



**SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Municipal Year 2012/13**

**Thursday, 20 December 2012**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER  
CIVIC OFFICES  
SWINDON**

11 December 2012

Dear Councillor,

**Summons to attend AN EXTRA-ORDINARY Council Meeting**

An Extra-Ordinary MEETING of the **Council**, which you are requested to attend, is to be held at the CIVIC OFFICES, SWINDON, on **Thursday, 20 December 2012** at **7.00 p.m.**

The business to be transacted will be as follows:-

**AGENDA**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Return of Councillor Elected**

The Returning Officer will report that Councillor Steve Weisinger was elected on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 following a by-election in the Blunsdon and Highworth Ward. The percentage of voters who voted in the election was 32.5%.

**3. Communications**

To receive any communications or letters which the Mayor or Chief Executive may have to bring before the Council.

**4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)**

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

**5. 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.

**6. Public Question Time**

See explanatory note below.

**7. Minutes for Confirmation (Pages 11 - 66)**

**(i) Council tax Discounts and Exemptions**

A copy of the Cabinet Minute relating to this item, arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, will be tabled. A revised version of this report, including the latest position regarding Government Regulations to enable the Council to charge mortgagees in possession is attached for Members' information.

**(ii) Council Tax Support Scheme**

A copy of the Cabinet Minute relating to this item, arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, will be tabled. The report considered by the Cabinet, including a revised Appendix 2 is also attached for Members' information.

**8. Motions**

**(a) Motion - Christmas Market**

**Councillor Mark Dempsey will move and Councillor Bob Wright will second:**

"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."

**(b) Motion - Videoing Council Meetings**

**Councillor Mark Dempsey will move:**

"This Council supports the development of a more open, transparent and accountable politics and press.

In order to rebuild trust and engagement with the decisions of this Council, at Full Council in April 2011 the Council passed a motion requesting the Chief Executive to provide a report to Cabinet on the feasibility of recording and broadcasting Council Meetings via the Council's web site. This simple measure is being implemented by Councils across the country. This Council is disappointed that 18 months since this motion, the report has still not been produced. This Council requests that this report is completed within three months, with a view to videoing Full Council Meetings by the 2013 Annual Council Meeting."

(c) **Motion - Council Funding**  
**Councillor Steve Allsopp will move:**

“This Council notes that the concerns raised in Swindon’s Big Conversation have not been heard by the Chancellor in his Autumn statement. It agrees to shout louder and ensure that the voice of those hurt most by the deepening Austerity measures is heard by the Chancellor by requesting the Chief Executive to write to him expressing our concern about the impact on the Statement on our community.”

(d) **Motion - Heathrow Airport**  
**Councillor Kevin Small will move and Councillor Des Moffatt will second:**

“This Council for local economic reasons opposes a Thames Estuary airport and advocates that the Swindon economy will benefit from better connectivity between Swindon and an improved Heathrow Airport.”

**9. 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.