



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2013/14

Thursday, 3 April 2014

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

26 March 2014

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, 3 April 2014 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 - 16)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th February 2014.
- 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

There are no Minutes for Confirmation.

7. Motions

- (a) **Motion - Swindon Energy Co-operative**
Councillor Dale Heenan will move and Councillor Oliver Donachie will second:

“This Council,

(1) Recognises the excellent work that has occurred on the Collective Energy Switch programme, which has cut gas and electricity bills for hundreds of families across Swindon.

(2) Notes the continued cross party support for initiatives to deliver on the November 2013 Full Council decision to, "100% target by 2020."

(3) Recommends that the Cabinet Member for Finance to establish a Cabinet Member Advisory Group to advise the Cabinet Member on the business cases for any Swindon Borough Council investment in renewable initiatives to ensure continued support in an open and transparent manner.

(3) Requests that the Cabinet Member for Finance present a report to Cabinet as soon as practical on setting up a Swindon Energy Social Enterprise to provide a mechanism to continue promotion of Collective Energy Switching within the Borough, allow residents to invest in renewable schemes and assist in delivering allowable solutions for zero carbon homes.”

- (b) **Motion - Lydiard Park**
Councillor Keith Williams will move and Councillor Michael Dickinson will second:

“This Council,

- condemns the scaremongering and claims being made that Lydiard Park and House is being "sold off" and is part of a campaign of "asset stripping" within the borough.

- reminds Members of their duties under the Councillors' code conduct not to bring the authority into disrepute.

- agrees that there are no plans, and this Administration will not bring forward any plans, to sell Lydiard Park and House.

- requests that the Cabinet Members for the Economy, Regeneration and Culture and Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure, presents a report to Cabinet as soon as practicable on ways to ensure that Lydiard is preserved for future generations to use and enjoy such as through a trust.”

(c) **Motion - Cars Parking on Grass Verges**
Councillor Mark Dempsey will move:

"This Council recognises the concerns of local residents in many of Swindon's communities who do not have adequate parking capacity in their residential area. Furthermore, Council recognises that this can sometimes lead to residential areas being left untidy as a result of residents having to park on grass verges.

This Council requests a report be brought to the Cabinet detailing options for how the Council can increase car parking capacity in residential areas that need it."

(d) **Motion - Opposition to Companies that Operate Blacklists**
Councillor Jim Grant will move and Councillor Derique Montaut will second:

"That Swindon Council deplores the illegal practice of blacklisting and requests that the Lead Cabinet Member and Officers seek a way to ensure that any company tendering for construction and civil engineering contracts to be awarded by Swindon Council will be asked to provide information that they have not conducted any "grave misconduct" by way of blacklisting.

This will include questions in relation to:

1. Membership of the Consulting Association.
2. Employment of individuals who were named contacts for The Consulting Association."

(e) **Motion - Traffic on Cricklade Road**
Councillor Joe Tray will move and Councillor Mark Dempsey will second:

"The Council requests the Lead Member for Highways to bring a report to Cabinet detailing how the Council could complete a road traffic survey on Cricklade Road at the Moonrakers Junction, and following the survey, undertake and complete a preliminary design of a new Moonrakers Junction that would ease the traffic on this main route into and out of the town centre. Council believes this plan should be fully consulted upon and be ready to implement as soon as funding becomes available."

(f) **Motion - Coate Water Country Park**
Councillor Derique Montaut will move and Councillor Abdul Amin will second:

"This Council recognises that since 2003 Coate Water Country Park has received far less investment than other country parks in the town and, in particular, Lydiard Park.

This Council notes that from the S106 agreement the Council has reached with the developer of the Commonhead development, up to £1m could be invested in improvements in the Coate Water Country Park.

This Council urges the Cabinet to agree that the full £1m of Section 106 money that can be invested in leisure and recreation is invested solely in Coate Water Country Park.

This Council requests the Leader of the Council bring forward a report to Cabinet detailing how the Council could provide adequate resources to East and South Swindon Localities to start a public consultation on how £1m of investment could improve Coate Water Country Park."

- (g) **Motion - West Swindon Library**
Councillor Jim Robbins will move and Councillor Nadine Watts will second:

"This Council notes the concerns of Old Town library users about the restricted access to the Old Town library as a result of the Arts Centre being managed by a private company. This Council also notes the concerns of residents and community groups in West Swindon about future access to the West Swindon Library, if and when the Council transfers the Link Centre to a different provider.

This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure bring a report to Cabinet detailing how the current level of access can be retained to both libraries following these proposed changes."

- (h) **Motion - Town Centre Road Network**
Councillor Bob Wright will move:

"This Council:

- Recognises that the Town Centre's infrastructure is of immense importance to the town's overall road network and traffic flows as well as to those who live in the Town Centre.
- Is concerned about the recently proposed changes of the Town Centre's road network and believes that it doesn't serve the interests of Town Centre users
- Believes that supplementary guidance needs to be agreed on the Town Centre's future road network that will sit with the Town Centre Masterplan.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Leader of the Council to bring a report to Cabinet to detail how the Council can initiate a Town Centre Infrastructure Consultation before further costly works begin on changing the roads, routes, paths and cycleways. The outcome of this consultation should provide the detailed specifications for the Town Centre's future road network which will provide the basis for grant applications. Council believes that if this consultation is to be agreed, it should be controlled and managed by its Highways Department."

8. Calendar of Meetings 2014/15 (Pages 17 - 20)

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, 2014/15.

9. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members (Pages 21 - 36)

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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

Access Arrangements - The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you have any special requirements to enable you to attend the meeting or would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size, please contact the Committee Officer as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

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COUNCIL

MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Michael Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, 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, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Rochelle Russell, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, Robert Wright and Julie Wright.

88. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nicky Sewell, Steve Wakefield and David Wood.

89. Minutes Silence

The Worshipful The Mayor reported the recent deaths of former Councillors Anne Baxter and Judith Peppitt. The Council held a Minutes Silence in respect of former Councillors Anne Baxter and Judith Peppitt.

90. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

91. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2014, be confirmed and signed.

92. Declarations of Interest

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that all Members had dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of the setting of the Council Tax.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillors Steve Allsopp, Fionuala Foley, Colin Lovell and Keith Williams made personal declarations of interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 (Council Budget 2014/15) as they were Council appointed Non-Executive Directors of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.

93. Public Question Time

Mr. Matthew Davies submitted written questions relating to the redevelopment of the Oasis Leisure Centre. Written responses were tabled at the meeting.

Mr. David Parkinson submitted written questions on proposed work to Queen Elizabeth Drive and public consultations on any proposed work. Written responses were tabled at the meeting.

Mr. David Parkinson asked a series of supplemental questions regarding proposed works to improve the road layout on Queen Elizabeth Drive. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Mrs Linda Kasmaty submitted a written question regarding the current consultation on possible leisure centre disposals within the Borough. A written response was tabled.

Mrs Linda Kasmaty asked a supplemental question regarding the options set out in the current consultation on leisure centre disposals within the Borough. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Ms Jane Milner-Barry submitted a written question regarding the disposal of leisure facilities within the Borough. A written response was tabled.

Ms Jane Milner-Barry asked a supplemental question regarding the disposal strategy. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Mr Brian Cockbill submitted a written question relating to the Council's current financial position. A written response was tabled.

Mr Brian Cockbill asked a supplemental question regarding monies being forwarded from Swindon Borough Council to parish and town councils. The Cabinet Member for Finance responded at the meeting.

Mr Brian Cockbill submitted written questions regarding the work of the Council's Standards Committee. The Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee responded at the meeting.

Mr Brian Cockbill asked a public question relating to the content of a previous Freedom of Information request made to the Council. The Cabinet Member for Finance responded at the meeting.

Mr Peter Falding asked a public question regarding the proposed lease arrangements for the disposal of leisure centres within the Borough. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Mr Peter Falding asked a supplemental question regarding the wider implications of tendering the running of Council leisure centres. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure responded at the meeting.

Mrs Kareen Boyd asked a public question relating to the redevelopment of village centres within the Borough. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting.

Mrs Kareen Boyd asked the Worshipful The Mayor a public question relating to the Standards Committee. The Worshipful The Mayor responded at the meeting.

Mrs Kareen Boyd asked the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee a public question relating to outstanding responses to public questions put to the Standards Committee. The Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee responded at the meeting.

Mr Terry Reynolds asked a public question relating to outstanding answers to public questions put to the January meeting of the Council. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

94. Council Budget 2014/15

The Council considered joint reports of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Board Director, Resources, considered by the Cabinet on 5th February 2014 relating to (i) Special Expenses, (ii) Budget 2014/15 and Beyond, (iii) Capital Programme, (iv) Treasury Strategy Statement 2014/15, (v) Updated Recommendations submitted at the Cabinet meeting on 5th February 2014, and (vi) Minute 84 of the Cabinet (Special Expenses), Minute 85 of the Cabinet (Budget 2014/15 and Beyond) Minute 86 of the Cabinet (Capital Programme 2014/15 to 2016/17) and Minute 87 of the Cabinet (Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2014/15).

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That, in line with Cabinet’s stated intent when the New Homes Bonus was introduced, the balance of the 2014/15 allocation (£2.9m) be set aside in an Infrastructure Fund. This will be used to support schemes that are directly linked to unlocking Swindon’s full economic potential and that a further report be brought to the Cabinet in March 2014 setting out the details of how such a Fund will operate.

That subject to this change the motions contained in Cabinet Minute 84 (Special Expenses) be noted and the recommendations in Cabinet Minutes 85 (Revenue Budget), 86 (Capital Programme) and 87 (Treasury Management Statement) of the Cabinet be confirmed and adopted.”

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Des Moffatt seconded:

“That Council resolves to amend the Council’s Revenue Budget for 2014/15 as proposed at the February 5th Cabinet Meeting to:

(1) Continue with the existing free and universal Borough-wide green waste collection service through the following additional savings:

1. Management Savings through the merging of senior responsibilities (£75K)

2. Forward Swindon (£250K)

- £50K saved by moving Forward Swindon’s Offices back within Council Premises
- The remaining savings will be found through more integrated and efficient working arrangements

3. Saving from reduced spend on Consultants (£162K)
4. Cuts in the Communications and Insight Budget (£100K)
 - Savings to be made from staffing costs
5. Law and Democratic Services (£116K)
 - £16K saved from the start of the 2014/15 Municipal Year, by reducing the maximum number of fully-funded Cabinet Member posts by 2 to leave a maximum of 8 available
 - £16K saved from a 10% cut in Special Responsibility Allowances
 - The rest of the savings to be found from a reduction in dedicated scrutiny support for council committees. This staffing saving is intended to be accompanied with the reduction of the number of committees on the Council for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.
6. Other Savings (£17K)
 - Complete cut in refreshments and bottled water costs, leading to a £17K saving.

Total sum reallocated: £720,000

(2) Use funding from unallocated earmarked reserves for 2014/15 to meet any one-off costs (anticipated to be in the order of £250,000) resulting from the reintroduction of a free, universal Green Waste collection service.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

Councillors voting against the amendment were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, 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, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors Anne Richards and Stan Pajak abstained during the vote.

Councillor Des Moffatt moved and Councillor Kevin Small seconded:

“That the detail of one-off investment in services as listed on page 20, paragraph 10.1, table 3 be amended as follows:

£000

Capacity and technology to allow customers to undertake more transactions on-line	140
Investment to allow customers to report issues using up to date "App" technology (delete)	75
Refresh road line painting in areas where the lines are not clear	25
Widen Queen Elizabeth Drive (delete)	100
Undertake access works to allotments off Greenbridge Road (delete)	25
Funding to allow a 20% discount off the price of compost bins purchased from Enterprise Works up to a ceiling of £40k	40
Create school safety zones at <u>Haydonleigh, Chiseldon and Peatmoor</u> Schools AS IDENTIFIED AS THE MOST DANGEROUS BY PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT (delete underlined bits)	30
Appoint a temporary part-time post to focus on the prevention of child sexual exploitation within the Borough	60
Additional funding for pot hole and pavement repairs	350
Add, fund first year of business case for the Thamesdown Drive Barnfield ring road design and case preparation.	200
Total One-Off Investment in Services	845

The Worshipful The Mayor ruled, upon the advice of the Director of Law and Democratic Services, that the amendment should not be considered as part of it did not relate to the 2014/15 Budget which was the subject of the debate but referred to a decision already taken by Cabinet in relation to the 2013/14 Budget.

Councillor Kevin Small moved and Councillor Des Moffatt seconded that the Motion be amended as follows:

"That £200,000 of the £355,000 added to the 2014/15 budget to help mitigate risk within 2014/15, be allocated to the 2014/15 Capital Programme to fund the start of the design and preparation work for the Thamesdown Drive/Barnfield Link Road."

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page,

Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

Councillors voting against the amendment were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, 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, Anne Richards, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

There were no abstentions.

Councillor Stan Pajak moved and Councillor Anne Richards seconded:

“That Council resolves to amend the Council’s Revenue Budget for 2014-15 as proposed by the Cabinet on February 5th 2014 as follows:-

(a) To reduce Residents’ Parking charges by £5 per annum for the first car, for permits renewed from 1st April 2014. The estimated cost of £20,000 should be funded from savings by introducing online applications for permits, increased efficiency and enforcement income across car parking services. To reduce Residents’ Parking charges further by £5 per annum for the first car from 1st April 2015. The estimated cost of £20,000 should be funded by ending funding for Residents’ Parking zonal reviews.

(b) To fund a new environmental enforcement officer post within the residential Town Centre locality at a cost of £20,000 to be funded from new penalty charge notice income raised from dog fouling and fly-tipping fines.

(c) To increase the number of Bus trips on the No. 25 bus service through Kingshill from three per day to five per day (Monday to Saturday) at a cost of £8,200. This cost will be met from specific grant funding for public transport.”

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

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, Jim Grant, John Haines, Neil Heavens, Councillors Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Anne Richards, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

There were no Councillors voting against the Motion or abstaining.

Councillor Anne Richards moved and Councillor Wayne Crabbe seconded:

“That Council resolves to amend the Council’s Revenue Budget for 2014/15 as proposed by the Cabinet on February 5th 2014 as follows:-

To add £2,500 to the Budget to fund additional managerial hours to support Wroughton’s youth worker. This sum should be redirected from the Corporate Contingency Fund.”

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

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, 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, Anne Richards, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright abstained during this vote.

There were no Councillors voting against the amendment.

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Julian price seconded that the Motion be amended as follows:

“This Council recognises the concerns raised by local residents regarding the state of many of Swindon’s roads and resolves to allocate an additional £2m of the New Homes Bonus for 2014/15 towards resurfacing Swindon’s roads.

Council requests the Board Director, Service Delivery to bring a report to the Cabinet detailing the new timetable of highways resurfacing for 2014/15 with this additional funding.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the amendment were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mark Dempsey, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

Councillors voting against the amendment were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, 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, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors Anne Richards and Stan Pajak abstained during the vote.

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

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, when in force, the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, 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, Anne Richards, David Renard, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams.

Councillors voting against the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Jim Grant, Neil Heavens, Fay Howard, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Julian Price, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Bob Wright and Julie Wright

There were no abstentions.

(Councillors Steve Allsopp, Fionuala Foley, Colin Lovell and Keith Williams made personal declarations of interest in respect of this Item as they were Council appointed Non-Executive Directors of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.)

95. Council Tax Setting 2014/15

The Council considered a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources concerning the amount of Council Tax for each Valuation Band for dwellings in each part of the Borough for 2014/15, and related matters including legal advice.

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded and the Council agreed:

“(1) That it be recorded that the advice of the Director of Law and Democratic Services’ has been taken into account when setting the level of Council Tax for 2014/15.

(2) That it be noted that the Council’s revenue budget is £142,667,544 as recommended by the Cabinet to this Council on 5th February 2014.

(3) That it be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) the Council’s Tax Base for 2014/15 is 66,245.5 in total with the breakdown by Parish set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

(4) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-

- (a) Borough / Parish Gross Expenditure £444,563,803 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the 1992 Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) Borough Gross Income plus Collection Fund Balance £368,590,639 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) Borough/Parish Net Expenditure £75,973,164 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- (d) Basic Amount of Tax (including Average Parish Precepts) £1,174.71 being the amount at 4(c) above, less the amount at 4(d) above, all divided by the amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011, this sum is not considered to be excessive.
- (e) Special Items £2,901,237 being the aggregate of Special Expenses and Parish Precepts and collectively known as special items and referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) Basic Amount of Tax (Unparished Area) £1,130.92 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by the amount at 3, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (g) Basic Amount of Tax (Special and Parished Areas) the amounts shown in Appendix 2 of the report, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in the appropriate part of the Council's area - divided by the appropriate amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a special item relates.
- (h) Borough/Parish Council Tax Rates the amounts shown in Appendix 1 of the report, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by valuation D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(5) Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£107.28	£125.16	£143.04	£160.92	£196.68	£232.44	£268.20	£321.84

(6) Swindon and Wiltshire Fire Authority That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the Swindon and Wiltshire Joint Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£42.41	£49.48	£56.55	£63.62	£77.76	£91.90	£106.03	£127.24

(7) That this Council note that there will be no increase in the Council Tax levels for the Borough element of the 2014/15 Council Tax bills in accordance with the budget proposed by Cabinet on 5th February 2014.

(8) That this Council determines that the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the Financial Year, 2014/15 is not excessive within the statutory definitions set out within Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and that therefore no referendum is required.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, Jim Grant, John Haines, Neil Heavens, Councillors Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Anne Richards, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

There were no Councillors voting against the Motion or abstaining.

96. Council Tax Setting 2014-15

The Council considered a joint report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources concerning the amount of Council Tax for each Valuation Band for dwellings in each part of the Borough for 2014/15, and related matters including legal advice.

Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor David Renard seconded and the Council agreed:

“(1) That it be recorded that the advice of the Director of Law and Democratic Services’ has been taken into account when setting the level of Council Tax for 2014/15.

(2) That it be noted that the Council’s revenue budget is £142,667,544 as recommended by the Cabinet to this Council on 5th February 2014.

(3) That it be noted that in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) the Council’s Tax Base for 2014/15 is 66,245.5 in total with the breakdown by Parish set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

(4) That the following amounts be calculated by the Council in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended by the Localism Act 2011:-

- (a) Borough / Parish Gross Expenditure £444,563,803 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the 1992 Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
- (b) Borough Gross Income plus Collection Fund Balance £368,590,639 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
- (c) Borough/Parish Net Expenditure £75,973,164 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- (d) Basic Amount of Tax (including Average Parish Precepts) £1,174.71 being the amount at 4(c) above, less the amount at 4(d) above, all divided by the amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year. In accordance with Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011, this sum is not considered to be excessive.
- (e) Special Items £2,901,237 being the aggregate of Special Expenses and Parish Precepts and collectively known as special items and referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) Basic Amount of Tax (Unparished Area) £1,130.92 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by the amount at 3, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (g) Basic Amount of Tax (Special and Parished Areas) the amounts shown in Appendix 2 of the report, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in the appropriate part of the Council's area - divided by the appropriate amount at 3 above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a special item relates.
- (h) Borough/Parish Council Tax Rates the amounts shown in Appendix 1 of the report, being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band, divided by valuation D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(5) Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£107.28	£125.16	£143.04	£160.92	£196.68	£232.44	£268.20	£321.84

(6) Swindon and Wiltshire Fire Authority That it be noted that for the year 2014/2015 the Swindon and Wiltshire Joint Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precept issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
£42.41	£49.48	£56.55	£63.62	£77.76	£91.90	£106.03	£127.24

(7) That this Council note that there will be no increase in the Council Tax levels for the Borough element of the 2014/15 Council tax bills in accordance with the budget proposed by Cabinet on 5th February 2014.

(8) That this Council determines that the Basic Amount of Council Tax for the Financial Year, 2014/15 is not excessive within the statutory definitions set out within Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and that therefore no referendum is required.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

In line with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 the vote on this amendment was recorded:

Councillors voting for the Motion were: Councillors Junab Ali, Abdul Amin, Steve Allsopp, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Mick Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliot, Claire Ellis, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Mary Friend, Brian Ford, Jim Grant, John Haines, Neil Heavens, Councillors Peter Heaton-Jones, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Anne Richards, James Robbins, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger and Keith Williams Bob Wright and Julie Wright.

There were no Councillors voting against the Motion or abstaining.

97. Housing Revenue Account - Rents and Charges 2014/15

The Council considered (a) a report of the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery) and the Board Director, Service Delivery concerning the proposed Housing Revenue Account Revenue and Capital Investment Budgets 2014/15, and (b) Minute 88 of the Cabinet (Housing Revenue Account – Rents and Charges 2014/15).

Councillor Richard Hurley moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

- The proposed average rent for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwellings for 2014/15 of £79.23 per week (52 week basis), which is an increase of 3.7%, be approved. This will be an average increase of £2.82 per week (52 week basis). The range of increases are shown in paragraph 3.12 of the joint report.
- That officers seek authority from the Secretary of State to extend the permission for the use of the Housing Revenue Account for payments to the Council's tenants under the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme, to enable any underspend on the 2013/14 budget of £420,000 to be used in 2014/15, as detailed at paragraph 3.17 of the joint report.
- The housing related support charges for 2014/15 and service charges for 2014/15 as outlined in Appendix 2 of the joint report are approved.
- Leaseholder service charges are set for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix 3 of the joint report.
- Based on the proposals set out within this report that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) proposed budget 2014/15, shown in Appendix 4 of the joint report, be approved and that the HRA Capital Budget and Funding be approved as shown in Appendix 5 of the joint report.
- That the draft 3 year capital projects and planned maintenance programme be approved at an indicative funding level of £16.8m (2014/15 prices) per annum for each of the years 2014/15 through to 2016/17 as shown in Appendix 6 of the joint report.
- Rents charged on General Fund properties are increased by an average increase of 3.7% and the rents and charges for the David Murray John Apartments, as shown in Appendix 7 of the joint report be approved.
- Rents charged for plots at the Hay Lane Residential Gypsy Site are increased by £1.74 per week (3.7%) to £48.74 per week (52 week basis) and the rents for workpens, as shown in Appendix 7 of the joint report, be approved.
- The charges for Private Sector Leased accommodation for those accepted as homeless outlined in Appendix 7 of the joint report be approved.
- Any underspend on the 2013/14 Housing Revenue Account is earmarked to fund additional works resulting from the abnormal amount of rainfall, commencing as soon as possible."

Councillor Steve Allsopp moved and Councillor Bob Wright seconded:

"This Council resolves to amend the Cabinet's recommendations for the Housing Revenue Account in 2014/15, to increase rents by RPI only and absorb the loss of income through reducing by £207,000 the sum earmarked from revenue income to support the HRA capital programme (the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay)."

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

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

98.

Pay Policy Statement 2014/15

The Council considered (a) a report of the Cabinet Member for Customer Support and Corporate Services and the Head of People and Development on the requirement, under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011, for the Council to agree and publish a Pay Policy Statement by 1st April each year, and setting out the Council's proposed Pay Policy Statement for consideration, (b) Minute 90 of the Cabinet (Pay Policy Statement), and (c) the Council's draft Pay Policy Statement (Appendix A - tabled).

Councillor Calire Ellis moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

"That the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved and adopted."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

99.

Motion - Recycling

Councillor Stan Pajak moved and Councillor Roderick Bluh seconded:

"This Council notes:

- a) The recent re-introduction of charges for Green Waste collection in Swindon.
- b) The changes already made at Swindon Commercial Services and the Council to implement this change.
- c) The distinctive nature of homes in the Eastcott ward and Town Centre, with larger than average gardens but less space than would be expected for storage for green waste, as well as a greater likelihood of fly tipping as a result.

This Council requests that:

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and StreetSmart (Delivery) to bring a report to the Cabinet as soon as practicable suggesting ways that a weekly green waste recycling service, free at the point of use, could be re-introduced for Eastcott ward and the Town Centre."

Councillor Kevin Small moved and Councillor Bob Wright seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

"This Council notes:

- a) The recent re-introduction of charges for green waste collection in Swindon.
- b) The changes already made at Swindon Commercial Services and the Council to implement this change.

c) The distinctive nature of homes in the Eastcott ward and Town Centre, with larger than average gardens but less space than would be expected for storage for green waste, as well as a greater likelihood of fly tipping as a result.

This Council requests that:

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and StreetSmart (Delivery) to bring a report to the Cabinet as soon as practicable suggesting ways that a weekly green waste recycling service, free at the point of use, could be re-introduced for Eastcott ward, the Town Centre and the wider Borough.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

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

100. Minutes for Confirmation

Councillor Garry Perkins moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 91 of the Cabinet (Motion at Council – Bringing Empty Shops back into Use) be noted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

101. Councillors Question Time

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that Standing Order 15 questions had been received from Councillors Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut and Jim Robbins.

Councillor Derique Montaut asked a supplementary question regarding costs for additional use of school facilities. The Cabinet Member for Children’s Services responded at the meeting.

Councillor Jim Robbins asked a supplementary questions regarding working with local groups on a specific project. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability responded at the meeting.

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Calendar of Meetings 2014-15

Council

Date: 3 April 2014

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

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To consider and agree dates for meetings of the Council, the Cabinet, Committees and Other Swindon Borough Council bodies for the Municipal Year 2014/15.
- 1.2 The Council Constitution requires the formal confirmation of the dates of Council meetings by Full Council at its Annual Meeting. To enable appropriate planning of meetings and nominations to Committees of the Council to take place, the Council is asked to provisionally approve the full calendar of meetings for 2014/15 in advance of the Annual Council meeting.

2. Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree that the Timetable of Meetings for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 1 be approved for formal adoption by Annual Council.
- 2.2 Agree that the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to vary the dates for meetings of the Council, the Cabinet, Committees and Other Swindon Borough Council bodies should this prove necessary for the efficient discharge of Council business.

3. Detail

- 3.1 Proposed dates for meetings of Cabinet, Committees and other bodies are attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Dates are included in this Appendix for the One Swindon Board, Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel, Wiltshire Fire Authority and Safeguarding Boards for information only, as these meeting dates are arranged separately.
- 3.3 It is also proposed that the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, should be authorised to vary the meeting dates for meetings of the Council, the Cabinet, Committees and other Swindon Borough Council bodies as set out in the Appendix should this prove necessary for the efficient discharge of Council business.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed.
-

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks, Direct Dial 463606, sbanks@swindon.gov.uk.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into account in compiling this report.

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

- 5.3 There are no specific implications that relate to staff, sustainability, health, rural, crime and disorder within this report.

Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The delivery of effective, accountable and transparent decision-making by the Council directly links to those parts of the current Corporate Plan relating to the “Service Improvement” and “Transforming the Organisation”.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Resources (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 - Proposed Council timetable 2014/2015

Please note these are not all the meetings attended by Members - see the Committee Member Information Site Diary for a fuller set of dates

Swindon Borough Council Calendar of Meetings 2014-2015

	Meeting	Cttee Officer	day	time	2014												2015				
					May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June			
Executive & Regulatory	COUNCIL (normally preceded by Group meetings)	SB	Th	19:00		6 (A) (2pm)	17		18			6		22	23(B) 26(R)		16		22(A)		
	Cabinet agenda meetings	IW	Th	16:00		12	3	21			2	20		15	26		2				
	Cabinet briefing meetings (as required)	IW	M	17:00		23	21		8	20			8		2	16	20				
	CABINET (Open Forum at 18:00, Cabinet will start at the end of open forum)	IW	W	18:00		25	23		10	22			10		4	18	22				
	Standards Committee	SJ	M	17:00			21			20				26		2					
	Audit Committee	SJ	Tu	18:00		24			16			4			24		21				
	Planning Committee	IT	Tu	18:00		10	8	12	9	7	11		9	13	10	10	14		9		
	Footpaths & Rights of Way Committee	IT	Tu	18:00			15			14				20		17					
	Joint Commissioning Board (Children / Adults)	IT	Tu	13:00		17			16				2			3					
	Appeals / Appointments Committee(s)	SB	-	-		Meetings arranged as required															
Licensing Committee / Panel	SB	-	-		Meetings arranged as required																
Cabinet Panel on School Organisation	IW	-	-		Meetings arranged as required																
Scrutiny & Scrutiny	Scrutiny Committee	SJ	M	18:00		30	28	11	8	13,27	17	15	12	2	23	27					
	Health	VM	W	18:00		18	16		24		26		21			15					
	-Joint Great Western Ambulance	-	-	-		Meetings arranged as required															
	Children and Young People	RGG	W	18:00		11			3		12		14		4						
	Economic, Environmental, and Sustainability	SF	W	18:00		16			17		19			25		20					
	Safer & Stronger Communities	IT	Th	18:00		26			25		13		29		19						
	Tenants Scrutiny Panel	-	-	-		Meetings arranged as required															
	Wiltshire & Swindon Police & Crime Panel	-	Var	Var		11			4		19										
	Wiltshire Fire Authority	-	Th	10:30		19			25				18								
	One Swindon Board (AD - away day)	JB/VM	Var	18:00			15(AD)			7			16(AD)	27		24					
Other Formal Bodies	Swindon Children's Trust Board	RGG	Th	16:00		19			11			4				12					
	Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	SF	Tu	18:00		17				14		2			10						
	Schools Forum	RGG	Tu	16:00			8			7			20			17					
	Staff Joint Committee	SJ	Th	14:00			17				27					26					
	Council Joint Consultative Committee	SJ	Th	14:00					11						5						
	Joint Safety Committee	IT	Tu	13:00		24			2		4				24						
	Health & Wellbeing Board (*Chair's Advisory Group meeting)	VM	W	14:00	7	18*	23		10	8*	12	10*	7	11*	11	22*					
	Local Safeguarding Childrens Board (LSCB)	LB	Tu	13:30		10			9				9		10					9	
	Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)	LB	Th	14:00	15			21			20										

	Meeting	Cttee Officer	day	time		2014												2015					
						May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June				
Localities	West	Lead	M	19:00			9 (TBC)	14		8		10	8	12		9		11					
	East	Lead	W	19:00				7			9			8			23						
	Town Centre	Lead	Th	19:00			12			11		27		15		12							
	South	Lead	W	19:00				9			15			20		25							
	North	Lead	Tu	19:00			24				21				10		28						
	North Central	Lead	Tu	19:00				22		2		25		6		3							
	North East	Lead	W	19:00				2			1				11		29						
	Corporate Parenting Advisory	SB	M	17:00				15		22			8			2							
Ad vis ory	Housing Advisory Forum	SB	W	18:00			11				8			7		11							
	Equalities Advisory Forum	SF	W	12:45			25			24		5			11		15						
	Benefits Monitoring Group	IT	Tu	17:00			24	22		23		18		6		24							
	Residents Parking Advisory Group	-	Var	18:00			19			29			4		5								
	Swindon Commercial Services Cabinet Member Advisory Group	-	Var	17:00			23		19		21		16										
	Member Development Steering Group	VM														5							
	Town Twinning Network	SF	W	18:00			18			24			3				15						
	Archaeological Advisory Body	RGG	Th	15:00				24				13			12								
	Conservative Group Meetings	DC	M	18:00	6,27			1,14	4	1,15	6	3	1	5,19	3,16	2	13	12					
	Labour Group Meetings	MB	M	19:00	6,27	2	14	4	4	1,15	6	3	1	5,19	3,16	2	13	12					
Gr ou ps	Lib Dem Group Meetings	Cllr SP	-	-	Meetings arranged as required																		
	Member Training	VM	Var	Var	23	3,9,26	3		4	16	13			28	12	9							
	Bank Holidays	-			5,26			25					25,26	1			3,6	4,25					
	Swindon School Holidays	-			26-30		25-31	1-29			23-31		22-31	1-2	16-20	30-31	1-10	25-29					
	Elections	-			22													7					

Key: (M)=Monday, (Tu)=Tuesday, (W)=Wednesday, (Th)=Thursday, (F)=Friday, (B)= budget meeting, (R)=reserve date, (A)=annual council. Contacts: IW=Ian Willcox, SJ=Steve Jones, SB=Shaun Banks, VM=Vicki May, IT=Iain Tucker, SF=Stuart Figini, RGG = Rita Glen-Gallo, DC = Douglas Chanda-Campbell, MB = Matthew Bradley, Cllr SP = Cllr Stan Pajak, SS = Sally Smith, JT=Jodie Townsend. Locality Leads: Paula Harrison, Pam Gough / Andrea Barratt, Nazakat Ali, Mark Walker, Andy Reeves, Helena Robinson. Partnership: JB=Janet Beattie. Safeguarding: LB= Leslie Boorman.

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Russell Holland, Fionuala Foley, Claire Ellis, Dale Heenan, Richard Hurley and Garry Perkins.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brian Mattock (Vice-Chair), Mike Bawden and Keith Williams.

Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of Minute 85. Councillor Des Moffatt attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 86, 88 and 93. Councillor Kevin Small attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 87, 90 and 93.

80. Declarations of Interest

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

81. Minutes

Resolved –That, subject to the amendment of Minute 78 (Public Question Time – Mr Ray Fisher) by the deletion of the words “such as young children” in the fourth paragraph, the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd January 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

82. Public Question Time

Questioner

Mr Peter Gallagher, Folkestone Road, Swindon

Question

Mr Gallagher asked questions regarding the Council’s “Draft Updated Library Strategy” and its Appendix “Swindon Libraries Contextual Data”, in particular, relating to how data was collected, the future operation of Old Town Library, and costs and usage associated with Walcot library.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Gallagher for his questions and comments and advised that a response had been prepared and circulated at the meeting.

Mr Gallagher asked supplementary questions relating to the written response.

The Chair explained that, as the Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure was absent, he would arrange for a written response to be provided to the supplementary questions seeking clarification on Council funding of premises costs associated with the Old Town Library located at the Swindon Arts Centre, and on the undertaking of research to learn more on why Walcot residents chose to use other libraries in order to inform the Council’s proposals.

Questioner

Mr Brian Cockbill, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon

Questions

Mr Cockbill asked a series of questions concerning the -

- (a) Availability of an Agenda on the Council's Website;
- (b) Value and origin of the Council's Corporate Contingency Fund;
- (c) Appointments procedure for the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel;
- (d) Progress of the Council's response to complaints relating to the Mayor of Swindon and the process involved; and
- (e) Cabinet's consideration of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on the Wi Fi Task Group's report.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Cockbill for his questions and comments and advised that a response had been prepared and circulated at the meeting.

Mr Cockbill asked supplementary questions relating to the written responses he had received to his questions and relating to portfolio responsibilities in Councillor Mike Bawden's absence.

The Chair, the Director of Law and Democratic Services and the Committee and Member Services Manager responded at the meeting to the questions and comments.

Questioner

Mrs Martha Parry, Swindon Civic Trust

Question

Mrs Parry asked that, further to Agenda Item 11 concerning the Draft Consultation Policy 2014-2017, would the Cabinet authorise a consultation exercise on the proposed policy prior to its adoption by the Council, as many active community organisations had not had an opportunity to contribute to its preparation?

Response

The Chair thanked Mrs Parry for her question and comments. The Chair responded at the meeting to the question and to comments arising.

83. Budget Management 2013/14

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report setting out (a) the current forecast outturn position of the Council's Revenue Budget as at the end of December 2013, (b) issues impacting on the Council's finances, including the Corporate Contingency Fund, and (c) the current forecast position for the Housing Revenue Account and the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced the report and highlighted how the effective financial management of the current year's budget would enable the Council to be well placed to meet the challenges of the next Financial Year.

Resolved – (1) That the Cabinet notes the projected out-turn position for the Council's Budget in 2013/14, as set out in Table 1 and Appendices 1 and 2 to the joint report.

(2) That the unspent Corporate Contingency Fund of £1.2m be carried forward to mitigate risks in future years' Budgets and to support some one-off investment in services.

(3) That any Financial Year-end underspend be put towards the one-off costs associated with the transfer of Golf and Leisure assets to the private sector, as referred to in paragraph 3.6 of the joint report.

(4) That the proposed budget virements, as set out in Appendix 3 to the joint report, be approved.

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

84. Special Expenses 2014/15 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report concerning the amounts to be charged as Special Expenses within the non-parished areas of the Borough for the Financial Year 2013/14.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, commented on the complexity for Swindon resulting from its mix of services and provision for parished and un-parished areas. He referred to the methodology used for the calculation of Special Expenses for 2014 and to the implications for Council Tax Bills. He explained that there were no significant changes in levels for 2014/15.

Resolved – (1) That it be noted that Borough Members and officers met with representatives from a range of parish councils in Swindon on 16th January 2014 and that the Leader of the Council and the Board Director Resources have agreed to periodically review the list of sites charged as General and Special Expenses with them.

(2) That the level of Special Expenses for the Financial Year 2014/15 be £1,004,978 as referred to in the joint report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources.

(3) That it be noted that the charge per household is unchanged from that for the 2011/12 Financial Year.

(4) That it be noted that the list of open spaces and recreation areas to be charged as Special Expenses in 2014/15 will be as set out in Appendix 1(a&b) to the joint report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources.

(5) That it be noted that the expenses listed in Appendix 2 to the joint report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources shall be charged to all households of the Borough and shall not be Special Expenses.

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

85. Budget 2014/15 and Beyond (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report setting out (a) the medium term position for the Council's finances, (b) the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2014/15, (c) the

forecast outturn for the Council's Budget 2013/14, (d) Council Tax 2014/15, (e) the Tax Base and Collection Fund position, (f) the Council Tax Support Scheme changes and the impact on parish and town councils, (g) New Homes Bonus 2014/15, (h) proposed one-off investment in service improvements, (i) the proposed Budget for the Council for 2014/15 and contingencies, risks, Special Expenses, fees and charges, equalities and diversity, and Reserves, and (j) the outcome of the Budget consultation process.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, explained that the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2014/15 for Swindon had been received earlier in the day and was £8,000 better than the provisional announcement and that therefore an amended recommendation had been tabled for Cabinet's consideration.

Councillor Holland referred to the Budget proposals for 2014/15, and how these differed from those submitted to the Council in December 2013. He commented on the national economic situation and the Council's commitment to providing quality services and protecting the most vulnerable. He advised that Swindon was both a low tax and a low funded local authority and this together with the service pressures it faced particularly in relation to demand in Adult Social Care and in services for Children and Families heightened the financial challenges the Council faced year on year. He referred to the Council's determination to offer quality services to the most vulnerable in Swindon, but that this came at a significant cost with the majority of the Council's Budget being allocated in these areas. He highlighted that many of Swindon's residents would not see or come into regular contact with these areas of provision where significant amounts of their Council Tax and of the Council's budget was spent. He commented on how the Council, through its Economic Strategy, was seeking to support and develop the local economy and how a successful Swindon business and commercial sector, by way of job creation and increasing Business Rates, would support future Council budgets. The Council was proud of the services it offered and its commitment to the most vulnerable and to encouraging economic growth in Swindon. He hoped that residents could be made more aware of this.

Councillor Holland made reference to the proposed level of Council Tax for 2014/15. He explained changes that had occurred since the Cabinet's meeting in December 2013 that resulted in him being able to recommend that there should be no increase in Swindon's Council Tax.

Councillor Holland referred to the consultation that had taken place on the Budget, and advised that Appendices 5 and 6, setting out the outcome of the Consultation process and the minutes of a meeting held with Non-Domestic ratepayers on 28th January 2014 had been circulated at the meeting for consideration.

The Board Director Resources referred to the number of posts that would be deleted from the Council's establishment as a result of the Budget proposals. It was anticipated this would result in approximately twenty staff being made redundant.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, commented on the budget proposals and asked what criteria had been used to determine the priority for schemes to be funded by way of one-off investments.

The Chair and Cabinet Members explained how schemes had been identified and emphasised that schemes had been chosen by identified need rather than by any party political motivation.

Councillor Grant drew attention to the identified savings in the Budget proposals relating to Leisure and Culture. He noted that consultation on proposals was still being undertaken and this appeared to indicate that decisions had already been made. The Chair commented that it was necessary to identify a budget for the service in advance of the conclusion of the consultation. If subsequent decisions were made by the Council that impacted on the projected level of savings, then any shortfall would have to be identified from elsewhere in the agreed Budget. It reflected the requirements of budgeting not the pre-empting of decisions.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and on behalf of Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, referred to the service challenges in their portfolio areas and the excellent work done by the officer team and with partners to both reduce costs and deliver quality services to vulnerable older people, people with disabilities and vulnerable children and families. She gave examples of some of the excellent work being undertaken with troubled families and in adoption and fostering. She noted that the Adult Social Care Budget had been delivered on-target which was a tremendous achievement given the nationwide challenges affecting these services.

Councillor Holland commented that he believed the Budget as proposed was robust and would ensure that the Council would continue to deliver its objectives and the outcomes residents wanted. It would continue to protect the most vulnerable, promote economic growth and ensure the resilience of Swindon and its residents.

The Chair noted the difficulties the Council had faced in reaching a Budget for 2014/15 and the difficult decisions that had to be made. He reiterated the on-going challenges the Council would face and the continued pressure on services. He thanked all those who had been involved in the Budget process both from within the Council and outside.

Resolved – (1) That it be noted that –

- (i) The Council does not expect to need to replenish General Reserves as part of the 2014/15 Budget Setting process;
- (ii) The feedback received to the Borough-wide consultation process on the Draft Budget, as set out in Appendix 5 to the joint report, had been taken into account in the Budget Setting process;
- (iii) The outcome of the consultation meeting with business representatives from Swindon, on behalf of non-domestic rate payers that took place on 28th January 2014, as set out in Appendix 6 to the joint report, had been taken into account in the Budget Setting process;
- (iv) In line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Board Director, Resources, in his Section 151 capacity, had confirmed the robustness of the estimates underlying the recommended Budget and having reviewed the financial risks being faced by the Council had concluded that the proposed level of General Reserves (£6m) was adequate in the context of the earmarked reserves held, specific contingencies and the proposed general contingency of £0.509m.

(2) That the proposed changes in fees and charges, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, that fall outside of the assumed Council-wide 3% increase be approved.

(3) That the Specific Reserves held in support of the 2014/15 Revenue Budget, as set out in Appendix 7 to the joint report, be approved.

(4) That £150,000 be passed from the Borough Council to Swindon's parish councils to mitigate the impact of changes to the Council Tax Base implemented in 2013/14, linked to changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme.

(5) That £845,000 of one-off resources be invested in the activities set out in Table 3 of the joint report and commenced as soon as possible.

(6) That, subject to any changes resulting from the Government's announcement of the final Local Government Finance Settlement for 2014/15 the Council be recommended that:-

- the 2014/15 Budget be set at £142,667,544;
- there be no increase in Council Tax for 2014/15, and
- it be determined that the proposed increase in the basic amount of Council Tax for 2014/15 is not excessive in accordance with Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011.

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

86. Capital Programme 2014/15 to 2016/17 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report concerning new Capital Programme requirements for the period 2014/15 to 2016/17 and including schemes for (a) Children's Services, (b) Highways, (c) Property and Assets, and (d) Older People.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, referred to the contents and purpose of the report and, in particular, to the proposed changes to the Capital Programme that reflected the Council's commitment and priorities in support of Children, Older People, and Highways.

The Board Director, Resources referred to the funding of the Capital Programme and that detail of the level of grant funding available to the Council for the period beyond 2014/15 was still awaited. He referred to the likely pressures on the delivery of future programmes, particularly relating to the provision of additional secondary school places.

Councillor Des Moffatt commented on the Capital Programme and to the Council's spending on capital schemes that had resulted in it borrowing £119m that had an annual impact of £10m for the Council's Revenue Budget.

Councillor Holland referred to the success of the Council's financial management and of the investment it had made in improving schools and other infrastructure essential for maintaining a successful economy and growing Borough.

Resolved –(1) That the Council be recommended to approve -

- an overall budget of £8.680m for the Children's Services capital schemes identified in Appendix 1 of the joint report as 2014/2015 starts for approval;
- a total budget of £12.142m for the 2014/15 Highways capital schemes

detailed at Appendix 2 of the joint report;

- a total budget of £6.515m for the 2014/15 Assets and Property capital schemes detailed at Appendix 3 of the joint report and highlighted “For Approval”.

(2) That the Council note the Council’s future capital requirements as detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the joint report.

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

87. Treasury Strategy Statement 2014/15 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report concerning the Council's proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15 including the (a) Annual Investment Strategy, (b) Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, and (c) Prudential Indicators for the Financial Years up to 2015/16.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, referred to the contents of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15. He explained that the Statement was a statutory requirement. The Statement had also been considered by the Council’s Audit Committee.

Councillor Kevin Small, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, referred to the procurement process for the Council’s banking arrangements.

The Board Director, Resources explained the process adopted and that the Co-operative Bank, the Council’s current banker, was withdrawing from the local authority market. He referred to the steps the Council had taken to ensure that it was protected in the unlikely event that its current bank should fail or run into difficulties.

Resolved – (1) That the Council be recommended to approve:

- the Prudential Indicators for the Financial Years up to 2015/16;
- the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2014/15 and;
- the Treasury Management Strategy for 2014/15, all as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report.

(2) That the position with regard to the Council’s bankers, the Co-Operative Bank, as detailed within Section 4 of the joint report, be noted.

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

88. Housing Revenue Account - Rents and Charges 2014/15 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery), and the Board Director, Service Delivery submitted a joint report concerning the proposed budget for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2014/15, including proposals for rents, service charges and support charges for 2014/15.

Councillor Richard Hurley, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing

and Streetsmart (Delivery), presented the report and explained how the report set out the context and background to the proposed Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2014/15, and the reasons for the proposed changes in the levels of rents and services charges. He explained how the likely underspend on the HRA this Financial Year would be used to mitigate damage to tenants' homes and estate infrastructure resulting from the recent adverse weather.

The Head of Housing Services referred to the outcome of the consultation that had taken place with tenants groups, the Housing Advisory Forum and other stakeholders on the proposals for the HRA and rents and charges.

Councillor Des Moffatt referred to the Labour Group's view on the proposed HRA Budget and on what it believed was a more appropriate level of increase for Council rents.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, referred to the financing of the HRA and on how the level of Council rent affected the amount that the Council had available to invest in improvements to the Housing stock and tenants' homes. He commented on the position of Housing Debt and the effect of this for investment in Swindon's Housing stock. He advised that those tenants in receipt of Benefits would have any increase met through an increased Benefit payment.

Councillor Hurley explained the reasons why he supported the recommended increases in rents and service charges. He reiterated the importance for tenants of the Council seeking to invest in the Council's housing stock. He believed the proposed recommendations offered the best outcomes for both the Council and its tenants.

Resolved – That, subject to the confirmation of the Council –

- The proposed average rent for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwellings for 2014/15 of £79.23 per week (52 week basis), which is an increase of 3.7%, be approved. (This will be an average increase of £2.82 per week (52 week basis) and the range of increases is set out in paragraph 3.12 of the joint report.
- The Board Director, Service Delivery seek authority from the Secretary of State to extend the permission for the use of the Housing Revenue Account for payments to the Council's tenants under the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme, to enable any underspend on the 2013/14 budget of £420,000 to be used in 2014/15, as detailed at paragraphs 3.17 of the joint report.
- The housing related support charges for 2014/15 and service charges for 2014/15, as outlined in Appendix 2 of the joint report of the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery), and the Board Director, Service Delivery, be approved.
- Leaseholder service charges set for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix 3 of the joint report, be approved.
- Based on the proposals set out within the joint report the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) proposed budget for 2014/15, as shown in Appendix 4 to the joint report, be approved and that the HRA Repairs Budget and Funding be approved as shown in Appendix 5 to the joint report.
- The draft Three-year capital projects and planned maintenance

programme be approved at an indicative funding level of £16.8m (2014/15 prices) per annum for each of the years 2014/15 through to 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 6 to the joint report.

- Rents charged on General Fund properties be on the same basis as HRA properties resulting in an average increase of 3.7% and the rents and charges for the David Murray John Apartments, as shown in Appendix 7 to the joint report, be approved.
- Rents charged for plots at the Hay Lane Residential Gypsy Site be increased by £1.74 per week (3.7%) to £48.74 per week (52 week basis) and the rents for work-pens (small lock-ups), as shown in Appendix 7 to the joint report, be approved.
- The charges for Private Sector Leased (PSL) accommodation for those accepted as homeless, as outlined in Appendix 7 to the joint report, be approved.
- Any underspend on the 2013/14 Housing Revenue Account be earmarked to fund additional works resulting from the abnormal amount of rainfall, commencing as soon as possible.

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

89. Draft Consultation Policy 2014-2017

The Leader of the Council and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning a proposed Council Consultation Policy.

The Chair introduced the report and explained that the Council had successfully conducted many effective consultations and it continued to have a clear legal and constitutional position on the consultation process. However, the Council had received feedback that some consultations could be improved, particularly in order to stand up consistently to focused public scrutiny and to maintain and develop confidence in the process. This had resulted in the preparation of the proposed Consultation Policy. The policy had taken into account the views expressed by a focus group of members of the public and the views of parish and town councils. However, he noted the comments expressed in the public question earlier in the meeting and at the Cabinet's Open Forum on this matter and asked if there was support amongst Cabinet colleagues for a wider consultation on the policy taking place.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, and Cabinet colleagues commented on the proposed policy and on the benefits of undertaking consultation on what was a policy drawing together existing best practice and which was seen as an evolving and developing entity. The consensus view was that the policy should be adopted and allowed to evolve through its operation, since this would involve the majority of organisations likely to participate in any further consultation in any case.

The Chair advised that it had been drawn to his attention that the policy had implications for the content of the current Compact with the community and voluntary sector. He suggested that the Compact should be reviewed in light of the emerging policy.

Resolved - (1) That the proposed Council Consultation Policy for the period

up until the end of 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be approved.

(2) That the Board Director, Commissioning, in consultation with the Leaders of the Political Groups, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to make minor changes to the content and presentation of the Council's Consultation Policy, if required, prior to publication.

(3) That the Board Director, Commissioning, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to develop and implement support and guidance to help embed the approved Consultation Policy into the Council's key decision-making processes, and monitor and periodically review its operation.

(4) That, in view of the proposed implementation of the Consultation Policy and the fact that there has been no review of the existing Compact with the Voluntary and Community Sector for a number of years, the Board Director, Commissioning be authorised to initiate a review of the Council's current Compact with Voluntary and Community Sector and One Swindon partners, and report the findings of the review to a future meeting of the Cabinet early in the next Municipal Year.

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

90. Pay Policy Statement (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Customer Support and Corporate Services, and the Head of People and Development submitted a joint report concerning the proposed Swindon Borough Council Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15.

Councillor Claire Ellis, Cabinet Member for Customer Support and Corporate Services, explained that the Council was required under Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 to agree and publish a Pay Policy Statement by 1st April each year. This was the Council's third Pay Policy Statement and was put forward for consideration prior to its submission to the Council for approval.

Councillor Kevin Small, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, advised that the national Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Youth and Community had confirmed a 1% pay increase for effected local government staff earlier in the week.

The Chair thanked Councillor Small for this information, which would be taken into account in the preparation of the final Statement.

Resolved – That the Council's proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be endorsed and submitted to the Council for approval.

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

91. Bringing Empty Shops Back Into Use - Motion at Council (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Culture and the Board Director Commissioning submitted a joint report setting out activities being undertaken to develop the economic performance of Swindon Town Centre and

responding to issues highlighted in a Motion to the Council on 11th April 2013.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Culture, referred to the various initiatives that were underway to promote and deliver economic development opportunities and to improve the Swindon Town Centre “offer” to residents, visitors and businesses. He explained some of the difficulties associated with “pop-up shops” as highlighted by the experience of some other local authorities and, in particular, the problem of sustaining new “pop-up” businesses in the longer term.

Councillor Perkins highlighted the success of Swindon Town Centre and the Brunel Centre, in particular, in minimising the number of empty shop units despite the impact of the recession and commented on the recent data indicating an increase in Town Centre “footfall” that was above the national average. He referred to recent comments by the Planning Inspectorate regarding the strength of retail provision in Swindon Town Centre, and explained the work being undertaken by inSwindon to promote themed Town Centre markets to encourage visitors to the area and the wider benefits that this would bring.

Resolved – (1) That inSwindon’s plans to develop a range of themed markets to assist the local economy and improve the experience of residents when shopping in Swindon’s Town Centre be noted and endorsed.

(2) That the Council be recommended to note the contents of the joint report in response to the Motion at Council on 11th April, 2013.

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

92. Proposed Compulsory Purchase Order – Kimmerfields (Formerly Union Square), Swindon

The Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Culture and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning the details of a proposed Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) associated with the Kimmerfields (formerly Union Square) regeneration scheme and of the proposed appropriation of required land to Planning purposes. (Minute 22 refers.)

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Culture, explained the reasons why the proposed CPO and appropriation of land was required to enable the Kimmerfields scheme to proceed and for the Council to meet its obligations under the associated Development Agreement.

In response to questions from Cabinet colleagues, Councillor Perkins highlighted the significant impact that the successful delivery of Kimmerfields would have for the local economy and for the future of Swindon Town Centre.

Resolved – (1) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised, in consultation with the Board Director Resources, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Culture, to take all steps necessary to secure the making and implementation of a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and/or any other enabling statutory provisions deemed appropriate by him, in order to acquire the land shown (tinted pink) on the Order Map attached to this Report as Appendix 1 and marked “Map referred to in the

Swindon Borough Council (Kimmerfields) Compulsory Purchase Order 2014”, including the publication and service of all statutory notices and the presentation of the Council’s case at any public inquiry(if necessary).

(2) That the Board Director, Resources be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Law and Democratic Services and the Head of Planning Services to appropriate to Planning purposes any part or parts of the land within the Kimmerfields Scheme Area where he considers it proper and necessary to do so.

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

**93. References from Other Council Bodies
- Report of Digital City (UK) Ltd Task Group**

The Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report concerning recommendations arising from the Corporate Governance Review Working Group held on 5th November 2013, from the Housing Advisory Forum held on 8th January 2014, and from the Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd January 2014.

The Chair expressed his support for the recommendation arising from the Corporate Governance Review Working Group and explained the background to discussions that had taken place.

Councillor Richard Hurley, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery), explained that the outcome of the Housing Advisory Forum’s discussions on rents and charges for 2014 had been referred to earlier in the meeting as part of the item on the Housing Revenue Account Budget.

Councillor Kevin Small, Chair of Scrutiny Committee, and Councillor Des Moffatt, Chair of the Task Group, presented the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee and the findings of the final report of the Digital City (UK) Ltd Task Group.

The Chair drew attention to a public question received earlier in the meeting from Mr Brian Cockbill in which he had asked whether key witnesses should be re-interviewed.

Councillor Small and Councillor Moffatt advised that in their view, the Task Group had completed its investigation and there was no merit in any further action to re-interview those who had provided evidence to it.

Resolved – (1) That, further to Minute 40(1) of the Corporate Governance Review Working Group, the contents of the report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services and the views of the Working Group as set out in Minute 40(2) to (10) be noted and endorsed.

(2) That the decision set out in Minute 28 of the Housing Advisory Forum, be noted.

(3) That, further to Minute 52 of the Scrutiny Committee, the Scrutiny Committee and the Chair and members of the WiFi (Digital City (UK) Ltd) Task Group be thanked for their diligence and recommendations.

(4) That the Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations, as set out in Minute 52

of that Committee, be welcomed and -

- (a) Recommendations 2(a), and 2(c) be referred to the Corporate Governance Review Working Group for further consideration;
- (b) The Chair of the Audit Committee be requested to consider recommendation 2(b);
- (c) The Cabinet Member for Finance be encouraged to consider recommendations 2(d) and 3 as soon as practicable;
- (d) Recommendation 2(e) be endorsed.
- (e) The present Cabinet Member Decision Note process, with Opposition Member consultation and Council oversight, be retained.

(5) That, further to Minute 52 of the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet expresses its regret that the Council's investment did not produce the outcome that was originally intended.

(6) That, further to Minute 52 of the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet notes that the UK Broadband's investment "would not have come about without the Council's loan to Digital City and the Council's commitment to seeking the establishment of a high speed wireless network for Swindon." (Cabinet Minute 37, 2011/12 refers.)

(7) That, further to Minute 52(6) of the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet notes that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive referred this matter to the Police following the Scrutiny Committee on 22nd January 2014 and that the Wiltshire Police responded in writing: "The allegations have been reviewed by Wiltshire Police and with the information available to them they will not be investigating the matter further", and considers that no further action is necessary to be taken by the Council in that regard.

(8) That, further to Minute 52 of the Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet considers that the various complaints and queries raised with regard to this matter have now been fully responded to, and that no further time should be spent on this matter, having regard to the outcome of the Scrutiny Task Group's investigation.

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

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Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker:	Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance
Subject	Changes to Revenues and Benefits Call Centre Opening Hours
Decision(s): -	That the Head Of Revenues be authorised to change the hours of the Revenues and Benefits Call Centre to be open from 9am until 5pm Monday to Friday with effect from April 2014.
Consultation:	The Shadow / Group Spokespersons - Councillor Des Moffatt (Labour) and Councillor Stan Pajak (Liberal Democrat) were consulted on the contents of the Decision Note. No adverse comments or requests for Cabinet consideration were received.
Date of Publication:	Thursday 6 th February 2014
Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in	Thursday 13 th February 2014

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the) Decision Note (report) please contact: - Andy Stevens, Tel: 01793 464661, Email: AnStevens@swindon.gov.uk.

Or from Ian Willcox, Committee and Member Services Manager, Direct Dial: 01793 463601 or Email iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk

The Decision Note (report) sets out the background to, and reasons for, the decisions referred to in the Notice above. Details of the alternative options put forward for consideration (if any) are also recorded in the Decision Note (report). Any alternative options considered that did not appear in the initial report will be recorded as part of the above Notice of Decisions. The Decision Note is available via the following link on the Council's website =

<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=440&RP=285&J=3>

Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker: Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure

Subject Consideration of Objections- Waiting Restrictions, Okus Road and Angel Ridge, Old Town, Swindon

Decision(s): - That the objection received in respect of the advertised Public Notice for the experimental traffic regulation order for changes to the waiting restriction on Okus Road and Angel Ridge, Old Town, Swindon dated 13 September 2012, be noted.

That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to implement the advertised traffic regulation order on a permanent basis.

That the Head of Highways and Transport notify the Objector of the Cabinet Member's decision on this matter.

Consultation: The Shadow / Group Spokespersons - Councillor Julian Price (Labour) and Councillor Stan Pajak (Liberal Democrat) and Old Town Ward Councillors were consulted on the contents of the Decision Note. No adverse comments or requests for Cabinet consideration were received.

Date of Publication: Thursday 6th March 2014

Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in Thursday 13th March 2014

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note (report) please contact: - Zahida Aslam, Direct Dial Telephone Number 466401, zaslam@swindon.gov.uk.

Or from Ian Willcox, Committee and Member Services Manager, Direct Dial: 01793 463601 or Email iwillcox@swindon.gov.uk

The Decision Note (report) sets out the background to, and reasons for, the decisions referred to in the Notice above. Details of the alternative options put forward for consideration (if any) are also recorded in the Decision Note (report). Any alternative options considered that did not appear in the initial report will be recorded as part of the above Notice of Decisions. The Decision Note is available via the following link on the Council's website =

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