working with vulnerable adults, families, children & young people so that they all provide help early and prevent crises occurring
- Focusing our sports, leisure and cultural provision on building community capacity and reducing demand on other services
- Using commissioning to improve value for money and increase choice for users of services
- Working with communities and partners to agree the priorities to improve the health of the population and reduce inequalities

We will know we have been successful when we have:

- As part of our wider work with children and families, improved the lives of 370 'Troubled Families' by improving attendance and reducing exclusions for school age children, reducing anti-social behaviour across the family, reducing youth offending and by supporting adults and young people within the family to progress into work
- Reduced the number of children on new child protection plans, which are second or subsequent plans, to no more than 12.5% in any year
- Supported vulnerable children to stay in Swindon and deliver better value for money, through increasing the proportion spent on independently funded placements for children in care within Swindon to 92.8% as a proportion of the total spend
- Supported people to live healthier lives by:
 - Reducing obesity at age 11 years to the same level or less than the average for England
 - Reducing smoking prevalence to 20% or less by 2015
 - Halting the rise in alcohol related admissions to acute care
 - Increasing the number of people physically active to 25% by 2015
 - Offering all eligible people an NHS cardio vascular health check once every five years
- Increased the number of people living at home for longer through:
 - Supporting people to remain in their own homes or in community based care and reducing the number of new entrants into residential care
 - Increasing the number of adults with learning disabilities in supported living accommodation rather than residential care

Resulting in an overall 5% reduction in the numbers of adults in residential care by 2015

Our Priority is to work with people and families to help them fulfil their potential

We have chosen this Priority because:

- Engagement in public life is low, as is the number of residents who feel they can influence decisions in their local area
- We must fully understand what residents most value and expect from the Council and raise their awareness of the Council's current services and the impact of reducing budgets

We will help achieve this Priority by:

- Developing public participation in local decision-making
- Developing the capacity and confidence of our workforce, so that it seeks at the outset to build on individual resilience and skills by working with people to find solutions

We will know we have been successful when, as the Listening Council, we have increased the number of:

- Engagement meetings held
- People who have benefitted from community grants
- People coming to locality activities
- Case studies showing evidence of the positive impact of localities' work across all areas of Swindon

Our Priority is to consistently make the best use of all available resources and focus them on what matters most

We have chosen this Priority because:

- We will only meet our forecast £15m budget gaps by transforming the way we work with communities and partners
- We must identify and take further savings opportunities, including further reductions in back office functions, best use of our assets, ensuring our contracts delivery value for money, and focusing our strategic partnerships on achieving shard priorities

We will help achieve this Priority by:

- Growing community capacity through local projects, including sports, leisure and cultural projects and by encouraging community led solutions and action
- Increase the number of and maximise the impact of volunteers
- Changing our services so that they focus on helping individuals and communities to develop their own local solutions more efficiently
- Improving levels of customer engagement, making services we provide more effective and efficient, and making other solutions more accessible
- Working with Communities to make sure that the Council funds activities that add real value to the Community and that other agencies or communities cannot deliver themselves
- Ensuring our buildings, ICT and staffing support structures are fit for purpose for our current and future needs
- Joining up public services internally, and with local partners, so that we achieve more, with less money, through effective collaboration, which reduces duplication
- Using commissioning to ensure that there can be real choice about how agreed outcomes will be secured in the most efficient and effective way
- Renegotiating the purpose and medium term focus of our key strategic partners (Capita, SEQOL, Forward Swindon Limited, Swindon Commercial Services) to ensure their priorities/strategies are clear and aligned with those of the Council and with each other

We will know we have been successful when:

- We have delivered, with our partners, a balanced Council budget each year that aligns resources to achieve the Council's Priorities
- We are in the upper quartile when measured against other local authorities for performance in efficiency and value for money
- More people understand and contribute to the budget process in the Council

WG Little Trust Fund Properties

COUNCIL

Date: 8th November 2012

Author: Cabinet Member for Finance and Board Director of Finance, Revenues, Benefits & Property

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To seek approval to dispose of property assets held within the WG Little Trust Fund to gain a better financial return for the Trust Fund.

Recommendation

Council is asked to agree that:

- The properties at 1 & 3 Faringdon Road, Swindon are disposed of and their sale proceeds invested for the continued benefit of the Trust;
- Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director of Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property, to complete the sale of those properties on such terms and conditions as he thinks reasonable in order to protect the interests of the Council
- If officers consider that the Fund would receive a greater financial return by investing the sale proceeds in future investment property, the Board Director of Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property be authorised to make further property purchases.

1. Reasons

1.1 The properties at 1 & 3 Faringdon Road are in increasing need of repair and annual maintenance and it is the professional view of the Council's Property Team that the WG Little Trust Fund would gain greater financial benefit from disposing of its two properties than it would from retaining them.

1.2 Council agreed on 18th May 2012 that "in respect of any strategic changes to the physical assets within the Funds" the matter be referred to Council.

2. Detail

2.1 The WG Little Charitable Trust Fund owns the properties of 1 & 3 Faringdon Road, Swindon. Historically, the income from the rental of these properties has been added to the investment income generated from cash balances within the Fund to create an annual sum of money that has been spent on supporting young people from low income households in education, including funding school uniforms in recent years. All of the Trust Fund assets are managed separately from the Council's and, as Trustee, the Council has a statutory obligation to manage the finances of the Trust Fund in a way that maximises their value.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Type Contact Person here* on *Direct Dial No. here* or Email *Type Employee here@swindon.gov.uk*.

WG Little Trust Fund Properties

COUNCIL

Date: 8th November 2012

- 2.2 Despite attempts to let the property, number 3 Faringdon Road has been empty for some years with prospective tenants being put off by the scale of repairs required. Number 1 is occupied by the Citizens Advice Bureau but again is in need of modernising.
- 2.3 The refurbishment costs are estimated at around £100k for each property. The current cash balance on the Trust Fund is only marginally greater than this which, if spent, would leave no investment interest to generate income for future awards.
- 2.4 Any decision taken on the future of these properties needs to be taken in the interests of maximising income for the Trust Fund, not to achieve any wider benefits the Council may see. Recognising the poor state of repair of the buildings, an independent report was commissioned for the Property Team to undertake an investment appraisal. Their report concluded that in order to secure the best financial return for the Trust, the properties should be disposed of and the capital receipts reinvested in the Trust Fund. The full report was shared with the Lead and Shadow Members for Finance and both support the proposal to dispose of these properties on the open market.
- 2.5 The Council is working with the Citizens Advice Bureau to ensure that alternative accommodation is secured for it.
- 2.6 The receipt generated from the disposal of the two properties would be invested on behalf of the Trust Fund with the annual income being used for the awarding of grants only. The existing balance on the funds would be used to provide stability of the amount available annually in award making. The amount that is generated from the asset disposal would be deemed a capital investment and this amount would be kept in perpetuity to generate investment returns. Members are asked to approve that Numbers 1 and 3 Faringdon Road be disposed of.
- 2.7 At a future date, should the Property Team advise that they feel it would be in the best interests of the Trust Fund to purchase alternative property with the sale proceeds to generate a greater financial income to the Fund, Members are also asked to agree that the purchase of future investment property can be made.

Alternative Options

- The Fund could keep hold of the properties and use up the fund balance to contribute to the refurbishment of the property.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Type Contact Person here* on Direct Dial No. *here* or Email *Type Employee here@swindon.gov.uk*.

WG Little Trust Fund Properties

COUNCIL

Date: 8th November 2012

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- It is estimated that the properties require investment of £200k to bring them up to a modern standard to maximise the rental opportunities for them. This sum would virtually wipe out the balance on the Trust Fund making annual grant awards impossible until new tenants were found.
- It is envisaged that without significant investment the current rental income of £20k per annum is not sustainable and that greater value would be achieved by selling the properties and investing the receipts until such a time that a future rental property investment can be made.
- A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has not been done as this report does not make any recommendations that affect services.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- The Charity Commission would need to be notified of the formal intention and completion process of the sale of charity land. This matter is being considered by the Council in its capacity as Trustee of the property.

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

- Any proposal to modernise the current objectives of the Trust Funds will enable officers to better align those objectives to its Corporate Plans, where appropriate.

Consultees

- The Board Director of Finance, Revenues, Benefits & Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- The three political group spokespersons have also been consulted.

Background Papers and Appendices

- Council report Friday 18th May, Agenda Item 16: Trust Funds

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from *Type Contact Person here* on Direct Dial No. *here* or Email *Type Employee here@swindon.gov.uk*.

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Standards Committee Annual Report

COUNCIL

Date: 8th November 2012

Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To ask the Council to note the Standards Committee Annual Report for 2011/12.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 That the Standards Committee Annual Report for June 2011 – June 2012 be welcomed and endorsed.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Standards Committee has each year prepared an Annual Report summarising its work for the previous year.
- 3.2 The Standards Committee Annual Report for 2011/12 is attached at Appendix '1'.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 It is good practice to make an Annual report on the work of the Committee, but this was a matter for the Committee to determine.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications of this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific legal or human rights implications of this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other implications that have been identified as important for this report.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor, 01793 463012, staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

Standards Committee Annual Report

COUNCIL

Date: 8th November 2012

Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 Monitoring of issues of probity in the Council underpins the Council's plans and policies and the delivery of One Swindon objectives.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, as it does not recommend a change in Council policy or service.

Risk Management

- 5.6 A risk assessment has not been completed in relation this report, as it does as it does not recommend a change in Council policy or service.

6. Consultees

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

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Standards Annual Report for June 2011 – June 2012.

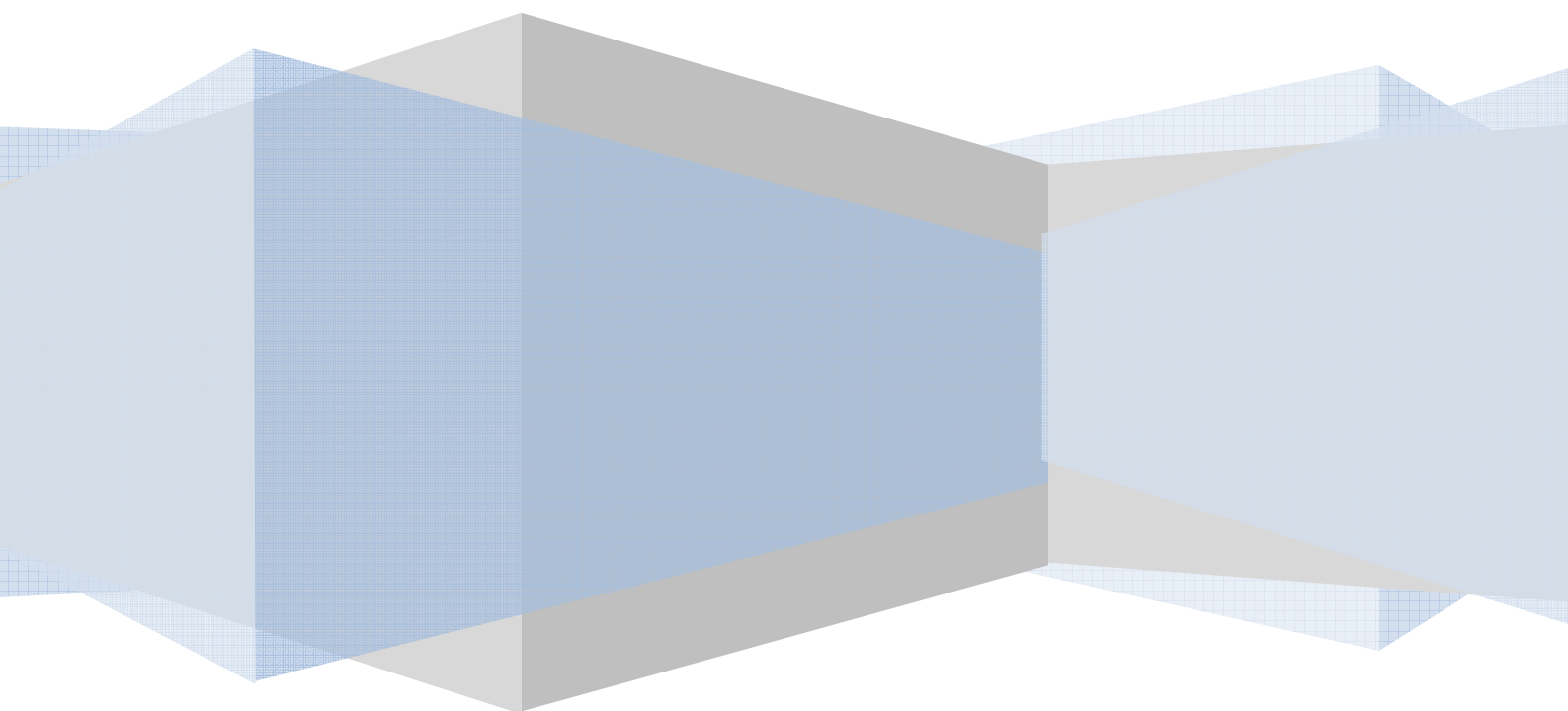
Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor, 01793 463012, staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

Swindon Borough Council

Standards Committee

Annual Report

June 2011 – June 2012



Introduction

The requirement for Councils to have a Standards Committee with an independent Chair and independent members was abolished by the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's statutory Committee ceased on 30 June 2012.

The Council has adopted a new Members Code of Conduct from 1 July 2012 and appointed a non-statutory Standards Committee to carry forward many of the functions of the previous statutory Committee. It will continue to promote high standards of conduct by Members of the Borough Council and Parish Councils in Swindon, and assist them to observe their Code of Conduct. The Committee will also seek to maintain the profile of probity and conduct in the Council.

This Annual Report is a record of the work of the statutory Standards Committee from June 2011 to June 2012.

Standards Committee Remit

The remit of the statutory Standards Committee was to:

- Advise on the adoption and monitoring of relevant codes of conduct and behaviour.
- Oversee the Council's anti-fraud strategy and whistleblowing procedures
- Consider complaints received that Borough or Parish Councillors have breached the Members Code of Conduct, working through Assessment and Review Sub-Committees and a Hearings Panel.
- Monitor complaints relating to breaches of all other codes and procedures
- Monitor and recommend training to Officers, Members and Parish Councillors in relation to the Council's ethical framework.

Membership of the Committee for 2011/12:

Independent Members	Councillors	Parish Representatives
Mr Keith Carby (Chair) Mr Trevor Davies (Vice-Chair) Mr Paul Morris Mr David Dawson (Appointed for 4 years following public advert on a rolling basis)	<u>May 2011 – May 2012:</u> Cllr David Wood Cllr Fay Howard Cllr Peter Stoddart Cllr Sinead Darker Cllr Kevin Small <u>June 2012:</u> Cllr David Wood Cllr Fay Howard Cllr Rex Barnett Cllr Richard Hurley Cllr Mary Friend Cllr Doreen Dart (deputy) (Appointed at Annual Council)	Mr Mike Compton Mr Richard Hailstone Mr Gerry Eyles (Appointed following nomination by the Swindon Area Committee of Parish Councils)

Annual Report and Work Programme

The Committee agreed the Annual Report of its work for 2010/11 and a Work Programme for 2011/12 at its meeting in October 2012. The full Standards Committee met on five occasions between June 2011 and June 2012, and completed all the items scheduled on its work programme.

Summary of Members Code of Conduct Complaints:

Set out below is a summary of the complaints received and dealt with by the Committee in 2011/12 compared to previous three years, relating to breaches of the Members Code of Conduct:

Year	Complaints	No Further Action	Withdrawn	Referred for Monitoring Officer Action	Referred for Investigation	Breach	No Breach	Outcome Awaited
2008/09	14	13	0	0	1	1	0	0
2009/10	7	4	0	1	2	1	1	0
2010/11	12	4	4	0	4	0	3	1
2011/12	11	7	0	2	2	0	1	1

Type of Complaints:

Of the 11 complaints received during 2011/12, 9 related to Borough Councillors and 2 to Parish Councillors. The complaints concerned alleged a wide range of potential breaches of the Code, including inappropriate or misleading comments, advice or behaviour in person or in writing, allegedly failing to disclose an interest, and inappropriate meeting conduct. 3 complaints were received from Parish Councillors, 1 from an Officer and 7 from Members of the Public. None this year were received from Borough Councillors.

Processing of Complaints:

The Assessment Sub-Committee met on 6 occasions during the year to carry out the first stage assessment of the complaints received, to agree if they should be considered for further action, having regard to the Council's Assessment Criteria. Of the seven complaints on which no further action was agreed, four of the complainants sought a review of the decision, and the Review Sub-Committee met three times. On each occasion the Review Sub-Committee decided to uphold the original decision.

The Hearings and Considerations Sub-Committee met once during the year to review an investigator's report in respect of an alleged breach of the Members Code of Conduct. The Sub-Committee agreed with the Investigator's recommendation that there had not been a

breach of the Code of Conduct or Protocol, and therefore a hearing was not necessary.

Investigations:

In each of the complaints referred for investigation, the Monitoring Officer appointed an external investigator, in order that he could continue to provide advice to the Standards Committee itself. In addition, two complaints under the Protocol of Member / Officer Relations were referred to an Investigator. The approximate cost of fees paid for investigations between June 2011 and June 2012 was £9,104.00. The Monitoring Officer reviewed all completed investigations to ensure the quality of the investigation, final report and presentation to the Hearings Panel. The selection of external investigator was based on the quality of work carried out, and the cost was benchmarked against a call-off contract to ensure value for money was achieved.

Monitoring of Complaints:

The Standards Committee received a brief summary of the progress of Code of Conduct complaints at each meeting during the year.

Breaches of the Member / Officer Protocol

At each meeting of the Committee, the Monitoring Officer also reported as to whether or not any complaints had been received under the Member / Officer protocol. Three complaints were received under the Protocol of Member / Officer relations during 2011/ 2012. One of the complaints was considered by a Standards Panel and although no failure to follow the Protocol was identified, the Monitoring Officer was asked to follow up with the respondent to ensure they did not make themselves open to complaint in future.

Two other complaints were referred for to an external investigator, and the reports when finalised these were considered by a meeting of the Consideration and Hearings Committee. On one complaint the investigator recommended that there had not been failure to follow the Protocol, and this view was confirmed by the Sub-Committee who agreed that no further action was required. On the second complaint the investigator recommended that there has been a failure to follow the Protocol and this has been referred to a Hearing, which is due to take place shortly.

The Monitoring Officer has continued to work behind the scenes in discussion with senior officers and political groups, in relation to any incident, which he has been made aware of informally.

Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Whistleblowing Policy.

The Committee regularly participates in the review of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and the Whistleblowing Policy, and Fraud Response Plan. The Head of Internal Audit confirmed to the Committee in October 2011, that the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy and

Whistleblowing Policy was up to date with current policy and best practice, following amendments to meet the requirements of the Bribery Act 2010. In addition, the Committee noted that Internal Audit had developed a Fraud Response Plan to assist managers in knowing how to deal with allegations or suspicions of wrongdoing.

Monitoring of Whistleblowing Complaints

Throughout the year, the Standards Committee has continued to monitor complaints received against Officers under the Council's Whistleblowing policy, being notified of new complaints and the progress and outcomes of investigations, and considering learning points which arise. The Committee received a summary of all whistleblowing cases to date at its meeting in March 2012. During 2011/12 there 5 whistleblowing cases were received, with 2 further received between March and June 2012. Of the 7 complaints, 3 were anonymous, two were from members of the public, and two were from employees.

Where the results of cases have been finalised, 1 has resulted in disciplinary action, on 2 there was either insufficient evidence to proceed / no case to answer/ the allegation was unfounded, and 1 is being dealt with under another policy. In one of the cases where there was insufficient evidence, further reviews are taking place on the area of work due to the number of unrelated complaints made over a period of time.

The fact that a number of cases were referred to Internal Audit for investigation shows that staff had confidence in the investigation process.

The Localism Act 2011 and the Standards Regime

Much of 2011/12 was occupied for the Committee with the statutory changes in the Standards Regime and understanding the implications of the anticipated Localism Bill prior to November 2011 and planning in advance, and then implementing the changes required once it was enacted on 15th November 2011.

October 2011:

At its meeting in October, the Committee considered a model Code of Conduct for Members drafted by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (ACSeS), as a replacement to the statutory Code of Conduct.

January 2012:

The Committee received a detailed report on the Localism Act 2012 in January 2012, on the changes to the system of regulation of standards of conduct for members and co-opted members. The report set out a number of proposals for the Code of Conduct and the way in which the Complaints would be processed, which were to be discussed with Political Groups and the Corporate Governance Review Working Group. The Committee offered their own recommendations on the following areas to form part of these discussions:

- The Committee supported having a politically balanced stand-alone Standards Committee to oversee the ethical framework, with one or more Parish Representatives co-opted to it, to maintain a transparent process for the public.
- The Committee recommended to Council that the Monitoring Officer begin the process for appointment of one or more Independent Persons directly, and consult the Group Leaders on the process for appointment and remuneration.
- The preference for any future voluntary Code to be based on the current one, but updated to:
 - Include the new definition of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests when defined by the Regulations.
 - Exclude the need to declare interests where such a declaration is unnecessary, such as where the interest solely relates to being a Council-appointed representative, and is not prejudicial.
 - To reflect and re-enforce the conduct of Councillors required in relation to the use of social media, which was included in the last update to the Media Guidelines for Councillors.
- It was recommended that Council introduces in its Standing Orders a requirement for Councillors who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest to not only abstain from voting, but also to leave the meeting during the discussion of such a matter.
- The Monitoring Officer was asked develop a streamlined version of the procedure for dealing with Member Officer Protocol Complaints which can then be used as the basis for processing Code of Conduct complaints, taking account the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 set out in the report, and subject to any additional requirements arising from the Regulations when issued.

The Committee asked that the Monitoring Officer consult with the Corporate Governance Review Working Group, Political Groups and where appropriate Parish Clerks, on the following matters, taking account of the Committee's views set out above, and report back:

- a) How the ethical framework set out in the Localism Act 2011 is to be managed in Swindon and whether a Standards Committee (which must be politically balanced) should be appointed to succeed the current Standards Committee,
- b) The Code of Conduct to be adopted by the Council, together with the process for considering complaints under that Code and the sanctions available,
- c) Arrangements for the advertisement for, and appointment of, one or more Independent Persons,
- d) The implementation of the requirements of the Act regarding the future registration and declaration of members' interests, including whether to require members to withdraw from the meeting where such an interest exists, and
- e) Arrangements for the granting of dispensations to Councillors.

It was recognised that the changes in relation to pre-determination had come into effect on 15th January 2012, and the Monitoring Officer had issued guidance to all Councillors. The Committee endorsed the proposal to amend the Members Planning Code of Good Practice with immediate effect to reflect these changes, but also to send the Code to the Planning Committee to consider any further amendments it might wish to recommend. It authorised the

Monitoring Officer to make any subsequent changes to the Code to take account of these recommendations, and any amendments required to reflect to the Stronger Together structure.

March 2012:

At its meeting in March 2012, the Committee received an update from the Monitoring Officer on the recommendations of the Corporate Governance Working Group, which supported the Committee's own recommendations, including the proposal for stand-alone Committee, with continued co-opted member representation, and a voluntary Code based as far as possible on the existing one. The Committee also agreed an extension to the terms of reference of the independent members, until the Committee had completed its work.

June 2012:

The Committee met for its last statutory meeting in June 2012, to adopt the arrangements for the Standards Framework to be operated by the Council from 1 July 2012.

The Committee considered a report from the Monitoring Officer recommending the adoption of a new Members Code of Conduct and procedure for investigating and hearing complaints to come into operation when the statutory Standards Framework ceases to have effect under the Regulations to the Localism Act.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services advised on the Pecuniary Interest Regulations and the Local Act 2011 (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional, Savings and Transitory Provisions) Order 2012 which had been issued by the Government on 8th June 2012.

The Committee noted the options before the Council in relation to the Code of Conduct and Standards Framework. It was recommended to Council that the Code as appended to the report was in line with discussions with the Standards Committee, Parish Councils and the Corporate Government Working Party to keep the Code as close to the current one as possible. The Committee recommended one change, which was to the increase in the value of gifts or hospitality to be declared by Members from £25 to £50. The Director of Law and Democratic Services advised that he would provide additional information in the report to Council as to the nature of declarable pecuniary interests under the Regulations, and for which failure to declare made Members liable to prosecution, and the nature of the sanctions available to the courts. The Director of Law and Democratic Services would be offering training to Councillors.

It was noted that Town and Parish Councils were also required to adopt a Code of Conduct by 1 July 2012, and it was not yet known whether those in Swindon would adopt the same Code as the Council or adopt that recommended by the National Association of Local Councils. It was agreed that the Director of Law and Democratic Services would also offer training to Town and Parish Councils on the Code and new framework.

The Committee recommended to Council all the governance arrangements suggested as to the consideration of complaints under the Code of Conduct, for the appointment of two independent persons, and for the composition and work of the Standards Committee.

It was also recommended that the Monitoring Officer would be authorised to make any further technical amendments to the Code and to the other Council Codes and Protocols which may be necessary as a result of any statutory requirements introduced following the adoption of the revised Code.

The current statutory Standards Committee would be dissolved on 30th June 2012, and a new Standards Committee would be appointed with effect from 1st July 2012.

It was agreed that Article 9 and 10 of the Council's Constitution be amended The Director of Law and Democratic Services Officer be authorised to amend the Council's Constitution to take into account any further amendments required as a result of the Localism Act 2011 and its associated Regulations

Arrangements for the appointment of two Independent Persons were put in place.

Desktop Ethical Audit

The Standards Committee completes an annual Desktop Ethical Audit, based on that designed by the IDeA to assess that it has all governance requirements in place.

The annual review and update was approved by the Committee in October 2011.

Leader and Chief Executive Question and Answer Session

The Leader of the Council, and the Chief Executive, attended the meeting in March 2012 to discuss the Council's approach to ethical governance, and their key priorities in relation to ensuring that high ethical standards are promoted and maintained within the Council. This is an annual session for the Standards Committee to discuss Ethical Governance issues, with the Political and Officer leadership of the Council.

The discussion included:

- An update on Stronger Together, the new Council management structure and way of working from 1 April 2012, and the context and reasons for these changes.
- The role for Town and Parish Councils under the Localism Act, and the need for close working with the Council, in particular in Localities.
- The context in which the Council was operating with regard to the economic climate, budget pressures and a heightened political environment, and the importance of the public understanding the different roles of officers and Councillors, and the democratic mandate held by Councillors.
- The continuing growth of social media, and the difficulties that presents for Councillors knowing how and when to engage, and ensuring that their contributions are compliant with the Media Guidelines for Councillors and the Member Code of Conduct.

The Committee noted that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive both considered that the Protocol of Member / Officer Relations was fit for purpose. In addition, the discussion

on social media endorsed an earlier recommendation by the Committee that the new Members Code of Conduct, to be drafted when the Regulations under the Localism Act were published, should include specific reference to use of social media.

Annual Governance Statement

The Committee at its meeting in March 2012 was consulted on the arrangements for preparing the Council's Annual Governance Statement, including the areas and questions which Board Directors and Directors were asked to give assurance on.

This is important as the Annual Governance Statement is the formal statement that recognises, records and publishes the Council's governance arrangements.

Training

The Committee has continued to assure itself by regular updates that appropriate ethical training of Borough Councillors and Parish Councillors is taking place, including reports to its October 2011, January 2012 and March 2012 meetings. The Monitoring Officer has provided induction training to all new Members of the Council following Borough Elections. This covered ethics, probity and governance matters, including an overview of the Council's constitution, Members Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest. All members of the Planning Committee and Licensing Committee have received the necessary training, prior to sitting on these Committees.

Parish Councils

The Standards Committee has continued to monitor training for Parish Councillors and offered assistance where required, as an important part of its role. The Monitoring Officer chaired quarterly meetings of Parish Clerks in the Borough throughout the year, and the Ethical Framework was a standing item on the agenda, with any issues arising able to be reported back to the Standards Committee. In addition, quarterly liaison meetings were held between Parish Councillors and representatives of the Borough Council to promote and maintain the Borough / Parish Charter, which is an important part of decision-making and proper consultation between the Borough and the Parishes.

Complaints on Ethical Standards

The Council monitors complaints received from members of the public in relation to its operation and decision-making. No complaints were received during the 2011/12 Municipal Year that related to the ethical standards of the authority.

Declarations of Interest

No applications were received from Borough or Parish Councillors during this year for dispensations in respect of declarations of interest. As part of the adoption of the new Localism Act arrangements, it was recommended to Council and agreed that the Standards

Committee be authorised to grant dispensations under section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

Standing Orders were amended at Annual Council on 18th May 2012 to require those declaring personal and prejudicial, or disclosable pecuniary interests, to declare that interest and leave the room during the discussion of the relevant item unless a dispensation to stay has been obtained.

Following a resolution of the Committee in September 2004, the public register of Councillors' interests has continued to be made available on the Council's website. The Committee strongly supported in the interests of demonstrating openness and transparency of conduct that all registers were made available in this way. Arrangements were put in place as part of the implementation of the Localism Act in June 2012 for both Councillor and Parish Councillor Registers to be made available on the website, once the Council and Parish Council adopted new Codes of Conduct.

Summary

The Standards Committee had a busy 2011/12, with the abolition of the statutory standards framework, and in conjunction with the Corporate Governance Working Group making recommendations to Council on new arrangements, to continue to receive and process Code of Conduct Complainants. The statutory Committee continued to promote and monitor ethical standards in the authority and with local parish Councils, and has sought to actively promote and enhance the Council's openness, accountability and probity, in its own work and that with its partners.

At the last meeting of the statutory Committee, Members paid tribute to the work of the Independent Members and Parish Councillors, in particular Mr. Keith Carby (Chair) and Mr. Trevor Davies (Vice-Chair) who had served on the Committee since it was first set up in 2000.

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.