



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2014/15

Thursday, 22 January 2015

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

14 January 2015

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, 22 January 2015 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 7 - 14)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

5. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below.

6. Minute for Confirmation (Pages 15 - 20)

(1) To consider a Minute for Confirmation from Cabinet:

- Minute 54 (Polling Districts and Polling Places Review)

(2) To receive Minutes for Note from Cabinet:

- Minute 45 (Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review of Swindon)
- Minute 52 (Recycling – Green Waste Services)
- Minute 53 (Motion at Council – Car Parking on Grass Verges)

7. Motions

(a) Motion - Licensing Applications

Councillor Stan Pajak will move and Councillor Julie Wright will second:

“This Council believes in the need for local Councillors to be informed of new and changes to applications for alcohol sales and entertainment licenses or an application to review a current Premises Licence within their ward, and therefore calls for Ward Councillors to be informed by the Council’s Licensing Manager of the receipt of such applications and for this to become the adopted policy as is the case with planning applications in the Borough.”

(b) Motion - School Fines

Councillor Stan Pajak will move and Councillor Dave Wood will second:

“This Council requests Swindon’s Members of Parliament to make representations to the Government in order to enable the money raised from fines for taking children out of school during term time to be allocated to the school concerned and not the Council. This Council further calls on the Government to press for reduced Holiday Company pricing during school holidays and consideration of a one fine policy for a pupil and not a fine for each parent.”

(c) Motion - Transport Infrastructure Working Group

Councillor Toby Elliott will move and Councillor Mary Martin will second:

“This Council notes:

- Swindon has grown by more than 50,000 residents in the last 20 years.
- Swindon will, according to forecasts, grow by an additional 50,000 residents in the next 20 years.
- This additional housing places a strain on our transport networks; which is not always satisfied by Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy monies.

- A one size fits all approach to transport infrastructure very rarely works and all options must be looked at.
- Swindon has a deep rooted heritage in the formation of the railways

This Council resolves to invite the Scrutiny Committee to:

- (i) Establish a Future Transport Infrastructure Working Group comprised of members from the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which would report to the Scrutiny Committee.
- (ii) Ask that the new Working Group look into new transport infrastructure opportunities & how they could be financed
- (iii) Ask that this work includes, but is not exclusive to, a new mainline or commuter railway station at Mouldon Bridge.
- (iv) Ask that the new Working Group invite partners including, but not limited to, Wiltshire Council, Network Rail, the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership, First Great Western, Swindon and Cricklade Railway to give evidence to the Working Group."

(d) **Motion - Firefighters Pensions**
Councillor Jim Grant will move and Councillor Steve Wakefield will second:

"This Council notes:

- The Government's plans to increase firefighter pension contributions and raise the retirement age of all firefighters to 60.
- The breakdown in talks between the Government and the unions on this issue.
- Strike action on this issue has been avoided in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Council believes:

- The firefighters across Swindon and Wiltshire do a brave and heroic job putting at risk their own lives to protect our residents.
- The fire fighters should be rewarded for this service to the public with a fair pension settlement upon retirement.
- The current Government's plan to force all firefighters to remain in active service to the age of 60 will put the personal safety and mental wellbeing of firefighters at risk and jeopardises the safety of the public.
- That, if the Governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have negotiated a fairer deal the Government can do the same for England.

Council therefore resolves:

- To write to the Fire Minister urging her to enter in to negotiations with the Fire Brigades Union in England with a new offer over pension contributions.
- To write to the Members of Parliament for Swindon and urge them to support calls on the annulment of the Government's firefighter pension scheme."

(e) **Motion – Major Road Works**
Councillor Bob Wright will move and Councillor Steve Allsopp will second:

"This Council notes the frustrations of many motorists across the town over the recent extra traffic pressures as a result of major road works across the town. These frustrations from motorists include not being aware of diversion routes around major road works and the Council not taking enough measures to mitigate the traffic effects of major road works.

Council believes there is more it could do in order to help mitigate the effects of the major road works across the town. Council requests the Head of Highways to bring a report to Cabinet detailing how the Council can improve how it mitigates the effects of major road works in the borough, including how the Council can more effectively communicate diversion routes around major road works for motorists and establishing panels of road stakeholders to recommend effective highways measures the Council can take to mitigate the traffic effects of major road works."

(f) **Motion - Solar Panels**
Councillor Mark Dempsey will move and Councillor Junab Ali will second:

"This Council believes there is a significant opportunity to install solar panels on Council houses by establishing a Swindon Solar Cooperative, as it could:

- Help cut fuel poverty
- Reduce residents energy bills by an estimated £300 per year from lower energy bills
- Provide a return on investment for the Council through the Feed in Tariff estimated at around 6-7% which could boost the revenue budget.
- Help boost our economy and create local jobs, restoring Swindon as an economic powerhouse.

Therefore this Council requests the Chief Executive to bring a report to Cabinet on how this proposal could be delivered, and how it could maximise the benefits of this proposal to Council tenants, the community, and the Council including:

- How the Council could install solar PV systems for residents in Council owned homes.
- How the Council could extend this opportunity to residents in privately owned properties.
- How the Council could establish a Swindon Solar Cooperative and

provide a return on investment for taxpayers and attract community investment.

- How the Council could benefit from each proposal.”

8. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

(Pages 21 - 48)

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.

9. 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.

10. 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 remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the “Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance” available on the Council’s Website (<http://www5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sched=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

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

THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2014

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, Paul Baker, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Michael Bray, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Oliver Donachie, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliott, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Neil Heavens, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Gemma McCracken, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Stan Pajak, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Nicky Sewell, Eric Shaw, Carol Shelley, Kevin Small, Timothy Swinyard, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Steve Wakefield, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams and Robert Wright.

49. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Junab Ali, Garry Perkins, Dave Wood and Julie Wright.

50. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that correspondence has been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon responding to Minute 43 (Motion – Police Community Support Officers). This Correspondence had been tabled.

51. Minutes

Resolved – (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2014, be confirmed and signed.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2014, be amended to include Councillor Fay Howard in the list of attendees.

52. Declarations of Interest

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

(In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Neil Heavens made a non prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of item 7 (c) (Motion – Regent Circus Crossing) as he and his wife had a financial interest in properties in Commercial Road, Swindon.)

53. Public Question Time

Mr Martin Wicks submitted written questions regarding (a) outstanding General Fund loans, (b) borrowing for homes associated with the successful bid for Housing and Communities Agency grant, and (c) the Council's Housing Strategy and promised Housing Conference. Written responses were tabled at the meeting.

Mr Martin Wicks asked a supplementary question seeking clarification about the figures set out in the Cabinet Member's response on Housing Revenue Account financing. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety indicated she would provide a written response.

Mr Martin Wicks asked a supplementary question regarding the proposed Housing Conference. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety responded at the meeting.

Mr Richard Symmonds asked a public question regarding whether the Council's website could be deemed user friendly. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr Richard Symmonds asked public questions regarding traffic flows around Regent Circus. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport indicated he would provide a written response.

Mr Richard Symmonds asked a public question regarding buses travelling through the Railway Village. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport responded at the meeting.

Mr Tim French asked public questions regarding (a) street lighting in Regent Circus, and (b) the prosecution of a street artist using Regent Street. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport responded at the meeting.

Mr Tom Jeffrey asked a public question relating to the Safety Audit for the Regent Circus development. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport responded at the meeting.

Mr Tom Jeffrey asked a public question regarding the Sussex Square redevelopment. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety responded at the meeting.

54. Minutes for Confirmation

(1) Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor Richard Hurley seconded:

"That Minute 41(2) of the Cabinet (Budget Management 2014/15 and Draft Budget 2015/16) be confirmed and adopted."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(2) Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Brian Mattock seconded:

"That Minute 46(1) of the Cabinet (Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances and Remuneration) be confirmed and adopted."

Councillor Jim Grant moved and Councillor Des Moffatt seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“This Council thanks the Independent Remuneration Panel for its work. However, given the Council’s budgetary pressures, Council resolves to freeze the basic Councillors’ Allowance and cut all Special Responsibility Allowances by 10%.”

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

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

“This Council requests the Director of Law and Democratic Services to provide legal advice on how the Council can set Councillors’ Allowances at its Annual Meeting for the following Financial Year, in order to improve the process of determining Councillors’ Allowances.”

The Leader of the Council advised Council that he would refer this issue to the Council’s Corporate Governance Working Group for its deliberation. The Mover and Seconded of the Amendment requested and Council agreed that the Amendment be withdrawn.

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

(3) Councillor Emma Faramarzi moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 31 of the Cabinet (Housing Strategy 2015 - 2026) be noted.

Councillor Bob Wright moved and Councillor Steve Allsopp seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“This Council believes the final decision on key strategic documents of the Council, like the Housing Strategy, should be determined by Full Council. This Council urges the Cabinet to reconsider its decision to delegate responsibility to authorize the Housing Strategy following consultation to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety and to transfer its responsibility to Full Council.”

The Amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

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

(4) Councillor Dale Heenan moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 34 of the Cabinet (Motion at Council – Traffic on Cricklade Road) be noted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(5) Councillor Dale Heenan moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 35 of the Cabinet (Low Carbon Swindon – Swindon’s Energy Future – Motion at Council) be noted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

55. Motion - University for Swindon

Councillor Mark Dempsey moved and Councillor Jim Robbins seconded:

“This Council:

- Recognises that a University for Swindon is vital to unlock the talents of local people and drive economic regeneration.
- Recognises a University is also vital to attracting businesses to Swindon and enabling existing businesses to recruit the skilled workers they need.
- Notes Swindon is the only major town out of 59 in England and Wales without a university, and Swindon is among the worst 10% of local authorities in England for participation in HE at 18.
- Notes the most recent research by the Higher Education Funding Council For England (HEFCE), which shows that 7 wards in Swindon are identified as in the lowest quintile in the country for Higher Education participation.

This Council resolves to ask Cabinet to:

- Reaffirm its commitment to establishing a University for Swindon.
- Build on its Higher Education Strategy and establish a detailed plan and business proposal for a University for Swindon – including a Higher Education Centre as a starting point for a full University.
- Ensure a Higher Education Centre is the number one priority in the next application for funds for Swindon through the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Higher Education Funding Council For England.
- Accelerate discussions with Government, neighbouring Universities, and Further Education Colleges in Swindon to realise additional funding and support for this plan.”

Councillor Mary Martin moved and Councillor Oliver Donachie seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“This Council:

- Recognises that a University for Swindon could be important to unlock the talents of local people and drive economic regeneration.
- Recognises a University may be useful in attracting businesses to Swindon and enabling existing businesses to recruit the skilled workers they need.
- Notes Swindon is the only major town out of 59 in England and Wales without a university, and Swindon is among the worst 10% of local authorities in England for participation in Higher Education at 18.

- Notes the most recent research by the Higher Education Funding Council For England (HEFCE), which shows that 7 wards in Swindon are identified as in the lowest quintile in the country for Higher Education participation.

This Council notes that the previous Labour Government ran a competition for new universities, but failed to provide any funding in support of them.

Council invites the Economy and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee to work with the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills to develop all options to secure tertiary education in the Borough.”

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

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

56. Motion - Hindu Temple

At the request of the Mover and Seconder and with the agreement of the Council this Motion was withdrawn.

57. Motion - Regent Circus Crossing

Councillor Bob Wright moved and Councillor Derique Montaut seconded:

“This Council recognises the concerns of motorists that drive through and pedestrians that use the “Shared Space” crossing at Regents Circus about the safety of the crossing and is also concerned that the confusion over the right of way of the crossing on such a busy road will lead to accidents in the near future.

This Council also recognises the recent concerns of traders on Commercial Road who have urged the Council to take action to deal with the speed of vehicles and parking on the road. This Council notes that in the Town Centre Master Plan it is proposed that two-way traffic is re-established with short stay on-street parking through a series of lay-bys.

This Council believes it should address residents safety concerns by installing a traditional traffic light crossing on the Regent Circus shared space crossing and request the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport bring a report to Cabinet detailing a scheme that would bring about this new crossing and to detail how the Council can more quickly realise its Master Plan ambitions for Commercial Road.”

At the request of the mover and seconder and with the agreement of the Council the Motion was amended to read:

“This Council recognises the concerns of motorists that drive through and pedestrians that use the “Shared Space” crossing at Regents Circus about the safety

of the crossing and is also concerned that the confusion over the right of way of the crossing on such a busy road will lead to accidents in the near future.

This Council also recognises the recent concerns of traders on Commercial Road who have urged the Council to take action to deal with the speed of vehicles and parking on the road. This Council notes that in the Town Centre Master Plan it is proposed that two-way traffic is re-established with short stay on-street parking through a series of lay-bys.

This Council believes it should address residents safety concerns by installing a traditional traffic light crossing on the Regent Circus shared space crossing and request the Cabinet Member for Highways bring a report to Cabinet detailing a scheme so that would bring about this new crossing and to detail how the Council can more quickly realise its Master Plan ambitions for Commercial Road.”

Councillor Dale Heenan moved and Councillor Toby Elliott seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“This Council:

- Welcomes the planning permission for Regent Circus, which prominently included the shared surface crossing, that was unanimously approved in October 2010 by the all-party Planning Committee for this key regeneration site.
- notes that all Councillors and residents want to see a safe crossing at Regent Circus, and notes the comments made by some residents in the last couple of months about the new crossing at Regent’s Circus.
- recognises that there were road traffic incidents involving pedestrians at this junction before the shared space changes were introduced.
- welcomes the independent safety audit that has recently been completed, as agreed in the Planning permission, and whose findings will shortly be published.
- asks the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability, and Transport to continue to hold the developer to their Planning commitments and for them to act on any recommendations of the safety audit to enhance safety to the junction further.”

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

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

(In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Neil Heavens made a non prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of this item as he and his wife had an interest in properties on Commercial Road.)

(In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Tim Swinyard made a non prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of this item as he was employed by Halcrow.)

58. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10th September 2014, and (b) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received.

59. Minutes of other Council Bodies

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

60. Councillors Question Time

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that Standing Order 15 questions had been received from Councillors Steve Allsopp, Cindy Matthews and Bob Wright.

Councillor Steve Allsopp asked a supplementary question regarding employer contributions to National Insurance and Pensions for employees. The cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care responded at the meeting.

Councillor Bob Wright asked a supplementary question regarding consultation for blind or visually impaired users of the shared crossing scheme at Regent Circus. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport indicated that he would provide a written response to the question.

Councillor Bob Wright asked a supplementary question regarding support for the shared crossing scheme given the above average figures reported. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport responded at the meeting.

Councillor Bob Wright asked a Supplementary question regarding accident figures highlighted in the fifteenth joint report in 2013. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport responded at the meeting.

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COUNCIL

THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2015

MINUTE FOR CONFIRMATION

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2014

**54. Polling Districts and Polling Places Review
(Minute for Confirmation)**

The Leader of the Council and the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer submitted a joint report concerning the outcome of a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places and setting out recommended changes that had been proposed following consultation with interested parties.

The Chair advised that the Council was required to undertake a review of its Polling Districts and Polling Places every four years. The review had looked at all current provision, with each polling place and polling station being reviewed for both accessibility and suitability. The review had also taken into account the views of interested parties such as Councillors, the Members of Parliament for Swindon, and organisations such as SCOPE. He highlighted the recommended changes, which he believed offered the best solution currently available for the provision of polling places suitable in both location and accessibility for electors.

Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Wroughton Ward Councillor, drew attention to the problems faced by electors in the Alexandra Park (WWE Polling District) area of his ward who would have to travel over a mile and a half to their nearest polling station. He believed this would do little to promote democracy and encourage voter turnout. He was supportive of exploring the option of seeking an appropriate location for a polling station nearer to the electors of the WWE.

Councillor Ann Richards, Wroughton Ward Councillor, supported Councillor Ford's comments and asked that if an alternative location could not be identified, the Council seek to encourage residents to take up the postal vote option.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services advised that the Council's Elections team was actively exploring the possible use of a building within the WWE area as a polling station, but that no agreement had yet been reached. If a location was identified, he would report this to the Council meeting on 22nd January 2015 when the Cabinet's recommendations were to be considered. He commented on the promotion that already took place with regard to the availability of postal votes to electors.

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

(1) The recommended changes to Polling Places within the Borough of Swindon, as identified in Appendix A to the joint report be approved.

(2) The Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer be authorised to:–

(a) Revise the boundary of the current SAD Polling District for the St Andrews Ward as shown on the map at Appendix B to the joint report, to be served by a polling station at Redhouse Community Centre;

(b) Revise the boundary of the current SAB Polling District for the St Andrews Ward as shown on the map at Appendix B to the joint report, to be served by a polling station at Bridlewood School;

(c) Create a new polling district, PSG, for the Penhill and Upper Stratton Ward as shown on the map at Appendix C to the joint report, to be served by a polling station at Penhill Children's Centre; and

(d) Implement the changes in time for the Parliamentary and Borough Council elections in 2015.

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

MINUTES TO NOTE

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2014

45. Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review of Swindon

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report concerning the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review for 2013/14 that highlighted the annual summary of statistics on the complaints made to the Ombudsman regarding the Council for the year ended 31st March 2014.

The Chair welcomed the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review and noted the Borough Council's performance in comparison with other authorities. He explained that there had been a change in the current year to the way that the Ombudsman classified and recorded complaints. He noted that, for example, in previous years the two cases upheld by Ombudsman would have been listed as "local settlements". He referred to the Council's good overall performance and thanked all those officers who dealt with the Ombudsman and with Council complaints generally.

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, drew attention to the favourable comparison of the performance of Swindon with other similar and neighbouring authorities. Whilst it was recognised that the Council

should always seek to avoid any complaints, he welcomed its performance as reflected by the Ombudsman's statistics.

Resolved – (1) That the contents of the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review 2013/14, and that there were no cases of Maladministration by the Council but that two complaints were upheld by the Ombudsman in the year ending 31st March 2014, be noted.

(2) That the Chief Executive, Board Directors and Heads of Service be requested to continue to ensure that, where possible, complaints are resolved internally before reference to the Local Government Ombudsman and that requests for information from the Local Government Ombudsman are speedily dealt with.

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

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2014

52. Recycling - Green Waste Service

The Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and the Head of Streetsmart submitted a joint report responding to the contents of a Motion at Council on 24th February 2014 on the Green Waste Recycling Service and that proposed the re-introduction of a "free at the point of use" service for the Eastcott Ward and Swindon Town Centre.

Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart, commented on the contents of the report and that it reflected the outcome of a six-month review of the operation of the Green Waste Recycling Subscription Service that had been reported to the Highways and Streetsmart Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26th November 2014. He believed there was no evidence arising from the review to support the view that Eastcott and Town Centre Wards were disproportionately affected by the introduction of the paid-for service when compared with other wards in the Borough. In addition, there was no data showing that those Wards would significantly benefit over other wards from the re-introduction of a free at the point of use Green Waste service.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group on the Council and Eastcott Ward Councillor, referred to the contents of the report and the basis on which the original Motion had been put forward. He noted the survey information that indicated a low incidence of fly tipping of green waste in Eastcott, which was greatly welcomed. He hoped that the issue of fly tipping of general waste in the area could be addressed. He was grateful for the actions and flexibility of the Council's officers in providing bags to those Eastcott residents who did not have space for the green waste recycling bins.

Resolved – (1) That the contents of the joint report be noted and the existing paid for Green Waste Recycling Service be retained.

(2) That the Council be advised of the contents of this joint report and of the decision in (1) above, in response to the motion at the Council meeting on 24th February 2014 (Minute 99, 2013/14 refers).

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

53. Motion at Council - Cars Parking on Grass Verges

The Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and the Board Director Service Delivery submitted a joint report setting out a response to a Council Motion of 3rd April 2014 that referred to problems associated with inadequate car parking capacity in certain residential areas leading to residents parking on grass verges, and which requested that the Cabinet considered possible options to overcome such problems (Council Minute 112, 2013/14 refers).

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills, referred to the contents of the original Council motion and highlighted the difficulties in overcoming such problems and the options that were available to the Council. He referred to the increase in vehicle ownership, the problems that existed in both the older and newer areas of the Borough, and the measures that the Council was already taking to seek to overcome some of the problems. He noted that in some areas of the Borough there was simply no space to create further parking areas and in other areas residents were prepared to contribute to deliver their own solutions. He noted that the Council had decided in many cases not to use its enforcement powers in respect of verge parking where no alternatives existed.

Councillor Emma Faramarzi, Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, referred to problems that existed in her ward and in certain social housing areas. However, she cautioned that there were likely to be areas of the Borough where residents would object to any proposals to remove green spaces adjacent to their homes and replace them with parking spaces.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, referred to the contents of the report and to the problems of lack of parking spaces. He supported the views of Councillor Faramarzi that, where residents were not supportive, precious green spaces should not be lost. However, he wondered if it would be possible for the Council to consider acting to remove verges that were no longer green spaces since they were already being used as car parks, and to replace these damaged areas with appropriate hard standing materials. He was unsure how far the £25,000 available to localities would go to overcome such problems.

Councillor Perkins noted Members comments and the difficulties of identifying practical solutions to the problem. However, the report highlighted the ways in which the Council did seek to respond given the constraints it faced.

Resolved - (1) That the summary of the history and key issues surrounding verge parking in residential areas, be noted.

(2) That the work currently under way to provide additional parking areas through the Housing Capital Repairs and Improvement Programme, be noted.

(3) That the work under way to review waiting restrictions in Residents Parking Zones in order to identify additional parking capacity and the possible opening of public car parks to Residents Parking permit holders at peak times, be noted.

(4) That the competing pressures on the Highways and Transport Capital Budget, around highway maintenance and growth and regeneration related schemes, which must currently take priority and the existing £25,000 annual Locality budget that allows local Members to prioritise schemes to address verge parking if it is a priority issue in their area, be noted

(5) That the Head of Highways and Transport be requested to prepare information and a schedule of costs associated with the process of converting verges to parking that can be used to inform local residents seeking to self-fund such works.

(6) That the Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills and the Director of Law and Democratic Services and, in relation to Council owned land, the Head of the Service Area for the land involved, be authorised to determine any applications from residents to convert verges to parking at their own expense, subject to any necessary planning permission.

(7) That the Council be advised of the contents of this report in response to the Motion at the Council meeting on 3rd April 2014.

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

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CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Brian Mattock (Vice-Chair), Russell Holland, Emma Faramarzi, Brian Ford, Fionuala Foley, Dale Heenan, Richard Hurley and Garry Perkins.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Keith Williams.

Councillor Mark Dempsey attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 40 and 44. Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of Minute 40. Councillor Des Moffatt attended the meeting in respect of Minute 41. Councillor Stan Pajak attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 40 and 41. Councillor Kevin Small attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 40 and 42. Councillor Bob Wright attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 41, 43 and 44.

37. Declarations of Interest

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

38. Minutes

Resolved –That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

39. Public Question Time

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

Questioner

Mr Richard Symonds, Shaw, Swindon

Questions

Mr Symonds asked questions regarding who had taken the decision to route all Bus Services through Swindon's Railway Village and on the services that actually served the Railway Village and Farringdon Road area.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Symonds for his questions and comments.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport, responded at the meeting and advised that a written response would be provided.

Questioner

Mr Michael Dickinson, South View Avenue, Swindon

Questions

Mr Dickinson asked questions regarding the proposed introduction of parking restrictions in South View Avenue, Walcot, Swindon and in particular about (a) the evidence to support the need for restrictions, (b) the process for gathering data in the area, (c) the number of vehicles found to be parking, (d) how any restrictions

would be enforced, (e) the resources available to undertake such enforcement, (f) the budget to fund enforcement, (g) the steps to be taken to prevent verge /open space parking if restrictions were introduced, and (h) the accuracy of statements made by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport.

Response

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

The Chair, Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport, responded at the meeting to the questions and comments.

Mr Dickinson asked supplementary questions seeking clarity on the issue of his receipt of an email regarding the issue and whether the Cabinet Member would be prepared to meet local residents “on site” to view the area and listen to residents’ concerns.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport, responded at the meeting to the supplementary questions and comments.

Questioner

Mr Kris Talikowski, Old Town Business and Professional Association (OTBPA)

Questions

Mr Talikowski asked questions regarding the need for a reduction in short-stay car parking fees in the Old Town area of Swindon and for better signing of Old Town car parking to encourage more shoppers and visitors to the area.

Response

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

Mr Talikowski asked a supplementary question asking whether the relevant Cabinet Members and Ward Councillors would be willing to meet with his Association to consider the issue of parking charges and the encouragement that could be given to potential shoppers and visitors.

The Chair and Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport, responded at the meeting to the supplementary question and comments.

Questioner

Mrs Kareen Boyd, Hesketh Crescent, Swindon

Questions

Mrs Boyd asked a question regarding who was responsible for the provision of Secondary School Places should the proposed bids for “Free Schools” in Swindon not be supported by the Government.

Response

The Chair thanked Mrs Boyd for her question.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded at the meeting to the question.

Mrs Boyd asked a supplementary question regarding how the Council would provide and fund Secondary School Places should the "Free School" bids not be approved.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded at the meeting to the supplementary question and comments.

Questioner

Mr Bob Buckley, Abbey Meads Community Primary School and Butterflies Children's Centre

Questions

Mr Buckley asked a question regarding the Council's recommendations relating to the future of Children's Centres in Swindon and whether the Council would be prepared to "ring fence" other available posts within the Council's control for those who were at the risk of redundancy should Children's Centres Close.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Buckley for his question and comments.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded at the meeting to the question and comments.

Questioner

Mr Brian Shakespeare, Swindon Tenants Voice / Housing Advisory Forum

Questions

Mr Shakespeare asked a question regarding the Council's proposed Housing Strategy and the appropriateness of the final approval of the Strategy being by the Cabinet Member.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Shakespeare for his question and comments.

Councillor Emma Faramarzi, Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services responded at the meeting to the question and comments.

Questioner

Mr Martin Wicks, Swindon Tenants Campaign Group / Housing Advisory Forum

Questions

Mr Wicks asked questions regarding the Council's proposed Housing Strategy and, in particular, the commitment to hold a "Housing conference" as part of the consultation process associated with the proposed Strategy, and the use made of the Cabinet Member Decision Note process within the Council and how this was reflected in its Constitution.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Wicks for his question and comments.

Councillor Emma Faramarzi, Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services responded at the meeting to the question and comments.

Questioner

Ms Jo Garton, Butterflies Children Centre

Questions

Ms Garton asked questions regarding the effect of the Council's proposals for Children's Centres and, in particular, (a) the percentage of Child Support Social Workers in Swindon who were "agency" rather than Council staff, (b) why there was currently only one team leader in place rather than four, (c) how the Council would respond should there be an increase in the number of Child protection referrals, and (d) when she could expect to receive a response to her correspondence with the Council in September 2014.

Response

The Chair thanked Ms Garton for her questions and comments.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded at the meeting and advised that a written response would be provided.

40. Result of the Consultation for Children's Centres

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning (a) the outcome of the consultation that had been undertaken on proposed changes to the Children's Centre service to focus better the service in the areas of the Borough with the highest number of vulnerable children and to contribute to required budget savings, and (b) proposed changes to the original proposals arising from consultation responses.

The Chair invited Mr Mark Tidey on behalf of the Butterflies Centre petitioners (a petition of 1041 signatures plus 141 "on-line"), and Mrs Pamela Adams on behalf of the Ladybirds Centre petitioners (a petition of 244 signatures) to address the Cabinet to explain the background to and reasons for their petitions. Each petition sought the Council to reconsider its proposals and retain with funding their local Children's Centres.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, thanked the petitioners for their presentations and expressed her appreciation for all those who had participated in the consultation. She explained the background to the proposal to review Children's Centre provision in Swindon and referred to the wide-ranging consultation on the proposals that had been undertaken. She commented on how, as a result of the consultation responses, certain of the recommendations had been changed. She reminded Cabinet colleagues and the public of the budget pressures the Council faced and the need for it to focus its limited resources in the most effective way to support the most vulnerable children. She advised that Council was required to make difficult decisions and she believed that it was important for the Council to both listen to the responses it had received and to

concentrate its limited resources in ways that directly supported the most vulnerable children and families in need of help. She commented on how the proposed additional funding would be used to seek to access vulnerable families across the Borough, particularly in those areas with no direct access to a Children's Centre. She highlighted the role that the proposed multi-generational family centres would undertake and the significance and importance of the role to be played by Health Visitors in signposting parents to the sources of help and support that was available.

Councillor Foley referred to paragraph 3.3.4 of the joint report and that this should more appropriately refer to "parent and toddler groups" rather than "mother and toddler groups" and she thanked the person who had highlighted this at the "Open Forum" held prior to the meeting. She advised that she had noted the comments expressed at the "Open Forum" and the strength of feeling involved. However, she remained convinced that the revised proposals offered the best way forward in difficult circumstances.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, expressed his opposition to the proposals and drew attention to the comments within Appendix 1 to the joint report that stated "the general tenor of the response from parents, current and past users and professionals was strongly opposed to the plan". He asked whether the proposal would result in more social care referrals with resulting costs for the Borough and would lead to more isolated young families as they lost a facility that provided the opportunity for mutual support and access to professional services. He referred to the choice available to the Council on how it spent the limited resources that were available to it and to his belief that funding was more appropriately spent on supporting Children's Centres rather than on interest charges associated with a car park.

Councillor Foley reiterated the difficult financial challenges the Council faced and emphasised how the revised proposals sought to support families across the Borough whilst retaining Children's Centres in the areas with the highest density of most vulnerable families. She commented on the key role of health visitors by way of "signposting" as they had direct access to families rather than support relying on families accessing a Centre.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills, responded to comments regarding the Council's investment in a new Town Centre Car Park and his belief that this project was a significant benefit to the Borough and its economy.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group on the Council, referred to the difficult decisions and choices facing the Council. His Group was supportive of retaining all the current Children's Centre and he believed that consideration should be given to the option of an increase in Council Tax to help achieve this.

Councillor Mark Dempsey enquired whether the Cabinet Member was confident that there would be no decision to close further Children's Centres next year and if there were further changes, would she be resigning from the Cabinet. He asked whether the Council would be seeking to monitor the number of referrals to Social Care from families that had previously attended a closed Children's Centre or were from areas where the service had been withdrawn.

Councillor Foley commented that she was committed to her previous statements on these matters and that the type of data collection proposed would not provide any meaningful information regarding the role played in the referral process by the presence of a former Children's Centre or by the lack of one.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, referred to the financial context in which the service operated and the pressures that it faced.

Councillor Kevin Small commented that Councillor Holland had explained clearly the financial context in which the Cabinet had produced its proposals. However, he felt that the service context for such proposals had not been made clear and needed clarification.

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, referred to the increasing pressures on Council funding and on Adult and Children's Care. He thanked the Cabinet Member and the officers for the way in which they had responded to these challenges and had listened to the feedback arising from the consultation and revised their proposals where this was possible to support vulnerable families.

Councillor Foley reiterated her thanks to the officers and to all who had contributed to the consultation. The Cabinet had difficult decisions to make but its priority remained to protect the most vulnerable making best use of the resources available to it.

Resolved – (1) That the responses to the consultation carried out on the proposals for changes to Children's Centre provision in Swindon, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the approach in relation to improving children's lives in those areas with the most vulnerable children and families as set out in the joint report, be endorsed.

(3) That it be noted that the following Children's Centres will remain unchanged: Penhill and Pinehurst, Moredon, Drove, Gorse Hill (referred to as the Supercluster), and Parks and Walcot East.

(4) That the following seven Children's Centres be de-commissioned: Eldene, Croft, Butterflies, Ladybird, Saltway, Robert le Kyng and West Swindon.

(5) That two multi-generational family centres be established in Abbey Meads/Greenmeadow (Butterflies) and West Swindon (West Swindon Family Project) using two thirds of their existing funding based on the Budget 2014/15 for a two year period.

(6) That the Group Director Commissioning (DCS/DASS) be authorised to work with stakeholders and parents in developing how multi-generational family centres will operate and to ensure that evidence based support for families with children under three is part of the model.

(7) That family support outreach work be developed across those areas of Swindon and Highworth without a Children's Centre so that vulnerable families are supported to build self-supporting groups, and that there is increased support from volunteers and evidence based parenting groups.

(8) That, further to the decision in (7) above, it be noted that priority will be given to families living in areas with high numbers of vulnerable children, for example Eldene, East Wichelstowe and parts of central Swindon.

(9) That, further to the decision in (7) above, it be noted that there will also be a service in Highworth and Stratton.

(10) That, further to the decision in (7) above, the allocation of £194,000 one off resources over two years be included as part of the wider Council-wide draft Budget to be considered by the Cabinet on 22nd October 2014. (Minute 41(8) refers.)

(11) That it be noted that the decisions set out in (7) to (10) above address some of the concerns raised by interested parties and the public in the consultation.

(12) That the Board Director Commissioning (DCS/DASS) be authorised to implement the above proposals by 31st March 2015.

(13) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Directors for Commissioning (DCS/DASS) and Resources, be authorised to agree terms and conditions on which any changes to lease arrangements would be made to protect the Council's interests and ensure continued use of Children's Centre buildings for services for children and families.

(14) That the petitioners and all those who contributed to the consultation exercise on proposed changes to the Children's Centre service, be thanked for their involvement and contribution.

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

41. Budget Management 2014/15 and Draft Budget 2015/16 (Minute For Confirmation (Minute 41(2)))

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 August 2014, (b) the context for the Council's Budget for 2015/16 and for the Medium Term Financial Plan, including funding assumptions for 2015/16, (c) initial draft Budget proposals for 2015/16 for consultation with residents and stakeholders, (d) Debt Charges, (e) Council Tax, (f) the Council Tax Support Scheme and Grant, (g) proposed future joint working with parish and town councils, (h) General Reserves, (i) Severance Costs, (j) One-off investment (Children's Centre Proposals), and (k) District Heating Schemes funding proposals.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced the report and highlighted the financial challenges that the Council and the country faced and the financial context in which the Borough was operating. He highlighted the joint report's recommendations. He advised that the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16 would not be known until later in 2014 and therefore the issue of the amount to be held in General Reserves and Council Tax proposals could not be considered at this time. The Council had established a good record of identifying savings early that enabled the Council's financial position to be strengthened for the next financial year. He wished to continue this approach and to allow as much time as possible for views to be sought on the Budget proposals set out in Appendix 4 to the joint report. He drew particular attention to the operation of the Council Tax Support Scheme and to the decision of the Cabinet earlier in the meeting on Children's Centres provision.

Councillor Des Moffatt referred to the Council's Capital programme and the borrowing cost and revenue effect of the Council's investment in the Whalebridge Car Park. He would welcome the opportunity to speak the Cabinet Member

regarding the implications of the proposal to change the level of Fleming Way.

Councillor Bob Wright, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, referred to the draft Budget proposals in respect of the Change Programme for Learning Disability and what this would mean for service users.

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, referred to the successes of Adult Social Care and its partners in keeping spending within budget despite increasing pressures. He advised that the change programmes presented one of the ways this was achieved. He explained the change programme in respect of Learning Disabilities and that Swindon's spending in this area appeared to exceed the national average. The reasons for this were being examined so that appropriate action could be taken where necessary. He confirmed that every effort was made to keep service users within Swindon and close to friends and family.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group on the Council, noted that the Council's reserves were currently at a level that was considered to be above the minimum level. He wondered if consideration should be given to using this "additional" reserve to protect key services such as Children's Centres.

Councillor Holland reiterated that the Council would only be able to get a true understanding of the financial context it would be operating within when the Local Government Finance Settlement was published at the end of 2014. However, the officers estimates of the position had, in the past, proved very reliable and he believed that it was an appropriate time to consult on the draft Budget for 2015/16 and seek to make savings now that would strengthen the Council's financial position for the beginning of the new Financial Year.

Resolved – (1) That the Cabinet notes:-

(a) That the Council expects to deliver services within the overall cash limit for 2014/15 with a current projected underspend of £26,000.

(b) The medium term financial assumptions and high-level resourcing plan as set out in Table One to the joint report.

(c) That the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16 has yet to be published and therefore the funding assumptions in the joint report contain levels of uncertainty.

(d) The current gap between the assumed funding levels for 2015/16 and the current proposed cost of services, as set out in Table Three of the joint report, and that work is continuing to identify further options to close this gap for consideration by Members once actual funding levels are confirmed and before the Final Budget is recommended to Council.

(e) That the current draft Budget proposals assume a level of base budget contingency of £0.5m and that the Council will need to take a view on the level of contingency it should hold to support the 2015/16 Budget in February 2015, based on the advice of the Section 151 Officer at that point.

(f) That severance payments in line with existing policy will be made to those individuals affected by the Budget proposals and that these will include payments to partner and external organisations where the payments will result in on-going savings for the Council.

(g) That the impact on minority groups has been considered for all savings proposals and a full diversity impact assessment has been undertaken where an impact was perceived.

(2) That the Council be recommended to agree that the Council Tax Support Scheme adopted by the Council for 2013/14 and 2014/15 should continue unchanged throughout 2015/16.

(3) That consultation with service users, staff and other stakeholders on the detailed Draft Budget proposals, as set out in Appendix 4 to the joint report, now commence, with feedback to be considered by the Cabinet in advance of proposing the 2015/16 Final Budget to the Council.

(4) That £133,000 of Council Tax Support Grant be passported from the Borough Council to Swindon's town and parish councils in 2015/16.

(5) That joint work continue with those Swindon parish and town councils where both Borough Council and Parish Councillors have a mutual desire to explore the transfer of service responsibilities from the Borough to those local councils; and that the Board Director Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance and Streetsmart, plus relevant ward members, be authorised to agree any resulting transfers and that the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to complete any necessary documentation.

(6) That the Council's match-funding contribution to the District Heating projects of £60,000, with a maximum value of £30,000 being drawn from reserves, be approved.

(7) That, at this stage, the minimum level of General Reserves be maintained at £5m, acknowledging that a decision on the level to be held to support the 2015/16 Budget will be taken later in the year with full knowledge of the details of the Local Government Finance Settlement and with an assessment of financial risks at that time.

(8) That, further to the decision in Minute 40 concerning the proposed changes to Children's Centres, the allocation of £194,000 of one-off funding from specific Council reserves to support the proposed changes to Children's Centres over two years, be approved.

(9) That officers be authorised to implement, as soon as practicable, those proposals for the 2015/16 Budget that represent efficiency measures, including those affecting staff.

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

42. References from Other Council Bodies: Town Twinning Network

The Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report concerning recommendations arising from the meeting of the Town Twinning Network on 8th October 2014 regarding the Council's support for activities to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Swindon / Salzgitter Twinning.

Councillor Kevin Small, Chair of the Town twinning Network, explained the background to the Network's recommendation to the Cabinet and the reasons why it believed it would be desirable for the Council to promote actively the 40th Anniversary of the Swindon / Salzgitter Twinning. He believed it could assist with attracting new and younger people to become involved and re-invigorate the concept of town twinning.

Resolved –That, further to Minute 51(3) of the Town Twinning Network, the Deputy Leader of the Council meet with the Chair of the Town Twinning Network and the relevant Council officers to consider the feasibility and financial implications

of the Network's proposals.

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

43. Additional Primary School Places in Swindon Town Centre

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning primary school places required for Swindon Town Centre and setting out a revised proposal to meet the anticipated demand for places following the release of the birth data for the relevant area.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, introduced the report and welcomed its recommendations that avoided the need to build a new primary school at this time. She thanked the officers and the local school community for their hard work in identifying practical solutions to meet the demand for places over the next few years.

Councillor Bob Wright, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and Central Ward Councillor, expressed his appreciation for the way that officers had kept local ward councillors involved in the process. He believed further opportunities existed to expand provision at the Robert Le Kyng School Campus and that solutions could be found to apparent highways and access issues.

Councillor Foley noted and welcomed Councillor Wright's comments. The officers were aware of the Robert Le Kyng site and she was sure they would welcome his thoughts on solutions to the perceived highways issues associated with that campus.

Resolved – (1) That the Board Director, Commissioning be authorised to commence statutory processes for an additional 30 primary school places in September 2015 and September 2016 as referred to in the joint report.

(2) That the Head of Infrastructure Assets be authorised to investigate the possibility of additional places provided at schools in the Central and South Planning Area (School Place Planning Study update March 2011) for September 2015 and September 2016.

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

44. Progressing the Economic Strategy - Developing Skills and Employment Opportunities through the Construction Industry

The Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability, and Transport and the Head of Economy and Skills submitted a joint report concerning a proposal to make an application to the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) to achieve 'National Skills Academy' status for construction, enabling the Council to use the CITB National Framework to assist in creating and developing employment and skills opportunities in Swindon.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills, welcomed the report that he believed was excellent news for Swindon.

He commented on the benefits that adopting the Framework would bring to Swindon and the local economy.

Councillor Bob Wright, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the proposal and wondered how it fitted with the Plan 500 and Plan 1000. He also hoped that the Council would both encourage take up and ensure that unscrupulous employers were discouraged from creating false apprenticeships and training opportunities.

Councillor Mark Dempsey expressed his support for the proposals and noted that it reinforced this Council's commitment to growing skills and encouraging apprenticeships. He noted how the report linked closely to the content of previous Council motions, adopted with cross-party support to seek support for apprenticeships and the provision of opportunities for young people.

Councillor Perkins commented on the opportunities that the proposed Framework provided and how it would be monitored. He confirmed that it was anticipated that the number of job opportunities generated would be over and above those referred to in the "Plans." He emphasised the importance of developing training opportunities linked to employment as a way of both increasing Swindon's skills base and strengthening its economy.

Resolved – (1) That the Head of Economy and Skills, in consultation with the Head of Planning and Regulatory Services, the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability, and Transport, be authorised to make an application to the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) for the Council to be awarded 'National Skills Academy for Construction' status.

(2) That the Head of Planning and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Head of Economy and Skills, the Director of Law and Democratic Services, the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability, and Transport, be authorised to prepare Supplementary Planning Guidance to secure skills and employment opportunities from appropriate new development.

(3) That the Wichelstowe Programme Director, in consultation with the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to develop with the Head of Planning and Regulatory Services an acceptable Section 106 Planning Obligation that will enable the Wichelstowe Project to deliver an agreed package of objectives to secure skills and employment opportunities as part of the development, so that the Wichelstowe Development Project can form part of the Council's application for 'National Skills Academy for Construction' status.

(4) That the Head of Economy and Skills, in conjunction with the Head of Procurement and the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to explore the feasibility of implementing the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) National Framework through the procurement process where considered appropriate.

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

45. Local Government Ombudsman Annual Review of Swindon

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Law and Democratic Services

submitted a joint report concerning the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review for 2013/14 that highlighted the annual summary of statistics on the complaints made to the Ombudsman regarding the Council for the year ended 31st March 2014.

The Chair welcomed the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review and noted the Borough Council's performance in comparison with other authorities. He explained that there had been a change in the current year to the way that the Ombudsman classified and recorded complaints. He noted that, for example, in previous years the two cases upheld by Ombudsman would have been listed as "local settlements". He referred to the Council's good overall performance and thanked all those officers who dealt with the Ombudsman and with Council complaints generally.

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, drew attention to the favourable comparison of the performance of Swindon with other similar and neighbouring authorities. Whilst it was recognised that the Council should always seek to avoid any complaints, he welcomed its performance as reflected by the Ombudsman's statistics.

Resolved – (1) That the contents of the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review 2013/14, and that there were no cases of Maladministration by the Council but that two complaints were upheld by the Ombudsman in the year ending 31st March 2014, be noted.

(2) That the Chief Executive, Board Directors and Heads of Service be requested to continue to ensure that, where possible, complaints are resolved internally before reference to the Local Government Ombudsman and that requests for information from the Local Government Ombudsman are speedily dealt with.

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

46. Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances - Recommendations 2015/16 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report setting out recommendations arising from a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances.

The Chair advised that the Cabinet and Council was required to consider recommendations arising from a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances. He highlighted that the key recommendation of the Panel was that the level of Councillors' Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances for 2015/16 be indexed linked to the percentage increase in pay awarded to local authority staff nationally in the 2014/15 Pay Round, when agreed.

Resolved – (1) That the Council be requested to consider and determine the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances held on 6th October 2014, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report.

(2) That it be noted that the proposal of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances is that -

(a) the level of Councillors' Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances for 2015/16 be indexed linked to the percentage increase in pay awarded to local

authority staff nationally in the 2014/15 Pay Round, it being recognised that this is still to be agreed;

(b) Note that index linking can apply for three municipal years before any further review is undertaken of such linkage by an independent remuneration panel.

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

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CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Brian Mattock (Vice-Chair), Russell Holland, Emma Faramarzi, Brian Ford, Fionuala Foley, Dale Heenan, Richard Hurley, Garry Perkins and Keith Williams.

Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 50 and 53.
Councillor Stan Pajak attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 50 and 52.
Councillor Ann Richards attended the meeting in respect of Minute 54.

47. Declarations of Interest

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

48. Minutes

Resolved –That the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

49. Public Question Time

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

Questioner

Mr Richard Symonds, Shaw, Swindon

Questions

Mr Symonds asked questions concerning rumours of the proposed complete closure of “The Western Flyer”, the existing cycle and pedestrian route from West Swindon to Swindon Town Centre. He asked for clarity to be provided on (a) the proposed closure, (b) whether the Council was to provide a transport alternative for those either side of the closure and the cost of this, (c) why a complete closure was required, (d) the timing of the closure and why there had not been better co-ordination in view of the major road works taking place at Bruce Street/ Great Western Way.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Symonds for his questions and comments. Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport, responded at the meeting and advised that a written response would be provided.

Questioner

Mr Roy Worman, Haydon View Community Association

Questions

Mr Worman asked questions regarding the report on “Cars Parking on Grass Verges” (Agenda Item 8) and on how residents, should the Council approve the proposal to allow them to convert verges to parking at their own expense, would be able to safeguard such parking areas from indiscriminate parking by others.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Wormen for his question and comments. Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills, responded at the meeting to the question and comments.

Questioner

Mr Tim French, Cassan Road, Swindon

Questions

Mr French asked a question regarding the future of funding support for the Independent Living organisation in Wiltshire and Swindon and the detrimental effect that the loss of funding would have for the services and advice provided by this user based organisation to people with disabilities in Swindon and across Wiltshire.

Response

The Chair thanked Mr French for his question and comments. Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, responded at the meeting to the question and comments.

50. Budget Management 2014/15 and Draft Budget 2015/16

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report setting out (a) the current forecast out-turn position of the Council's Revenue Budget, (b) proposed Budget virements 2014/15, (c) proposed match funding for provision of artificial cricket pitches to enable on-going reductions in Council costs, (d) the current context for the Council's Budget for 2015/16 and for the Medium Term Financial Plan, including revised funding assumptions for 2015/16, (e) proposed changes to the draft Budget position and proposals for 2015/16, arising since October 2014, (f) the outcome of consultation with residents and stakeholders on the draft Budget proposals, (g) Forward Swindon Ltd., (h) the Council Tax Base and Collection Fund Surplus / Deficit 2015/16, and (i) proposed fees and charges for 2015/16.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, introduced the report and highlighted the financial context in which the Borough was operating. He referred to the Government's austerity plans and that pressure on local government finance was likely to continue into the future regardless of the outcome of the forthcoming General Election. He commented on the Budget pressures that the Council faced, particularly in respect of Adult Social Care. He emphasised the work being undertaken by Council officers to produce a balanced budget and to enable the Council to be well-placed for the next financial year. He highlighted changes effecting the Budget out-turn projection and the draft Budget proposals for 2015/16 since the last meeting of the Cabinet in October 2014. He explained the joint report's recommendations and added an additional recommendation enabling the transfer of some functions to local parish and town councils. He referred to the proposed increases in fees and charges and to the limited response received to the Budget consultation to date. He confirmed that the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16 would not be known until later in December 2014.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, referred to the content of the report and asked for clarity on the funding of the post of Chief Executive of Forward Swindon Ltd. He referred to the use made of the funding available to the Council

from the New Homes Bonus and asked for details of spending undertaken from the Council's Infrastructure Reserve. He noted that the Council was likely to face a Budget Gap following the issue of the Local Government Finance Settlement and enquired how the Council would undertake consultation on the savings required.

Councillor Holland and the Board Director, Resources referred to the arrangements in place to fund the current interim Chief Executive of Forward Swindon Ltd. and how this would change from January 2015. The Council had earmarked funding of £1.5m from the Infrastructure Reserve to meet the costs of the Rural Superfast Broadband Project for Swindon. Councillor Holland explained that it was unlikely that any more savings proposals coming forward before the Budget Council meeting in February 2015 would relate to services that would require a formal consultation exercise to be undertaken. Any representation from the public on any savings proposals would be welcomed and considered by the Cabinet in the run up to the Council meeting.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group on the Council, referred to the contents of the report and to his disappointment at the lack of public engagement with the Council by way of response to the Budget consultation. He noted the significant public involvement there had been over the Budget proposals effecting Children's Centres and that this had not been repeated for other Budget items. He hoped that efforts could be made to encourage participation. He asked if it was possible to calculate the benefits that the Council's investment in Forward Swindon Ltd and their work brought to the Borough.

Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart, noted that when residents had concerns regarding Council proposals, they were usually active in making their views known and were less likely to act when satisfied with the Council's actions. Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills, commented that it was difficult but possible to calculate some of the benefits that Forward Swindon Ltd. brought to the Borough. However, it was difficult to identify exactly what time periods should be used for any calculation or how the retention of a business staying in Swindon could be measured.

Councillor Pajak noted the apparent significant increase in charges for access to Lydiard House and Gardens. Councillor Garry Perkins explained that whilst the increase appeared large, it resulted in an admission price that was comparable with that of other such properties and gardens in the surrounding area. It would also assist in helping to fund the upkeep and future development of the House and Gardens.

Resolved – (1) That the Cabinet notes:-

(a) The Council expects to deliver services within the overall cash limit for 2014/15 with a current projected underspend of £28,000;

(b) The Local Government Finance Settlement for 2015/16 has yet to be published and therefore the funding assumptions in the joint report contain levels of uncertainty;

(c) The current gap between the assumed funding levels for 2015/16 and the current proposed cost of services, as set out in Table Two to the joint report, and that work is continuing to identify further options to close this gap for consideration by Members once actual funding levels are confirmed and before the final Budget is recommended to Council in February 2015;

(d) The impact on minority groups has been considered for all savings

proposals and a full Diversity Impact Assessment has been undertaken where an impact was perceived;

(e) The Council Tax Base for 2015/16 will be 67,660.0 and the estimated Council share of the Council Tax Collection Fund surplus used to support the 2015/16 Budget will be £1.621m and the deficit share for Business Rates will be £2m;

(f) The consultation responses received so far in relation to the proposals considered by the Cabinet on 22nd October 2014.

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

(3) That the Council's £7,500 contribution to the cost of artificial cricket pitches be approved and reflected in future 2014/15 out-turn projections and funded from the predicted Council-wide underspend.

(4) That the proposed increases in fees and charges for specific areas and services, as set out in Appendix 4 to the joint report, be approved, and all other fees and charges be increased by 3%.

(5) That the level of Council Budget required to support Forward Swindon Limited in 2015/16 remain unchanged from the 2014/15 level at £455,000.

(6) That the changes to the draft Budget proposals agreed in October 2014 for 2015/16 (Minute 41 refers), as set out in Appendices 5 and 6 and Table 2 to the joint report, be approved, including the funding, from one-off resources, of a £2m Business Rates Collection Fund deficit arising from backdated Rating Appeals.

(7) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with Board Director, Resources, the Cabinet Members for Finance, the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and relevant Ward Members, be authorised to arrange for the discharge of any of the Council's functions to a parish/town council to the extent permitted by Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, and to enter into the necessary agreements and documentation on such terms and conditions as he considers necessary to protect the Council's interests.

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

51. Capital Programme Monitoring - Second Quarter and Treasury Management Performance 2014/15

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report setting out (a) the 2014/15 Capital Programme position as at the end of September 2014, (b) proposed changes to the Capital Programme, (c) the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery project, (d) Cost pressures and Capital Programme Proposals 2015/16, and (e) Mid-Year Treasury Management performance for 2014/15.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, referred to the report and explained that it addressed the projected outturn position of the Council's Capital Budget for 2014/15, highlighted proposed changes to the current Capital Programme, including reference to the proposed new Swindon Museum and Art Gallery project, cost pressures effecting proposals for the 2015/16 Capital Programme, and also detailed the Treasury Management performance to date for 2014/15.

The Chair referred to the submission of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for

the proposed new Swindon Museum and Art Gallery project and to the Council's commitments under the bid process. He explained that the Council's contribution was subject to all other partners also delivering their contributions to the proposed project.

Resolved – (1) That the Capital Programme position and mid-year Treasury Management performance for 2014/15, as set out in the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the changes to the Council's Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the joint report, be approved.

(3) That the Stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund Grant Application for a new Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, as detailed in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.9 of the joint report, be endorsed.

(4) That the current pressures and timescale for 2015/16 Capital Programme approvals, as detailed in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.13 of the joint report, be noted.

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

52. Recycling - Green Waste Service

The Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and the Head of Streetsmart submitted a joint report responding to the contents of a Motion at Council on 24th February 2014 on the Green Waste Recycling Service and that proposed the re-introduction of a "free at the point of use" service for the Eastcott Ward and Swindon Town Centre.

Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart, commented on the contents of the report and that it reflected the outcome of a six-month review of the operation of the Green Waste Recycling Subscription Service that had been reported to the Highways and Streetsmart Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26th November 2014. He believed there was no evidence arising from the review to support the view that Eastcott and Town Centre Wards were disproportionately affected by the introduction of the paid-for service when compared with other wards in the Borough. In addition, there was no data showing that those Wards would significantly benefit over other wards from the re-introduction of a free at the point of use Green Waste service.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group on the Council and Eastcott Ward Councillor, referred to the contents of the report and the basis on which the original Motion had been put forward. He noted the survey information that indicated a low incidence of fly tipping of green waste in Eastcott, which was greatly welcomed. He hoped that the issue of fly tipping of general waste in the area could be addressed. He was grateful for the actions and flexibility of the Council's officers in providing bags to those Eastcott residents who did not have space for the green waste recycling bins.

Resolved – (1) That the contents of the joint report be noted and the existing paid for Green Waste Recycling Service be retained.

(2) That the Council be advised of the contents of this joint report and of the decision in (1) above, in response to the motion at the Council meeting on 24th February 2014 (Minute 99, 2013/14 refers).

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

Motion at Council - Cars Parking on Grass Verges

The Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and the Board Director Service Delivery submitted a joint report setting out a response to a Council Motion of 3rd April 2014 that referred to problems associated with inadequate car parking capacity in certain residential areas leading to residents parking on grass verges, and which requested that the Cabinet considered possible options to overcome such problems (Council Minute 112, 2013/14 refers).

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills, referred to the contents of the original Council motion and highlighted the difficulties in overcoming such problems and the options that were available to the Council. He referred to the increase in vehicle ownership, the problems that existed in both the older and newer areas of the Borough, and the measures that the Council was already taking to seek to overcome some of the problems. He noted that in some areas of the Borough there was simply no space to create further parking areas and in other areas residents were prepared to contribute to deliver their own solutions. He noted that the Council had decided in many cases not to use its enforcement powers in respect of verge parking where no alternatives existed.

Councillor Emma Faramarzi, Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, referred to problems that existed in her ward and in certain social housing areas. However, she cautioned that there were likely to be areas of the Borough where residents would object to any proposals to remove green spaces adjacent to their homes and replace them with parking spaces.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, referred to the contents of the report and to the problems of lack of parking spaces. He supported the views of Councillor Faramarzi that, where residents were not supportive, precious green spaces should not be lost. However, he wondered if it would be possible for the Council to consider acting to remove verges that were no longer green spaces since they were already being used as car parks, and to replace these damaged areas with appropriate hard standing materials. He was unsure how far the £25,000 available to localities would go to overcome such problems.

Councillor Perkins noted Members comments and the difficulties of identifying practical solutions to the problem. However, the report highlighted the ways in which the Council did seek to respond given the constraints it faced.

Resolved - (1) That the summary of the history and key issues surrounding verge parking in residential areas, be noted.

(2) That the work currently under way to provide additional parking areas through the Housing Capital Repairs and Improvement Programme, be noted.

(3) That the work under way to review waiting restrictions in Residents Parking Zones in order to identify additional parking capacity and the possible opening of public car parks to Residents Parking permit holders at peak times, be noted.

(4) That the competing pressures on the Highways and Transport Capital Budget, around highway maintenance and growth and regeneration related schemes, which must currently take priority and the existing £25,000 annual Locality budget that allows local Members to prioritise schemes to address verge parking if it

is a priority issue in their area, be noted

(5) That the Head of Highways and Transport be requested to prepare information and a schedule of costs associated with the process of converting verges to parking that can be used to inform local residents seeking to self-fund such works.

(6) That the Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills and the Director of Law and Democratic Services and, in relation to Council owned land, the Head of the Service Area for the land involved, be authorised to determine any applications from residents to convert verges to parking at their own expense, subject to any necessary planning permission.

(7) That the Council be advised of the contents of this report in response to the Motion at the Council meeting on 3rd April 2014.

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

54. Polling Districts and Polling Places Review (Minute for Confirmation)

The Leader of the Council and the Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer submitted a joint report concerning the outcome of a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places and setting out recommended changes that had been proposed following consultation with interested parties.

The Chair advised that the Council was required to undertake a review of its Polling Districts and Polling Places every four years. The review had looked at all current provision, with each polling place and polling station being reviewed for both accessibility and suitability. The review had also taken into account the views of interested parties such as Councillors, the Members of Parliament for Swindon, and organisations such as SCOPE. He highlighted the recommended changes, which he believed offered the best solution currently available for the provision of polling places suitable in both location and accessibility for electors.

Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Wroughton Ward Councillor, drew attention to the problems faced by electors in the Alexandra Park (WWE Polling District) area of his ward who would have to travel over a mile and a half to their nearest polling station. He believed this would do little to promote democracy and encourage voter turnout. He was supportive of exploring the option of seeking an appropriate location for a polling station nearer to the electors of the WWE.

Councillor Ann Richards, Wroughton Ward Councillor, supported Councillor Ford's comments and asked that if an alternative location could not be identified, the Council seek to encourage residents to take up the postal vote option.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services advised that the Council's Elections team was actively exploring the possible use of a building within the WWE area as a polling station, but that no agreement had yet been reached. If a location was identified, he would report this to the Council meeting on 22nd January 2015 when the Cabinet's recommendations were to be considered. He commented on the promotion that already took place with regard to the availability of postal votes to electors.

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

(1) The recommended changes to Polling Places within the Borough of Swindon, as identified in Appendix A to the joint report be approved.

(2) The Electoral Registration Officer and Returning Officer be authorised to:–

(a) Revise the boundary of the current SAD Polling District for the St Andrews Ward as shown on the map at Appendix B to the joint report, to be served by a polling station at Redhouse Community Centre;

(b) Revise the boundary of the current SAB Polling District for the St Andrews Ward as shown on the map at Appendix B to the joint report, to be served by a polling station at Bridlewood School;

(c) Create a new polling district, PSG, for the Penhill and Upper Stratton Ward as shown on the map at Appendix C to the joint report, to be served by a polling station at Penhill Children's Centre; and

(d) Implement the changes in time for the Parliamentary and Borough Council elections in 2015.

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

55. References from Other Council Bodies - Health and Wellbeing Board

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report concerning a recommendation arising from the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on 8th October 2014 regarding the Council's support for the adoption of the Swindon Dementia Strategy for 2014-2019.

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, explained the background to the Strategy and what it would mean for Swindon residents and for the Council. He referred to the increasing problem of dementia locally and nationally and that the Strategy sought to address this. He explained that the Strategy reflected a partnership approach involving Health, Social Care and the Council in its delivery.

The Chair, as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, expressed his support for the Strategy. He commented on the Dementia Awareness training offered by the Council and encouraged all Councillors to participate.

Resolved – That, further to Minute 77(1) of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and to its endorsement by the Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group, the Swindon Dementia Strategy for 2014-2019, be approved.

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

Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker: Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills

Subject Appointment of a Director to Forward Swindon Ltd.

Decision(s): - That, further to Minute 15 (2)&(3) of the Cabinet 2013/14, the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills, in consultation with the Shareholder Commissioning Panel, approves the appointment of Mr Richard Smith as a further Director to the Board of Forward Swindon Ltd. for an initial term of 2 years with membership reviewed at the end of that time.

Consultation: The Shadow / Group Spokespersons - Councillor Junab Ali (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 2nd October 2014

Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in Thursday 9th October 2014

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note (report) please contact: - Philippa Venables, 07824 550469, pvenables@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

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|---|---|
| Decision Maker: | Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Sustainability and Transport |
| Subject | Consideration of Objections – Residents Parking Scheme Zones A and F |
| Decision(s): - | <p>That the objection received in respect of the advertised Public Notice for the experimental traffic regulation order for the changes to the resident parking in Zones A and F dated the 12 April 2013 be noted.</p> <p>That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to implement the advertised traffic regulation order on a permanent basis.</p> <p>That the Head of Highways and Transport notify the Objectors of the Cabinet Member's decision on this matter.</p> |
| Consultation: | The Shadow / Group Spokespersons - Councillor Jim Grant / Mark Dempsey (Labour) and Councillor Stan Pajak (Liberal Democrat) and Central 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 2 nd October 2014 |
| Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in | Thursday 9 th October 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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Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker: Councillor Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart

Subject Centenary Fields Applications for (1) Radnor Street Cemetery and (2) Kingsdown Crematorium

Decision(s): - That the Board Director, Service Delivery in consultation with the Head of Property Assets and the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to submit:
(a) Radnor Street Cemetery for designation as a Centenary Field; and
(b) Kingsdown Crematorium for designation as a Centenary Field.

Consultation: The Shadow / Group Spokespersons - Councillor Fay Howard (Labour) and Councillor Stan Pajak (Liberal Democrat) (and relevant Ward Councillors as part of the report preparation) were consulted on the contents of the Decision Note. Councillors Howard and Pajak supported the proposals and no adverse comments or requests for Cabinet consideration were received.

Date of Publication: Thursday 2nd October 2014

Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in Thursday 9th October 2014

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note (report) please contact: - Martin Hambidge, Direct Dial (01793 463285)
mhambidge@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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Notice of Decisions Made

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|---|---|
| Decision Maker: | Councillor Emma Faramarzi, Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety |
| Subject | Flexible Tenancy Agreement |
| Decision(s): - | <p>Approve the flexible tenancy agreement as set out in Appendix 1 to the Decision Note</p> <p>Authorise the Head of Housing and Community Safety to –</p> <p>(a) Arrange that all social housing tenants are issued a tenancy with no less security when they move to another Council property. This is more generous than Section 154 of the Localism Act 2011 which offers protection only to those who were tenants on the date the Act came into force 1st April 2012.</p> <p>(b) Issue full term flexible tenancies appropriate to needs when flexible tenants transfer or exchange homes.</p> <p>Approve that when tenants undertake a mutual exchange and the exchange involves at least one flexible tenancy or one fixed term tenancy this will be administered by way of a surrender of tenancy and re-grant of a new flexible tenancy for the full term appropriate to their needs.</p> <p>Approve that existing Swindon Council tenants moving to homes let on Affordable Rent terms to be offered tenancies with no less security. (The Localism Act 2011 does not offer any protection to existing social housing tenants).</p> |
| Consultation: | <p>The Shadow / Group Spokespersons - Councillor Bob Wright (Labour) and Councillor David Wood (Liberal Democrat) were consulted on the contents of the Decision Note. No adverse comments or requests for Cabinet consideration were received.</p> |
| Date of Publication: | Thursday 16 th October 2014 |
| Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in | Thursday 23 rd October 2014 |

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note (report) please contact: - Sylvia Darragh, 01793 464416, sdarragh@swindon.gov.uk.

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

Notice of Decisions Made

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| Decision Maker: | Councillor David Renard, Leader of the Council |
| Subject | To Authorise Legal Assistant to Undertake Court Advocacy |
| Decision(s): - | Approve that Ms Zoe Bagwell, a Legal Assistant within Law and Democratic Services, be authorised under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 to prosecute or defend or to appear on the Council's behalf in proceedings before a Magistrates Court. |
| Consultation: | The Shadow / Group Spokespersons - Councillor Jim Grant (Labour) and Councillor Stan Pajak (Liberal Democrat) were consulted on the contents of the Decision Note. Councillor Pajak supported the recommendation. No other adverse comments or requests for Cabinet consideration were received. |
| Date of Publication: | Thursday 13 th November 2014 |
| Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in | Thursday 20 th November 2014 |

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note (report) please contact: - Phillip Wirth, Direct Dial 463016, pwirth@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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Notice of Decisions Made

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| Decision Maker: | Councillor David Renard, Leader of the Council |
| Subject | Change of Name of Swindon Commercial Services Ltd |
| Decision(s): - | The Leader of the Council confirms to the Board of Swindon Commercial Services Ltd his agreement, on behalf of the Council, to the Company's change of name to Public Power Solutions Ltd. |
| Consultation: | The Shadow / Group Spokespersons - Councillor Jim Grant (Labour) and Councillor Stan Pajak (Liberal Democrat) were consulted on the contents of the Decision Note. Councillor Pajak supported the recommendation. No other adverse comments or requests for Cabinet consideration were received. |
| Date of Publication: | Thursday 11 th December 2014 |
| Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in | Thursday 18 th December 2014 |

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note (report) please contact: - Stuart McKellar, (01793) 463300, smckellar@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>