



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2012/13

Thursday, 11 April 2013

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

3 April 2013

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, 11 April 2013 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 - 20)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 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. Appointment of Leader of Swindon Borough Council (Pages 21 - 24)

7. Appointment to Committees

To consider changes to the membership of Council Committees following the appointment of the Council's Cabinet. (To be tabled.)

8. Minutes for Confirmation (Pages 25 - 34)

(1) To consider Minutes for Confirmation from Cabinet:

- Minute 115 Community Governance Review and Minute 28(5) of the Corporate Governance Working Group - Governance Issues (Minute 31 of the Corporate Governance Working Group will be tabled).
- Minute 122 – Statement of Community Involvement in the Planning Process.
- Minute 126 – The Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Minute 133 – Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Sites Allocations Local Plan – Inspectors Report and Adoption.

(2) To note Minutes from Cabinet:

- Minute 116 – Motion at Council: Honda Task Force – Summary of Support to Honda.
- Minute 125 – Motion at Council: Use of Bailiffs.
- Minute 127 – Motion at Council: Recording and Broadcasting Full Council Meetings.
- Minute 130 – Motion at Council: Housing Market Support.

9. Motions

(a) Motion - Pop Up Shops

Councillor Mark Dempsey will move and Councillor Jim Robbins will second:

“That this Council notes that in large towns and cities such as Brighton, Pop Up Shops have brought empty shops back to life, have enabled new businesses to grow and have and unleashed young retail entrepreneurs onto the high street.

Council requests the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture to provide a report to Cabinet (a) on how the Council can support the creation of Pop Up Shops as part of a Help for the High Street strategy to breathe new life into Swindon Town Centre and to tackle increasing shop vacancy rates, and

(b) investigating how the Council can enable the creation of Pop up Shops through access to empty shops units in Swindon town centre, to help rebuild our local economy and provide a vibrant addition to the Swindon shopping experience.”

(b) **Motion - Housing Benefits**
Councillor Cindy Matthews will move and Councillor Steve Allsopp will second:

“That this Council notes that 1,120 households who are part of the Swindon Council housing stock will be affected as a result of the government housing benefit under-occupancy changes- dubbed the ‘bedroom tax’. There are also a further 330 households who live in accommodation rented from Housing Associations affected by these changes. This includes households with:

- Disabled People with at least one extra bedroom (even those that have adapted their houses to meet their needs).
- Families with two or more children under the age of 10 with their own bedrooms.

This Council notes that even if the Council was to prioritise affected tenants who need to downsize to one bedroom properties over other priority cases, it would take around 3 years to accommodate them.

This Council resolves:

- To request the Cabinet Member for Finance to bring a report to Cabinet detailing what support can be provided for tenants affected by the housing benefit changes and, in particular, how the housing discretionary fund will be used to support affected tenants.
- To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions urging him to look at other ways the government can reduce the Housing Benefit bill, such as by investing in more social house-building which would then reduce the need to use expensive private rented homes to accommodate housing benefit recipients.
- To request the Cabinet Member for Housing to bring a report to the Cabinet after six months and one year of the implementation of the housing benefit under-occupancy changes to assess the impact these reforms have had on affected tenants.”

(c) **Motion - Protecting our Heritage: Victoria Road Technical College**
Councillor Stan Pajak will move:

“This Council deplores:

- The lamentable state of the old college building resulting from the insecurity of the site
- Recent arson attacks on the building and the prospect of further attacks

This Council notes:

- That contractors are due to move on site in the next month and that this is an unacceptable time for the building to be unsecured
- The efforts of ward councillors and residents to lobby the developers and Swindon Borough Council to secure the site

This Council Resolves:

- To ask the Head of Planning to liaise with the developers to ensure the site and building security is inspected regularly to ensure its maintenance.
- To ask the Head of Planning to urgently investigate the possibility of taking steps to secure the building and site in the interest and safety of the public in the event that the developer will not keep it secure.
- To actively support any efforts made to have the building listed following the completion of the college site development."

(d) **Motion - Croft School**
Councillor Nadine Watts will move and Councillor Jim Robbins will second:

"That this Council notes the report on opening and closing of schools within the borough, presented to the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 27th March 2013.

This Council thanks the independent members for providing this report and in light of the report's view that elements of the Council's consultation over the siting of a school at Croft was "at best, confused", this Council would like to apologise to Old Town residents for this failing.

In light of the findings of the report, Council sees benefits in reviewing the decision to site the new primary school for a demand in the Old Town, Town Centre and surrounding areas on the Croft site. Council requests that a paper is brought to Cabinet for them to consider authorising an independent external review of the Croft School decision, including why the Croft site was chosen by council decision-makers and the way the decision was taken."

10. Calendar of Meetings 2013/14 (Pages 35 - 38)

To consider and recommend to Annual Council the dates for meetings of the Council, the Cabinet, Committees and other Swindon Borough Council Bodies for the Municipal Year, 2013/14.

11. Locality Team Structure 2013/14 (Pages 39 - 42)

12. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members (Pages 43 - 94)

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) and in respect of individual Cabinet Member delegated decisions.

13. 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.

14. 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.