

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Brian Mattock (Vice-Chair), Toby Elliott, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Mary Martin and Garry Perkins

Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of Minute 57 and 59.
Councillor Stan Pajak attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 57, 58 and 59.
Councillor Jim Robbins attended the meeting in respect of Minute 58.

54. Declarations of Interest.

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

Councillor Brian Mattock made a personal declaration in respect of Cabinet's consideration of agenda item no. 5 ("SEQOL contract") in that his daughter is a social worker employed by SEQOL.

55. Minutes.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December, 2015, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

56. Public Question Time

The Reverend Linda Fletcher, Priest-in-charge, St. John's, Walcot, asked a question regarding the level and nature of the consultation undertaken by the Council in relation to its proposed changes to children's centre provision and the report's summary of that consultation.

The Chair thanked Reverend Fletcher for her question and advised that a written answer had been provided and circulated at the meeting. Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services provided additional information in response to Reverend Fletcher's question at the meeting.

Reverend Fletcher took the opportunity of Public Question Time to present to Cabinet a petition of 576 signatures requesting that the Council keep children's centres open. The petition was handed to the Council's Petitions Officer.

Ms Shirley Burnham, a resident of Arundel Close, Swindon, asked questions regarding the Council's intention to achieve a reduction in its libraries budget and its engagement process for the development of a Libraries strategy.

The Chair thanked Ms Burnham for her questions and advised that a written answer had been provided and circulated at the meeting. Councillor Garry Perkins responded to supplementary questions put by Ms Burnham at the meeting on the same, general, topic and on her understanding of additional funding that had been made available to local authorities by Central Government.

Mr Tim French, a local resident, asked questions regarding (i) problems with the entry doors at the Central Library, and (ii) the future of the Liden library. The Chair thanked Mr French for his questions, both of which were answered by Councillor Perkins at the meeting.

Ms Talis Kimberley Fairbourne, a local resident, asked a question regarding the future of the Wroughton library and a supplementary question regarding libraries as a source of community access to computer facilities and the internet and for the provision of a wide range of other community benefits. The Chair thanked Mr French for his questions, both of which were answered by Councillor Perkins at the meeting.

57.

SEQOL contract

Councillor Brian Mattock, the Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care, and the Interim Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) submitted a joint report reviewing the existing community health and social care model in Swindon, currently provided by SEQOL, in the light of national and local policies.

Councillor Mattock introduced the report, explaining that the SEQOL contract was due to end in March 2016 and that it was necessary to consider the future options for Swindon Borough Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), successor of the Primary Care Trust, in managing future demand for adult social care and achieving financial balance. It was noted that the changes were also required in order to support reducing the demand for specialist adult social care services whilst also contributing to the Council Budget 2016/17 savings and beyond.

Councillor Mattock advised that the CCG had considered a report on the issue of future service provision and had subsequently issued the requisite 12 months' notice to SEQOL of its intention to terminate the contract. It was noted that the CCG would be considering a further report, in March, referencing NHS England's Five Year Forward View, on its proposals for a new care model for the commissioning of provider services across the acute and community health services sectors. Councillor Mattock added that both the Council and the CCG recognised the necessity for a shift in service provision from expenditure on acute services to support for preventative services and independent living and also the opportunity the proposed change in service commissioning arrangements presented for the pooling of Council and CCG health care budgets to facilitate the integration of health and social care to significantly improve the health, wellbeing and care of Swindon residents.

Following his introduction of the report, Councillor Mattock responded to questions put by Councillors Jim Grant (JG) and Stan Pajak (SP) on the following issues:

- The success of the commissioning arrangement with SEQOL in resolving the challenge of the integration of health and social care services. (JG)
- The possibility that health and social care services brought "in-house" might be de-centralised at some future time. (JG)
- The potential redundancy costs associated with the revised service commissioning proposals. (JG)
- SEQOL's sponsorship of the Swindon Half-Marathon and the implications of

the proposal for the future staging of that event. (SP)

Resolved – (1) That the approach set out in the report, to give notice to SEQOL on the contract to deliver community health and social care services and make significant savings for Swindon Borough Council through reduction in management, cost of services and control over Older People's care packages of £1m, be endorsed and that it be noted that this would also assist in managing demand for older people's care packages, which is currently predicting an overspend of £1.7m in 2015/16.

(2) That, with regard to (1) above, the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care and the Interim Director of Adult Services, be authorised to issue the requisite notice to SEQOL in respect of the termination of the current contract for the delivery of community health and social care services.

(3) That Cabinet agrees with the decision of the Governing Body of the Clinical Commissioning Group for a 12-month notice period to be issued to the current provider to enable the CCG, as commissioners, to develop and implement a managed process to assess the capability of existing local providers to deliver the new model of care.

(4) That it be noted that a further paper will be presented to the CCG's March Governing Body meeting which will describe next steps required to put in place a managed process, the options for contractual models and payment mechanisms.

(5) That, for the reasons detailed in the body of the report, the Council's Head of Commissioning, Children and Adults, be authorised to:

- a) Work with the CCG to develop arrangements for a pooled budget for the commissioning of health and social care services, to maintain integration of commissioning of services in line with the intentions of the Better Care Fund (BCF) and NHS 5 Year Forward View, and to bring detailed proposals to a future meeting of the Cabinet.
- b) Insource social work services for adults and hospital social work whilst maintaining co-location of hospital social work services within Great Western Hospital, with the option of moving to a future Section 75 Agreement with a future integrated health provider.
- c) Work with SEQOL to reshape the remaining services that do not easily fit into the model of an integrated acute and community health service and retender such as Shared Lives (Adult Placement Team), day services for those with a learning disability and older people and housing support whilst achieving savings. SEQOL would be able to tender for these services.
- d) Commission and tender tele care, telehealth, equipment and Rapid Response and Reablement services as part of the commissioning of domiciliary care and community support services.
- e) Commission Single Point of Access jointly with CCG as part of the Accountable Care Organisation.
- f) Re-tender the existing residential care homes, modelling Fessey as a facility for individuals with dementia and reviewing the long-term options for Whitbourne House.
- g) Facilitate SEQOL to continue to provide supported employment and Building Futures (Supported Housing for individuals) services.

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

58. Securing a Sustainable Future for Swindon's Cultural Assets, Libraries and Community Services

Councillor Garry Perkins, the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills, and the Board Director Resources, submitted a joint report that (i) provided an update on progress towards achieving a sustainable future for Lydiard House and Park, within the medium-term financial context set out in the report to Cabinet on 9th December 2015, (ii) responded to Cabinet's request to develop a draft service strategy for libraries that would achieve a reduction in the budget for that service of at least £1.5m by 2020, this in the context of a review of community-based assets and services across the Borough, and (iii) proposed the transfer of Richard Jefferies Museum to the Richard Jefferies Museum Trust and the Railway Cottage to the New Mechanics Institution Preservation Trust Limited.

Councillor Perkins introduced the report, expanding on the principles behind the proposals, to secure a sustainable future for Swindon's cultural assets, its libraries and its community services, and placed the report's recommendations in the context of the medium-term financial position set out in the report to Cabinet on 9th December 2015 (Cabinet Minute 45(3), 2015/16 refers), which authorised further work in a range of areas that would help ensure a financially sustainable position by 2020. In particular, and regarding the objective of finding an acceptable, sustainable future for Lydiard House and Park, within the Council's ownership, while reducing the annual cost to the Council Tax Payer, Councillor Perkins drew the meeting's attention to the following elements to be considered integral to any successful bid for the future operation of the House and Park, that it should:

- Secure a sustainable future for Lydiard House and Park within the Council's ownership that does not rely on an on-going Council subsidy.
- Safeguard the historical importance of the Lydiard House Museum and its collections and the Walled Garden and ensure they remain accessible to the general public.
- Protect the historic landscape and structures within the Park, which were restored as part of the £5.1m Heritage Lottery Fund Project, and reflect the long-term plans for Lydiard Park submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2005.
- Allow the continuation of public access to the park and grounds.
- Address the on-going maintenance and repair of the House and Park.

Following his introduction of the report, Councillor Perkins, with Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, People and Performance, responded to questions put by Councillors Jim Robbins (JR) and Stan Pajak (SP) on the following matters:

- The "reverse premium" proposed to be offered to any preferred bidder for the future operation of Lydiard House and Park to address current backlog maintenance issues and the options open to the bidder with regard to the application of that resource. (JR)
- The Government's announcement of the availability of "transitional funding" for local authorities, amounts that might be available for use in Swindon, and the allocation of any such funding. (JR)
- The implications of introducing car parking charges at Lydiard Park and the Council's other country parks. (SP)

- The proposed models of delivery for library and community services and the projected level of savings that might be achieved. (SP)

Resolved – (1) That the key findings from the Expressions of Interest received for the future operation of Lydiard House and Park, as set out in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.12, of the report, be noted.

(2) That potential bidders be offered a “reverse premium” of £0.85m as a contribution to current backlog maintenance needs, recognising that this was a key factor for parties who responded to the Council’s request for expressions of interest.

(3) That the Board Director, Service Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills, the Board Director, Resources and the Head of Property Assets, be authorised to request the submission of formal tenders from organisations that will help secure the overall objective of finding an acceptable, sustainable future for Lydiard House and Park within the Council’s ownership while reducing the annual cost to the Council Tax Payer by at least £450,000, within the clear parameters set out under paragraph 3.18 of the report.

(4) That interested parties be requested to develop and submit formal bid proposals for Lydiard House and Park by early May, as part of the delay requested by Council’s resolution of 21st January 2016, and that a further report be brought to Cabinet in June 2016 to recommend a future model for the site’s on-going operation to Council.

(5) That the Board Director, Service Delivery, be authorised to commence a consultation with users to understand any specific concerns around how they could be affected by future changes, based on the principles that successful bids for Lydiard House and Park will need to meet, so that the consultation response can inform Cabinet Members as part of their decision-making in June 2016.

(6) That the views of users, local residents and stakeholders be sought on the introduction of car parking charges at Lydiard Park and the Council’s other country parks that, once implemented, would raise at least £400,000 across all facilities in a full year and would inform the assessment of proposals to secure their sustainable future within the Council’s ownership.

(7) That, recognising the extension to the bidding process and the pressing need to reduce the subsidy for Lydiard, subject to reflecting the findings of the consultation referred to in the report and necessary statutory approvals being granted, the introduction of car parking charges for trial periods between June to September at the Council’s country parks in the short term, reducing the Council’s subsidy of Lydiard and enabling future partners to understand the scale of the contribution that income from this source can play in future plans for Lydiard, be approved.

(8) That the key findings of the Libraries Needs Assessment, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be noted and the Council’s proposed definition of need, set out in paragraph 3.38, reflecting the focus and ambition of the Vision for Swindon and the key priorities that underpin this, be confirmed.

(9) That, within the context of the intention to achieve a reduction in the Libraries budget of at least £1.5m by 2020, and the agreed definition of need, the emerging model for the delivery of Libraries and Community Services, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved as the basis for engagement.

(10) That the Board Director, Service Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills and the Head of Localities, Community Involvement and Volunteering, be authorised to use the Emerging Model outlined in Appendix 2 to the report as the basis to initiate engagement with Ward Members, users, residents, community groups, and other stakeholders in defining a Libraries strategy.

(11) That a further report be brought to Cabinet in June 2016 setting out a proposed Libraries and Community Services strategy for adoption by Cabinet and Council.

(12) That, as part of the engagement process, work be continued with Ward Members, community groups and other stakeholders in the six pilot areas referred to in paragraph 3.53 and 3.54 of the report, and in other areas where interest emerges, in order to develop and, where possible, implement new models of delivery for library and community services that can both test and inform the development of the strategy and, alongside other service changes, help achieve savings of at least £300,000 in Libraries and Community Services in these areas in 2016/17, noting that one-off resources are likely to be required to pump prime the service changes and cashflow, the effect of savings not being achieved from 1st April 2016.

(13) That the Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills, be authorised to (i) agree the terms of the transfers of the Richard Jefferies Museum to the Richard Jefferies Museum Trust and the Railway Cottage to the New Mechanics Institution Preservation Trust Limited and (ii) endorse the principles of the terms of the transfers, as set out in paragraph 3.58 of the report, covering the proposed Lease: Object Loans and Monitoring Agreements.

(14) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to enter into all necessary legal documentation to enable the transfers detailed in paragraph 2.13 of the report to be effected, on such detailed terms and conditions as are necessary in order to protect the Council's interests.

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

59. Budget 2016/17 and Beyond (Minute for Confirmation)

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, People and Performance, and the Council's Board Director, Resources, submitted a joint report proposing a Budget for 2016-17. It was noted that, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet was required to recommend a budget and level of Special Expenses to Council as part of its formal Council Tax Setting responsibilities.

The report specifically addressed:

- a) The Forecast Out-turn 2015-16.
- b) The 2016-17 Finance Settlement.
- c) Council Tax 2016/17.
- d) Public Power Solution Limited (PPS) (formerly Swindon Commercial Services (SCS)) Business Plan 2016-17.
- e) Specific feedback on the budget setting process received from the Scrutiny Committee.
- f) Consultation Feedback.
- g) The Proposed Budget 2016-17.
- h) Business Rates Discounts 2016-17.
- i) The relationship between Revenue and Capital Budgets.
- j) Members' Allowances.
- k) Special Expenses (charges for services provided in the non-parished area).
- l) The reflection in the budget proposals of the adoption of the motion agreed at Council on 21st January 2016 that all staff will be paid at or above the Government's National Living Wage in 2016-17.

- m) Contingencies and Risk.
- n) One-off Resources commitments.
- o) Fees and Charges.
- p) General Reserves.
- q) The Schools Budget 2016-17.
- r) The outcome of Budget consultations.

Councillor Holland introduced the report, placing the budget proposals within the financial context for 2017-18 and beyond, most particularly the projected level of savings required to be made by the Council in the period of the next three years against a background of an unprecedented reduction in the Revenue Support Grant and a reduction in New Homes Bonus. Councillor Holland commented that this significant decrease in Central Government funding was, almost inevitably, occurring at a time when inflation, particularly in relation to social care, continued to increase. He advised that there would be an increased level of funding available to the Council from changes in Business Rates but that the details remained to be confirmed.

Councillor Holland referred to the Final Local Government Finance Settlement, which was announced on 8th February 2016, sooner than expected but after the Cabinet agenda was published. He advised that, although a number of small adjustments were made to the provisional settlement announced in December, most of which did not affect Swindon, the Government had also announced £150m of additional one-off funding in the form of transitional grant, in both 2016-17 and 2017-18, for those councils most adversely affected by the change in Revenue Support Grant (RSG), and that Swindon would receive £826k and £827k respectively over the two years.

Councillor Holland commented that, in the context of the overall savings required to be made, the additional funding did not significantly change the Council's financial position but it did, however, present an opportunity to provide additional financial resource for existing programmes to achieve outcomes for the long term sustainability for the organisation and its services. Councillor Holland advised that additional recommendations, proposing how the additional funding might be utilised, had been tabled at the meeting.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services advised the meeting of members' equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 (the Act), in relation to decision making, covering the following nine protected characteristics:

Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

It was also noted that, under the Act, the Council must, when exercising its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In concluding his advice, the Director of Law and Democratic Services advised that Cabinet must, therefore, in reaching its decision on the matter of its budget for 2016/17, consider its duties as set out above under the Equality Act. It was noted that the duty is a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for Cabinet, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

Following Councillor Holland’s introduction of the report, members were given the opportunity to put questions on the issues raised. Councillor Holland, with the Leader of the Council, Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care, Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport, Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills, and Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, responded to questions put by Councillors Jim Grant (JG) and Stan Pajak (SP) on the following issues:

- The exploration of partnership opportunities to operate the Shopmobility service. (JG)
- The review of community transport service provision in order to achieve value for money whilst minimising impact on service users. (JG)
- The proposed street lighting electricity cost reductions. (JG)
- The potential net income from the introduction of car parking charges at Lydiard Park and House and Coate Water Country Park and the reduction in the overall subsidy for Lydiard Park and House. (JG)
- The proposed employment by the Council of a Communications Manager. (JG)
- The proposed use of the Government’s additional one-off funding in the form of transitional grant in both 2016-17 and 2017-18. (SP)
- Additional income from planning, licencing and car parking enforcement. (SP)
- The enforcement of the town centre public service protection order. (SP)
- One-off resources commitments. (SP)
- Members allowances. (SP)

Resolved – (1) That the Cabinet notes:

- a) The medium term financial context and impact on Swindon of the Local Government Finance settlement.
- b) The projected out-turn for 2015-16 and that savings arising from the early delivery of 2016-17 Budget Proposals will be used to partly finance one-off costs incurred in-year to deliver the 2017-18 Budget, thus helping to preserve the level of funding held in reserves for future years’ transformation.
- c) The Council does not expect to need to replenish General Reserves as part of the 2016-17 Budget Setting process.
- d) The consultation feedback set out in Appendix 11 to the report, in relation to the Budget proposals presented to Cabinet in December 2015.
- e) The minutes of a consultation meeting with business representatives from Swindon, on behalf of non-domestic rate payers, held on 27th January 2016 (Appendix 6 to the report, tabled at the meeting).
- f) That the detailed Dedicated Schools budget for 2016-17 has been set by the Interim Director of Children Services under her delegated powers, within the provisional funding envelope of £163.550m.
- g) That the proposed budget includes provision to pay all Council staff in line

with or above the Government's National Living Wage, in accordance with the resolution at Council on 21st January 2016.

- h) That in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, the Board Director, Resources, in his Section 151 capacity, confirms the robustness of the estimates underlying the recommended Budget and having reviewed the financial risks being faced by the Council concludes that the proposed level of General Reserves (£6m) is adequate in the context of the earmarked reserves held, specific contingencies and the proposed general contingency of £0.5m.

(2) That, in respect of Children Centres:

- a) The responses to the consultation carried out on the proposals to changes to children's centre provision, set out in Appendix 11 to the report, be noted.
- b) It be noted that there have been initial discussions with the providers of early years' education currently in the children's centre buildings and they would all be interested in providing additional early years' places and can also see the benefit of having protected space for parents of 0 – 5 year olds and health provision.
- c) The approach set out in this report, in relation to improving children's lives in those areas with the most vulnerable children and families, through the development of a Family Service 0 – 18 delivered out of Penhill Sure Start Children's Centre building at an investment of £672k, be endorsed.
- d) That the children's centres at Penhill & Pinehurst, Drove, Moredon, Gorse Hill and Parks & Walcot East be de-registered.
- e) It be noted that, in response to the specific consultation issues, the Council is committed to the on-going conversation with parents and carers and will be making funding available of £76k per annum for two years for staffing (£66k) and premises costs (£10k) to facilitate parent groups for parents of 0 – 3 year olds. That the staff will be working three-fifths of the time in Goddard Park (Parks and Walcot East), one-fifth in Drove (Central) and one-fifth in Swindon Academy (Pinehurst). That this will be funded from the £826k 2016-17 Transition Grant.
- f) The Board Director Commissioning (DCS/DASS) be authorised to implement the proposals after giving notice to existing providers of three months from 1st April 2016.
- g) The Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, the Head of Property Services and the Interim Directors of Children Services (DCS) and Adult Social Care (DASS), 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.

(3) That the 2015-16 virements set out in Appendix 5 to the report be approved.

(4) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy, set out in Appendix 9 to the report, be endorsed and that it be noted that this will be updated and presented to Cabinet before submission to the Secretary of State before the deadline of 14th October 2016.

(5) That no changes be made to the proposed fees and charges set out in Appendix 1 to the report to Cabinet on 9th December 2015 but that it be noted that the HMRC is exploring the possibility of requiring councils to charge VAT on land charges "Con29 - Standard Enquiries relating to information pending or not disclosed on LLC1".

- (6) That the Specific Reserves held in support of the 2016-17 Revenue Budget, set out in Appendix 7 to the report, be agreed.
- (7) That it be agreed that one-off funding of £2m is earmarked to support delivery of the 2016-17 Budget, as set out in paragraph 16.1 of the report.
- (8) That the detailed budget proposals set out in Appendix 4 to the report, and summarised in Table 3 of the report, as amended by the proposals under paragraph 1.4 in the tabled update Paper, that the £826k 2016-17 Transition Grant is used to smooth the implementation of planned services changes, including for Libraries, to allow more time and/or increased pump-priming capacity to ensure that the transition to new service models is managed as effectively as possible, be agreed.
- (9) That the previous decision of Cabinet to cease the business rates scheme under which small business rate discounts are doubled from 31st March 2016, be endorsed.
- (10) That the Council be recommended:
- a) That the level of Special Expenses for 2016-17 shall be £1,770,000 and that the areas of land and services that will be charged as special and general expenses be as set out in Appendix 10 to the report.
 - b) That the 2016-17 Budget be set at £135.226m and the Budget Requirement for tax setting purposes be set at £133.632m, with the difference being the Adult Social Care precept.

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

60. Capital Programme 2016/17 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Finance, People and Performance and the Board Director, Resources, submitted a joint report concerning new Capital Programme requirements for the period 2016/17 to 2017/18 and beyond, including:

- a) Children's Services schemes.
- b) Local Priority Highways and Transport Schemes.
- c) Property and Assets.
- d) Older People and Other Proposals.
- e) The Waterside depot.

Resolved – That the Council be recommended:

- a) That the position and future budget requirement for the additional Children's Services schemes, referred to at paragraphs 3.7 of the report, be noted.
- b) That a budget of £2.090m for the schemes referred to at paragraph 3.8 in the report and detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- c) That a total budget of £3.944m for the 2016/17 local priority Highways and Transport schemes, referred to at paragraph 3.9 in the report and detailed at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- d) That a total budget of £2.391m for 2016/17 for Repairs and Maintenance on Corporate Property, as referred to in paragraphs 3.11 and detailed at Appendix 3 to the report, be approved.
- e) That a total budget requirement of £1.188m for Older Peoples and other capital schemes, referred to in paragraph 3.15 and detailed at Appendix 4 to the report, be approved.
- f) That a budget of £38,507 for refurbishment work to the Highdown play area, funded from Abbey Stadium S106 monies, as detailed at paragraph 3.18 in the report, be approved.

- g) That an increase in the budget for Waterside improvement works, from £3.8m to £4.0m, as detailed at paragraphs 3.19 to 3.21 of the report, be approved.

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

61. Housing Revenue Account - Rents and Charges 2016/17 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety and the Board Director, Service Delivery, submitted a joint report presenting to Cabinet the proposed rents, service charges and support charges for 2016/17 and the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2016/17.

Resolved – That Council be recommended:

- a) That the proposed average rent for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) dwellings for 2016/17, of £80.76 per week (52 week basis), which is a decrease of 1.0%, be approved, subject to confirmation from the Government as mentioned in paragraph 3.6 of the report. This would be an average decrease of £0.81 per week (52 week basis). The range of increases is shown in paragraph 3.10 of the report.
- b) That the Board Director, Service Delivery, be authorised to seek authority from the Secretary of State to extend the permission for the use of the Housing Revenue Account for payments to the Council's tenants under the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme, and provide a budget of £300k in 2016/17 as detailed at paragraph 3.27 of the report.
- c) That the housing related support charges for 2016/17 and service charges for 2016/17 as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- d) That Leaseholder service charges are set for 2016/17, as shown in Appendix 3 to the report.
- e) That, based on the proposals set out within this report, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) proposed budget 2016/17, shown in Appendix 4 to the report, be approved and that the HRA Capital Budget and Funding be approved as shown in Appendix 5 to the report.
- f) That a budget of £1m be approved to acquire properties as detailed at paragraph 3.36 of the report and that the Board Director, Service Delivery, in consultation with the Board Director, Resources, be authorised to commit this expenditure.
- g) That the draft 3 year capital projects and planned maintenance programme be approved, at an indicative funding level of £15.7m (2015/16 prices) for 2016/17 onwards, as shown in Appendix 6 to the report.
- h) That rents charged on General Fund properties be increased by an average increase of 0.9% and the service charges for Christopher House and the David Murray John Apartments, as shown in Appendix 7 to the report, be approved.
- i) That rents charged for plots at the Hay Lane Residential Gypsy Site be increased by £0.45 per week (0.9%) to £50.26 per week (52 week basis) and the rents for workpens, as shown in Appendix 7 to the report, be approved.
- j) That the charges for Private Sector Leased (PSL) accommodation for those accepted as homeless, outlined in Appendix 7 to the report, be approved.
- k) That any underspend on the 2015-16 Housing Revenue Account be added to revenue reserves.

- l) That Housing Revenue Account rents in supported housing be increased by 0.9% subject to a further tenant consultation to be held on 15 February 2016.

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

62. School Place Planning Update 2016.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Head of Education Services submitted a joint report identifying the number of school places required to meet Swindon's long-term educational place planning needs until 2026. The report addressed the expected demographic projections, proposed housing development areas, and the need to support attainment and opportunities for young people across the Town and Borough. Summarising information from a range of sources, the report set out the issues the Borough will face in meeting its statutory duties for providing school places until 2026. It was noted that the strategy includes present and predicted future pupil numbers on roll, together with information about birth rates, school capacity and new housing.

Resolved – (1) That the education place planning demand arising across the Borough for Primary and Secondary school places and changes to national legislation be noted.

(2) That the Head of Education Services be authorised to conduct a consultation on the school place planning study attached at Appendix 1 to the report, as set out in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.16 of the report.

(3) That the basic principles on new school provision, as set out in paragraph 3.35 of the report, be approved.

(4) That, in order to start meeting the demand for additional places, the Head of Education Services be authorised to commence processes for seeking a free school for the new provision, as set out in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of the report, and report back on progress at the next Cabinet meeting on the 16th March 2016.

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

63. School Admission Arrangements 2017-18.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and the Head of Education Services submitted a joint report on the establishment of co-ordinated admission arrangements for the normal point of entry (Reception, Year 3, Year 7 and Year 10 (UTC)) and In-year admission arrangements for all Swindon Schools and Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Swindon for September 2017.

Resolved – (1) That the response to the public consultation on admission arrangements, as set out in the report and in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

(2) That the co-ordinated scheme of admission arrangements for the normal point of entry (Reception Year, Year 3 and Year 7 and Year 10 (University Technical College)) and In Year admissions for all primary schools and secondary schools in Swindon from September 2017, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

(3) That the admission numbers and arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools from September 2017, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be

approved.

(4) That it be noted that these proposals will be determined by 28th February 2016 and will be implemented by the Head of Education Services for admission from September 2017 for all applicants.

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

64. Swindon Pay Policy Statement 2016 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Finance, People and Performance and Head of People, Performance and Engagement, submitted a joint report concerning the proposed Swindon Borough Council Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17.

It was noted that Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011 placed a requirement on local authorities to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each new financial year, setting out the Council's policies relating to the following:

- Remuneration of its Chief Officers;
- Remuneration of its lowest paid employees;
- The relationship between the remuneration of its Chief Officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not Chief Officers; and
- The Pay Policy Statement does not cover or include school employees and is not required to do so.

It was also noted that the Statement was required to be approved by Full Council before 31st March 2016 and to be published as soon as is reasonably practicable after approval, including being made available on the authority's website.

Resolved – That the Council be recommended that the Council's proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be approved.

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

65. Measuring the Success of the Vision

The Cabinet Member for Finance, People and Performance and Head of People, Performance and Engagement, submitted a joint report setting out a proposed Performance Framework, to enable Members, residents and stakeholders to measure the success of the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges. It was noted that the framework was required in order to provide transparency and accountability to Councillors, residents and stakeholders and that the success measures outlined in the Performance Framework would be a fundamental part of the Council's new Corporate Plan providing measurable evidence of progress.

Resolved – (1) That the implementation of the Performance Management Framework, outlined in the report, be agreed and that the success measures detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

- (2) That the Chief Executive Designate, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance, People and Performance, be authorised to introduce the performance framework throughout the Council.
- (3) That the Head of Performance, People and Engagement, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and Head of Service, be authorised to amend specific performance measure in the event of any changes in local or national policy.
- (4) That Cabinet's thanks to Sam Mowbray, the Council's Head of Performance, People and Engagement, for the significant amount of time and work she has invested in developing the Performance Framework, be recorded.

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

66. Superfast Broadband

The Cabinet Member for Corporate, Customer and Digital Services and Board Director, Resources, submitted a joint report responding to Motions agreed by Council in March 2015 and November 2015 relating to the improvement of Superfast Broadband coverage across the Borough (Council Minutes 96 2014/15 and 48 2015/16 refer).

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted and that the Council's support for the existing contract with UK Broadband Networks (UKBN) as the best available means of securing Superfast Broadband coverage for the Borough of Swindon be confirmed.

(2) That it be agreed that the £0.5m budget previously allocated for Superfast Broadband from the New Homes Bonus remain available for this purpose.

(3) That the Cabinet Member for Corporate, Customer and Digital Services report the outcome of this report to the next meeting of Council.

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

67. Wichelstowe Joint Venture

The Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care and the Board Director, Resources, submitted a joint report providing an update on the due diligence works associated with the establishment of the Wichelstowe Joint Venture.

The report also set out the detail of a financially beneficial change being sought to be made to the current proposed Joint Venture structure, as presented to the Cabinet on 17th June 2015 (Cabinet Minute 5, 2015/16 refers).

Councillor Toby Elliott, Cabinet Member for Communities & Strategic Planning, welcomed the report and emphasised the importance of the delivery of housing in Wichelstowe in meeting the Swindon Local Plan's new homes and 5 year land supply commitments.

Resolved – (1) That the change to the proposed Joint Venture structure, from two tiers to a single tier, as detailed in paragraphs 3.6 to 3.11 of the report, be approved.

(2) That the Board Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care, be authorised to take such steps as are necessary to implement the change agreed in (1) above.

(3) That the Board Director, Resources, and his officer team, be thanked for their hard work in support of the development of the Wichelstowe Joint Venture project.

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

68. Community Investment in solar developments on Council land

The Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport, the Chief Executive Designate and the Head of Economy, Skills and Property Development submitted a joint report inviting Cabinet to agree the method by which the Council would enable community investment in renewable energy projects on its land and how this function would be managed. In addition, the report provided an update on solar schemes proposed on the Barnfield and Mannington sites, a scheme to place solar panels on canopies in several Swindon Borough Council (SBC) owned car parks and the M4/A419 solar noise barriers.

Resolved – (1) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to undertake the necessary steps to secure ownership of the Community Interest Company (“the CIC”) currently owned by Public Power Solutions (PPS), so as to enable the Council to become the sole shareholder of the CIC.

(2) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to present to the Special Committee of the Council a report approving the appointment of a minimum of three Council Officers as Directors of the CIC, and one Council Officer as its Company Secretary.

(3) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Strategic Planning, be authorised to agree an appropriate governance arrangement for purposes which include (but are not limited to) the involvement of elected members in the disbursement and distribution of funding from the proceeds of the CIC for the benefit of Swindon communities.

(4) That the Board Director, Resources, be authorised to facilitate, on behalf of the Council as sole shareholder of the CIC, all necessary steps to enable “Abundance” to undertake and complete the community investment offer as detailed in this report.

(5) That it be noted that, in the event that the community investment offer is unsuccessful, the Council, in its capacity as sole shareholder of the CIC, would need to make a decision as to how the required investment should be raised.

(6) That the Board Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, People and Performance, be authorised to invest £3m in the CIC (£2,987,500 by way of a loan to the CIC and £12,500 as minimum Equity to meet the requirement of a Public Limited Company).

(7) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport and the Head of Property Assets, be authorised to conclude all the necessary legal documentation in relation to the project at Common Farm and sites benefitting from the Local Development Order mentioned in Part 2 of this report, on such terms that are required to protect the interests of the Council.

(8) That the profits of the CIC be apportioned as follows: 65% distributed for community benefit and 35% to the Council as the sole shareholder.

(9) That this CIC model be used as a model for future community investment in Swindon renewable energy schemes, ensuring that such schemes meet Council requirements for financial viability.

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

69. References from Other Council Bodies - Streetsmart Overview and Scrutiny Committee / Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, the Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care and Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report concerning the following recommendations arising from meetings of the Streetsmart and Highways Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18th November 2015 and the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 9th December 2015:

- a) That Cabinet look at options for reducing street lighting energy use by 40% (*Streetsmart Overview and Scrutiny Committee*).
- b) That Cabinet be recommended that (i) the draft Homelessness Strategy for Swindon 2016 to 2021 be approved and the Allocations Policy be amended to offer a proportion of social housing voids in a targeted way to homeless households, as set out in Priority 4 of the Draft Strategy, and (ii) the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2015 – 2020 be adopted (*Health and Wellbeing Board*).

Resolved – (1) That, further to Minute 15 of the Streetsmart Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport report to a future meeting on the options for reducing street lighting energy usage by 10%, 20%, 30% and 40%.

(2) That, further to Minutes 34 and 35 of the Health and Wellbeing Board, (i) the draft Homelessness Strategy for Swindon 2016 to 2021 be approved and the Allocations Policy be amended to offer a proportion of social housing voids in a targeted way to homeless households, as set out in Priority 4 of the Draft Strategy, and (ii) the new Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2015 – 2020 be adopted.

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

70. Devolution - Moving Forward

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive Designate submitted a joint report providing Cabinet with an update on the ongoing discussions that the Council is having with Wiltshire Council, other local authorities, and the Government in respect of the Government's devolution proposals.

Resolved – (1) That the action taken to date in furtherance of the Government's initiative to enable local authorities to explore opportunities for further devolution to groupings of local authorities, be noted and endorsed.;

(2) That the Chief Executive Designate, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to continue discussions with other Councils and the Government in relation to the devolution agenda and to develop proposals for submission to Cabinet and Council in due course.

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

