

Swindon Borough Council

Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 9 December 2019

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Emma Faramarzi
(Vice-Chair)
Matthew Courtliff
Brian Mattock
Barbara Parry
Roger Smith
Timothy Swinyard
Vera Tomlinson

Labour Councillors

Robert Wright
(Chair)
Steve Allsopp
Emma Bushell
Jim Grant
Des Moffatt
Carol Shelley

Committee Officer: Vicki Yull, 07980 752043, CommitteeServices@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

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.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. 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.

3. Minutes (Pages 5 - 12)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2019

4. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please contact the Committee Officer whose details appear at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

5. Consideration of Cabinet Decisions (Pages 13 - 14)

6. **Leader of the Council: Six Month Update** (Pages 15 - 30)
7. **North Star Regional Leisure Development** (Pages 31 - 34)
8. **Work Programme 2019/2020** (Pages 35 - 46)
9. **Status of Requests for Action and / or Information** (Pages 47 - 50)

Date of Despatch: 29 November 2019

Public Question Time - 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. 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 from the Committee Officer named above or on the Council's Website at:

<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>.

The Scrutiny Committee - Terms of Reference

- To meet at regular intervals to review the policies, process and implications of Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Officer decision making and the way in which Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions are made;
- To consider requests for "Call-in" as defined in the Council's "Call-in" Procedure;
- To refer decisions back to Cabinet (or the decision maker) for reconsideration. It may do this once for any individual decision, after which if there is no agreement the decision will be referred to the full Council for determination;
- To refer Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for investigation without delaying the implementation of the decision concerned;
- To receive a report by the Leader of the Council at its first meeting after each Annual Council Meeting (or at such a meeting as is agreed by the Chair of the Committee and the Leader of the Council) on the service issues for the year ahead, the Leader of the Council's priorities for the coming year and on the Council's performance in the previous year;
- To oversee the arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny within the Council, including determining (i) where matters fall within the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee which of those Committees will assume responsibility for any particular issue, (ii) a system to ensure that referrals from Committees to the Cabinet, either by way of report or for reconsideration are managed efficiently and do not exceed any limits set out in the Council's Constitution, and (iii) in the event of reports to the Cabinet exceeding any limits in this Constitution or if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of Cabinet business or jeopardises the efficient running of Council

business, at the request of the Cabinet to make decisions about the priority of referrals made.

- To carry out any investigation into the business and functions of the Council and to call in any Cabinet Member or senior officer of the Council so that they can offer advice, support or answer any question that will assist the Committee in carrying out its functions.
- To carry out an external scrutiny function, particularly in relation to corporate issues and issues falling into the remit of a number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to –

- the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations;
- the management of performance,
- the monitoring of progress against corporate priorities and
- the formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders.

To have specific responsibility (but not limited to)

- Good governance
- The Budget Scrutiny function.

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Robert Wright (Chair), Emma Faramarzi (Vice-Chair), Steve Allsopp, Matthew Courtliff, Jim Grant, Brian Mattock, Barbara Parry, Carol Shelley, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Vera Tomlinson and Steve Weisinger.

Also in attendance were: Councillors Cathy Martyn (Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety), Keith Williams (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Operational Excellence), and John Ballman.

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Emma Bushell, Roger Smith and Tim Swinyard.

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. The following declarations were made:

- Councillor Bob Wright made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of agenda item 5 (Moredon Playing Fields Sports Hub) as a member of the Leisure and Library Trust in charge of the libraries transferred to Central Swindon North Parish Council.
- Councillor Brian Mattock made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of agenda item 5 (Moredon Playing Fields Sports Hub) as a Director of the Swindon Housing Company.
- Councillor Steve Allsopp made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of agenda item 5 (Moredon Playing Fields Sports Hub) as a Director of the Swindon Housing Company.

38. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

39. Public Question Time

Mr Roy Worman, a resident of Haydon Wick, asked a number of questions regarding the Moredon Recreation Ground Sports Hub report, specifically on:

- When the proposal had received planning permission from the Council.
- Whether Appendix 2 to the report should be considered as exempt information given that planning permission had already been approved.
- The paragraph in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 under which the information contained within Appendix 2 would be defined as exempt.

Councillor Keith Williams (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Operational Excellence) and the Chair responded at the meeting.

40. Moredon Playing Fields Sports Hub

The Committee considered a report providing an update on the progress of the project programme and delivery of a sports hub at Moredon Recreation Ground, as approved by Cabinet in 2018 (Cabinet Minute 86, 2017/18 refers). The Committee resolved that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press would be excluded should discussion of the matters contained within Appendix 2 arise, on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Operational Excellence, introduced the report and referred to the interest from British Cycling and the Wiltshire Football Association in the site due to its ideal location and the demographic reach within Swindon. Councillor Williams confirmed that these agencies have the funds available to invest in this proposal, but that there will also have to be an element of match funding from the Borough Council, coming from S106 receipts.

The Committee noted that provision suggested for the site includes an off-road cycling track, junior football pitches, and a 3G floodlit astro-turf pitch. Councillor Williams highlighted how the long-term viability of the Hub is a key criterion for British Cycling and the Wiltshire Football Association and there is an expectation that revenue will fully cover costs with no subsidies from the operator. Interest in operating the site has been expressed so far by GLL and Central Swindon North Parish Council.

Councillor Williams, aided by the Head of Operational Property, responded to questions put by Councillors Steve Allsopp, Emma Famarzi, Jim Grant, Brian Mattock, Vera Tomlinson, Steve Weisinger and the Chair on the following matters:

- Any concerns or conditions that Central Swindon North Parish Council has regarding the proposal. The Committee noted that reservations are being addressed and the Parish Council already manages assets such as libraries. It is also working on the sustainability of its five-year financial model.
- The intention to offer terms for a leasehold land transfer of the whole or part of the Grounds to a third party and how one operator with responsibility for the future management and maintenance would be the best option, especially in obtaining economies of scale.
- The tight timelines involved with the proposal, particularly regarding the windows for funding applications and how British Cycling along with the Wiltshire Football Association have been working with the Council to flex deadlines and meet targets.
- That the match funding for this proposal was allocated from S106 reserves by the Cabinet decision in March 2018, and it had not been earmarked for other projects prior to this. The Committee noted that any housing built as part of this proposal may attract S106 monies in the future.
- How the design of the changing rooms and other facilities, as well as the model of future use, will incorporate current contemporary use and will be future proofed for any changes in trends.
- The anticipated operating hours as it is unlikely to be a 24-hour site.
- That work will be underway on the Sports Hub prior to any housing development taking place on the site.

Resolved – That the current progress of the project be noted.

41. Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session - Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety

Councillor Cathy Martyn (Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety), was in attendance and presented to the Committee a report summarising progress and performance in respect of the service areas within her portfolio of responsibility. The key objectives and role of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety is to:

- 1) Provide the strategic direction for the management of all aspects of the Council's social housing.
- 2) Provide strategic direction to reduce and prevent homelessness where possible.
- 3) Promote partnership engagement to address rough sleeping.
- 4) Provide strategic leadership to promote safe public areas.
- 5) Set the strategic vision for the Borough's continuing social development.
- 6) To work with other Cabinet Members to Manage Demand within the portfolio.
- 7) Ensure that the Council's agreed priorities within the portfolio are delivered.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety is responsible for delivering the following Pledges of Swindon's Vision:

- 7. Build new affordable homes including 200 new council homes and 66 units through the Affordable Housing Development programme at sites including the Hawthorns, the Royal British Legion site in Penhill, Townsend House in Old Town and the Former Refuge in Park South.
- 8. Complete the redevelopment of Sussex Square.
- 26. To prevent homelessness where possible using additional measures including the temporary winter housing provision and enabling a day centre to prevent rough sleepers from returning to the streets.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety also has delegated responsibility for:

- Allocations and Advice Services
- Empty Homes
- Estate and Tenancy Management
- Housing Enabling and Strategic Services
- Homeline Services
- Homelessness
- Housing Right to Buy/Sales Services
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Private Sector Housing Renovation Grants
- Repair and Improvements to Council Housing Stock
- Sheltered Accommodation
- Environmental and Public Protection Services Gypsies, Travellers and Unauthorised Encampments
- Reducing Drugs, Alcohol and Substance misuse
- Control Room Operations
- Reducing anti-social behaviour
- Reducing domestic abuse
- Community Safety Partnership
- Licensing

- Air Quality

Councillor Martyn, aided by the Director for Communities and Housing, the Interim Director of Public Health, the Head of Planning, Regulatory Services, Libraries and Heritage, the Head of Housing, the Licensing Manager, the Service Manager for Healthy Neighbourhoods and the Community Safety Team Leader, responded to questions put by Councillors Steve Allsopp, Emma Faramarzi, Jim Grant, Brian Mattock, Barbara Parry, Carol Shelley, Steve Weisinger and the Chair on the following matters:

- How the law in England does not currently support the mandatory display of food scores by establishments but that the possibility of linking to the Food Standards Agency website, via the Council's website, is being investigated so that residents have easy access to the data. The Committee agreed to write to the Swindon MPs to lobby for a change to this law.
- The current restructuring of, and recruitment to, the Licensing Team (which is expected to be fully operational by the end of the current financial year) and how this will support the professional resilience of the team.
- The compulsory training for new taxi license holders and applicants on issues of Child Sexual Exploitation, safeguarding and "*county lines*" activities, and the roll out of this training to the 1100+ existing license holders taking place over the next 18 months.
- The report expected from the Department for Transport regarding in-car CCTV requirements for taxi drivers, which the Licensing Committee will consider before making a final decision on mandatory requirements in Swindon. The Committee noted that conditions are currently in place to which a driver wishing to voluntarily install CCTV in their vehicle has to adhere.
- How the prevention of public nuisance requirements can be in respect of odours and littering, as well as noise, when licenses for premises are being considered.
- The involvement of In Swindon in bringing the Christmas Market stalls to the town centre this year.
- How the Licensing Act 2003 will override the Public Space Protection Order currently in place in the town centre, and will allow for the sale of food and drink during the Christmas Market. The Committee noted that police colleagues had no objections to this proposal, and that additional waste collections for the site will be organised.
- How the amount of grant funding received from Homes England will affect the balance of the number of affordable versus social rent level homes built on the Queens Drive development.
- How 'affordable' rents are set at 80% of the open market value (including service charges) and that individual developments will be assessed on a like for like basis using current market values at that time.
- The Council's 'Green Light for Housing' programme, which assists residents in being ready and aware of affordability issues before they are offered accommodation. The Committee noted that there is an open bidding system so residents are able to see in advance what the rent levels are.
- The broad range of housing on offer within Swindon, particularly given the amount of socially rented stock owned by the Council.
- The ratio of the 146 affordable homes delivered through Housing Associations within the overall number of houses built in the first two quarters of 2019/2020, and whether this matches the Council's stated 30% aspiration. It was agreed that a written analysis would be provided subsequent to the meeting.

- How development appraisals are weighted on the side of developers within the current British planning system.
- The reviews of the Council's Housing Association partners, undertaken every four to five years, which assesses: customer satisfaction; the ability and aspiration to develop; financial strength and management, and; the stock in Swindon.
- The further improvements on collecting owed rent, which includes achieving 'approved landlord' status with the Department for Work and Pensions, and the development of in-house arrears progression system (a semi-automated messaging system aimed at preventing rent arrears from arising).
- Engagement with the Council's tenants on mitigating fire safety issues, and the advice being sought from the Fire Service on the 'stay put and evacuate' message.
- The plethora of actions being taken across the Borough to improve air quality and reduce pollution.
- How the general air quality across Swindon is good and all roads are within acceptable limits but there are some minor areas of future concern. It was agreed that the definition of what constitutes acceptable levels of air quality will be circulated subsequent to the meeting.
- The difference between 'particulates' (from road dirt for example) as compared to 'particles' (like nitrogen dioxide from internal combustion engines), and the differing effects they have on health.
- The time and costs involved in measuring air quality. It was agreed that the current list of measuring tube locations would be circulated subsequent to the meeting.
- The legacy of under-reported housing repairs caused by historic difficulties and the actions being taken to create a smart and fast response for those tenants not using online systems. The Committee noted that the 'My Tenancy' portal will be relaunched with aim of reducing the stress on contact centre telephone lines.
- The aspiration for tree planting nationally and how this can be incorporated in to the Swindon Community Forest Programme.
- The public safety issues caused by tree roots raising paving slabs, and the actions being taken to mitigate future problems with more appropriate species being planted on sites.
- The properties recovered as a consequence of tenants participating in illegal activities, and the plans to publicise these cases as a deterrent.
- The rise in child abuse linked to faith groups, such as Female Genital Mutilation, and the preventative work being done in this area such as awareness-raising publicity campaigns.
- The opportunities within the Housing Strategy for improving the key worker housing offer in Swindon.
- The homelessness support provided to young people in Swindon, such as the performance related rough sleeper initiative, and the joint working on prevention planned for 2020 by children's, adults and housing services.
- The drug prevention work being done in Swindon and how accurately this can be measured given that, as an illegal activity, it has to be self-reported.

Resolved – (1) That Councillor Martyn be thanked for attending the meeting to present her performance report and for her full and open responses to members' questions and observations on the issues raised.

(2) That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Swindon MPs to lobby for a change to the law in England to enable the mandatory requirement for establishments to display their food score rating.

(3) That information requested by members during the course of the Committee's consideration of this item be forwarded to them via the Committee Clerk.

42. Review of the 2018/19 Municipal Year - Scrutiny Annual report

The Committee considered its Annual Report for 2018/2019 prepared by the Chief Legal Officer.

The Annual Report highlighted the work of the Scrutiny Committee and its five Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the Municipal Year 2018/2019, in their role of supporting the Council's decision-making and policy development processes and the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee explained in his foreword to the report that the function of Overview and Scrutiny is to hold the authorities decision-makers to account (which is fundamental in the successful functioning of local democracy), and how effective a scrutiny body is helps to drive the level of improvements and efficiency within the authority itself. The Chair also explained how, where possible, compliments and critical challenge should be bedfellows through advocating and questions.

The Chair also thanked those who had participated and supported the Overview and Scrutiny function in the last year, and confirmed that this would be the last Annual Overview and Scrutiny report he would be introducing as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee discussed the involvement of overview and scrutiny members in the earlier stages of decision-making at the Council and determined that there were areas where this could be improved. The Committee agreed to establish a Task Group to review the scrutiny process at Swindon Borough Council, with a particular view to backbench member involvement in the earlier stages of decision-making.

The Committee also discussed the training offered to overview and scrutiny members and determined that there is currently a gap. The Committee agreed to invite the Member Development Advisory Group to consider including overview and scrutiny training in the Member Training and Development Programme for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

Resolved – (1) That the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2018/2019 be noted.

(2) That a Task Group be established to review the scrutiny process at Swindon Borough Council, with a particular view to backbench member involvement in the earlier stages of decision-making.

(3) That the Member Development Advisory Group be invited to consider including overview and scrutiny training in the Member Training and Development Programme for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

43. Work Programme 2019/2020

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Legal Officer setting out the topics for inclusion in the 2019/2020 Scrutiny Work Programme, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 10th June 2019, and updated during the course of the Municipal Year.

44. Status of Requests for Action and / or Information

The Committee received an updated report advising on the status of outstanding issues and member requests for information.

Resolved – That the report on the status of outstanding issues and member requests for information be noted.

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Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Author: Chief Legal Officer

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To allow the Scrutiny Committee to consider the decisions arising from the meeting of the Cabinet on the 4th December 2019.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference include the review of the Cabinet decision making process and the way in which Cabinet decisions are made. As part of the Scrutiny function the Scrutiny Committee is able:
 - 1.2.1 To refer decisions back to Cabinet for reconsideration. It may do this once for any individual decision, after which, if there is no agreement, the decision will be referred to the full Council for determination.
 - 1.2.2 To refer Cabinet decisions to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Review the process of Cabinet decision-making and the decisions made.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to review the decisions of the Cabinet to be held on the 4th December 2019. The minutes of the meeting will be forwarded to Members as soon as they become available.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 This report has no financial or procurement implications. Such implications are set out in the original reports previously circulated to all Councillors with the Cabinet Agenda.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull (Committee Officer), 07980 752043, VYull@swindon.gov.uk.

Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been fully taken into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with convention rights.

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

- 5.3 None.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the Work Programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 None.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft minutes of the meeting of Cabinet to be held on 4th December 2019 (to follow).

Leader of the Council: Six Month Update

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Author: Leader of the Council

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To allow the Leader of the Council to outline how the Authority has performed in the first half of 2019/20 Municipal Year, towards the Council's priorities and targets.
- 1.2 To allow the Scrutiny Committee to ask questions about those priorities.
- 1.3 The body of the report contains references to a number of the Council's plans and policies and allows the Scrutiny Committee to discharge one of its functions under Article 6.02 of the Council's Constitution.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the work towards the priorities set for 2019/20;
- 2.2 Put relevant questions to the Leader of the Council;
- 2.3 Decide if any changes to the Overview and Scrutiny work programmes are required as a result of the progress report; and
- 2.4 Decide if any further action is required.

3. Detail

What We Have Done Well

- 3.1 First and foremost I would like to thank my Cabinet colleagues: Councillors Oliver Donachie, Brian Ford, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Mary Martin, Cathy Martyn, Maureen Penny, Gary Sumner and Keith Williams, for all their efforts on behalf of the people of Swindon. I would also like to thank the Chief Executive on behalf of all the Council's officers who are working so hard to implement policies and deliver quality services within a challenging budget.
- 3.2 A particular thanks also to our award winning Communications Team whose campaign this year was shortlisted for yet another award by the Comms2Point0 judging panel, in the 'Best Internal Comms' category. The campaign helped achieve a 28% increase in staff appraisal completions. Well done to them and to the staff who completed their appraisals.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

Leader of the Council: Six Month Update

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

3.3 Economy and Place

- 3.3.1 Economic growth offers prosperity to every place, with well-targeted and planned investment in infrastructure, training and housing that leads to jobs and a supply of affordable homes. In delivering its Vision for Swindon, the Council aims to create sustainable growth and employment within a robust yet dynamic economy, which produces a high quality of life for all. The themes of connectivity, productivity, and quality of life drive this work in partnership with the private, public and community/voluntary sectors, underpinned by the place making which will support a world-class economy.

I was delighted to hear that Swindon is one of the best places in the UK for economic growth, according to a new report from the Good Growth for Cities Index published by professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers and think tank Demos.

The town is ranked eighth out of 42 urban centres and along with Bristol (ranked fourth), Swindon is one of only two communities to find a place in the top 10.

- 3.3.2 Swindon's ranking as a top town for Economic Growth, will ensure that we can continue to maximising opportunities to bring in investment through external funding mechanisms. The town's reputation for good transport links, property owner occupation and income distribution, which were above the national average, are attractive draws for businesses and residents alike.

Swindon also saw an index increase for skills in people aged older than 25 which is a positive demonstration of the value to employers: both of employing older workers and of investing in their skills. As we deal with an ageing population and a shrinking supply of young entrants to the labour market due to falling fertility rates since the 1960s, it will become increasingly important that our workplaces seize the opportunities, skills and experience of the older worker.

- 3.3.3 Heritage Action Zone. SBC Planning team submitted a bid to Historic England for a Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) status for the Railway Village. The bid was successful and only the second HAZ in the South West. Historic England will work with us over the next five years to revitalise this treasured area of Swindon. Historic England will provide £1.6million of funding, plus we will be able to access their heritage expertise and regeneration skills.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

Leader of the Council: Six Month Update

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Through the HAZ Delivery, we will aim to deliver enhancements to key community buildings and spaces such as the Cricketer's, the Health Hydro and the GWR Park. We will also prepare a plan to identify a new use for the Mechanic's Institute and source funding for its refurbishment, improve public spaces, footpaths and signage and address traffic issues in order to improve connectivity with the rest of Swindon.

A key part of the project will be to Increase our understanding of Swindon's railway history through research and by refreshing existing planning policies and listing designation. By carrying out a branding exercise to agree a name for this area which can be used on signage and marketing materials, we will be better able to promote the area to local people and to visitors through exhibitions, tours and other cultural events.

It is my hope that we can support local community groups to help us manage Swindon's heritage assets, delivering positive outcomes for local residents, generating tourism and encouraging private investment into the wider town centre by providing evidence of the Council and Historic England's investment in Swindon and by generating a more positive image of our town. We should also be able to leverage HE's funding to apply for further grants from other organisations.

- 3.3.4 Broadband: Swindon delivered its pledge to have at least 95% of its population with access to the Government's standard of superfast broadband. By the end of 2019, coverage will be 99.6%. Residents have benefited from further investment from private companies stimulated by the Council's actions.
- 3.3.5 Tourism has been boosted with the help of a new website <http://www.visitswindon.org.uk/> that has been created to promote Swindon both as a visitor destination in its own right, as well as a place to stay to explore nearby counties. The Council is encouraging local hotels and businesses to take up reciprocal hosting to promote this website as well as themselves. Switch On To Swindon Ambassadors are being encouraged to create online blogs outlining some of the great places to stay, eat and visit in Swindon. Members of Swindon Library Service and the Business & Economy team are working with other partners to promote the site outside Swindon.
- 3.3.6 The Council has worked successfully with Swindon College, employers and other stakeholders to progress the bid for an Institute of Technology (IoT) in the town. The bid was one of 16 bids nationally that was successful in at Phase One.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

Leader of the Council: Six Month Update

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This is a tangible demonstration of excellent partnership working with other LEP areas, employers and education providers to produce a cohesive proposal which will greatly benefit Swindon learners and business. Once again, our town will become a beacon for higher level technical skills training and development thanks to a real partnership of businesses with education providers.

- 3.3.7 Other Partnerships: We continue to use our membership of England's Economic Heartland Strategic Transport Forum to support further physical transport infrastructure that is necessary to enhance Swindon's connections to the economies of Oxford, Milton Keynes, Cambridge, and beyond. The particular challenge for Swindon is to ensure that this body, and the National Infrastructure Commission, considers investment in infrastructure that will benefit the western part of Oxfordshire and Swindon, especially improvements to the A420. Being a successful partner here will increase Swindon's presence nationally and support dialogue with government that will benefit the people of Swindon through successful strategic growth in and around the borough.
- 3.3.8 The Western Powerhouse was launched on 1st November and aims to supercharge infrastructure, investment, internationalisation and inclusive growth in an area extending from Swindon in the East, through Bath and Bristol and on to South Wales. We already have fantastic connectivity but we can enhance this by working more closely with our neighbours in the region so that we make the most of any opportunities to improve our infrastructure and attract investment in the future.
- 3.3.9 It is essential to continue to keep transport around the borough flowing effectively. With this in mind, the Council is taking enforcement action against those who unlawfully use bus gates and bus lanes by increasing the number of locations where there are cameras. This has led to a rise in enforcement income that the Council will reinvest into the borough's future highway and transport schemes.
- 3.3.10 The Housing First Team is now fully established and 15 clients have successfully been housed, taking clients directly off the streets or via the Temporary Winter Housing Provision. All Housing First tenancies are running well without any need for tenancies to come to an end. The Homelessness Prevention Team are now present in additional work areas including Great Western Hospital and the Children's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub. In addition and working with the Accommodation Team, they have enabled the portfolio of privately leased temporary accommodation units to be reduced from 250 to 215 since April 2019.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

Leader of the Council: Six Month Update

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

The Council is awaiting details of external grant funding for 2020/21 for all future projects and prevention work.

A new Rough Sleeper reduction Strategy was agreed by the Health and Well Being Board and Cabinet in 2019. This strategy endorses work already in place.

3.4 Development

- 3.4.1 The Local Plan Review: Public consultation on the preferred and 'emerging' options for the Local Plan was undertaken between 29th July 2019 and 23rd September 2019.
- 3.4.2 The Swindon Housing Company: Construction has commenced on the development for 14 adaptable bungalows at Pilgrim Close. Construction has also commenced on the development at Sparcells Drive for 6 family homes and a scheme for the re-development of Stratton Education Centre has been finalised. Cabinet has recently given approval for the development of 7 more sites for housing purposes.
- 3.4.3 Wichelstowe: The first parcels of land have been transferred to the Wichelstowe LLP. House building is underway and the first reservations have been secured. The district centre infrastructure works are complete and include a new road, canal and footbridge. The Secondary school opened to its first intake of pupils and a full programme of sports/community groups are now using the extended facilities. The construction of the Primary school is underway.
- 3.4.4 Architecture and Construction Management have completed the following work in the last 6 months in addition to the three new schools:
 - Bridlewood Primary School - Provision of Nursery accommodation
 - Chiseldon Primary School – Refurbishment of pupil toilets in the main building
 - Colebrook Junior School – Replacement of external cladding to the main building
 - Lainesmead Primary School – Works to the main building: Replacement boilers, Replacement roof, Replacement of internal doors
 - Lawn Primary School – Concrete structural repair works to the main building

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

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- Phase 1 of the new William Morris Primary School to enable occupation for the September 2019 term.⁷
- Queens Drive Regeneration – Demolition of George Gay Gardens, Planning approval
- New extension at Plas Pencelli including refurbishment of kitchen/store.

3.4.5 Carriage Works: Work continues apace at the Carriage Works, with Phase II already underway following the success of Workshed which is now nearly fully let. The Cultural Heritage Institute, a venture between University of Wales St David and Royal Agricultural University, began delivering courses at the start of the 2019 academic year and will move in to their new home in spring 2020 delivering Higher Education courses right in the heart of our town centre.

3.4.6 Kimmerfields: In February, Zurich are due to start on site on their new, multi million pound flagship office at Kimmerfields. Enabling work has already begun with the Council relocating an old substation as part of site clearance. The building will take 2 years to complete and staff will move in in summer 2022.

We are also exploring with our joint landowners Homes England how we might deliver upfront infrastructure to open up further land at Kimmerfields for office and residential development.

3.4.7 Bus Boulevard: A critical part of creating a high quality setting for Kimmerfields, the Bus Boulevard, which was shortlisted in the second round of the Future High Streets Fund, continues to develop. Work is underway to deliver the business case for funding for submission at the end of April 2020 with announcements on successful bidders expected in autumn 2020. In the meantime, we are continuing to carry out detailed design and enabling works which will allow us to start on site shortly after any announcement.

3.4.8 Aspen House: We have recently exchanged contracts with Premier Inn on the land at Aspen House for a new £17 million, 197 bed hotel and bar and Block restaurant at the southern end of Regent Street. Designs have been shared with a Design Review Panel as part of the planning process and an application is expected soon. Funding is in place and Premier Inn are keen to start work on the 18 month build as soon as possible.

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3.4.9 Cultural Quarter: A new Advisory Group has been convened to help shape and inform the plans being developed for a new Cultural Quarter at Princes Street and Theatre Square. The work that is to be undertaken will look at the opportunity for the Cultural Quarter to bring together a new theatre or entertainment venue, the Museum and Art Gallery and some civic functions. We will shortly be appointing consultants to develop the business case for the scheme which will look at the likely economic impact, cost and form of the new facilities. It will also continue with more community engagement to ensure we fully appreciate people's wants, needs and aspirations for such a scheme, which would perfectly compliment other regeneration activity aiming to bring in more workers and residents to our town centre and strengthen our high street.

3.5 Adult Services

3.5.1 The annual adult social care client survey gives us the opportunity to assess client satisfaction levels from those people who have received social care services from us during the year. It enables us to assess our own performance and compare it to the national and regional results across our comparators. This year the survey was sent to 916 social care clients across the borough and we received a 41.4% response rate.

There are key indicators that fall out of the survey which measure satisfaction levels across different areas of a person's life, such as their quality of life; feeling safe; how much control they have over their life and how much social contact they have and how easy it is to access timely information and advice.

In the quality of life measure we again improved our performance to 19.5 which remains above the national average of 19.1 and above our regional comparator of 19.3.

People also reported that the control they have over their life has improved from 78.1 to 80.3, which is well above the national average of 77.6 and regional average of 79.6.

People's social wellbeing is improving from 41.1 last year to 47.4 of people who report they have as much social contact as they would like, compared with the national average of 45.9 and regional 46.6.

For Swindon our overall results have shown improvements across all areas of the wellbeing domains from the previous year, and comparatively we are above the England average and mostly above our regional comparator authorities.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

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- 3.5.2 Social Work Academy: Adult and Children's Services have been working with colleagues in Learning and Development to develop the professional development opportunities for staff. The 26th November marked the launch of Swindon's first Social Work and Leadership Academy. The Academy is the framework which brings together how we support and develop Social Work as a profession and Swindon including: the reward package; the learning and development offer; Staff support; coaching and mentoring; Research in the sector; The First Swindon Social Work Degree Apprenticeship and Leadership Development within Social Work and Social Care.

The Executive Director of Social Work England, Sarah Blackmore was our key note speaker at the opening, joined by the British Association of Social Work, Community Care, (the lead trade magazine for Social Work Professionals) and our partner Universities who work within our region.

- 3.5.3 Young Adult Admissions: For 2018/19 we again reduced our younger adult admissions to care to 8.1 per 100k population, which fell well below the national average of 13.9 per 100k population and below our regional comparators of 14 per 100k population. As at the end of September 2019, we have achieved 3.66 per 100k population which is well below the target for the month of 5.13. We continue to develop work with parents and families to improve the transition from children to adult services. A very successful Transition Roadshow was held in the summer with more than 70 parents attending.

- 3.5.4 Older Adults: In terms of older adults, again we achieved reduced placement numbers with 2018/19 result reported as 409.4 per 100k population compared with the national average of 580 per 100k population and 513 per 100k population for the regional average. As at the end of September this year, our result is on track at 230.28 per 100k population against the September target of 233.13 per 100k population.

In Swindon the delays attributable to Social Care reduced decreased to an average of 0.9 delayed days during the year down from 4.4 delayed days in 2017-18. The England average was 3.1 days, and regionally the delays were 3.9 delayed days.

Year to date, (Apr-Sept) there were 1.24 bed days lost attributable to social care (bed days per 100,000) against a target of 2.58. Swindon continues to perform well against the South West year to date average of 4.05.

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- 3.5.5 Residential care homes: Whitbourne House, achieved Good rating in the CQC Inspection and a planning application for an extension to Fessey House has been granted, enabling us to provide for older people with dementia and discharge from hospital.
- 3.5.6 Employment: The work we are doing within our employment strategy has supported our ongoing improvements in the numbers of learning disability clients who are in paid employment. We have improved our performance from last year, achieving a 2018/19 result of 6.1% of learning disability clients who are in receipt of services who are also in employment. This is above the national average of 5.9% and the regional average of 6%.
- 3.5.7 Beat the Streets: The 6 week Beat the Streets games finished 6th November 2019. In total we had just under 26 thousand participants who completed over 250 thousand miles over the 6 week period. While fewer people signed up and fewer total miles were completed for this round of the games, the people who signed up achieved greater mileage.

There was a Beat the Street celebration event at Lydiard Park, Coach House area, on Saturday, 16th November. This included a range of have-a-go activities and promoting local activities, linked to getting people into ongoing activity e.g. orienteering (by Wiltshire orienteering club), keeping fit in the wild, craft activities and a range of sports activities.

3.6 Children Services

- 3.6.1 The inspection of children's social care services took place in July 2019. The ILACS inspection is a full inspection of services and took place over a two week period. Ofsted judged children's social care overall effectiveness as Good. The impact of leaders on social work practice with children and the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection was also graded as Good. Ofsted judged the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers as requires improvement to be Good.
- 3.6.2 The Ofsted grade for Swindon is very good news and reflects the dedication of leadership, both political and corporate, to improve services for children. Children: Following the OFSTED Inspection, Improvement work continues and Children's Services staff are focussed on the areas identified for improvement. As such, the numbers of children in care are reducing, as are the numbers of children on child protection plans. The number of agency staff working in Swindon remains at a high level. However, there has been some success with agency staff wanting to take up permanent roles and the workforce strategy remains an important focus of improvement work.

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3.7 Air Quality

3.7.1 The Air Quality Action Plan for Kingshill, Old Town, containing 18 clear actions to improve air quality, has been endorsed by Cabinet, and we are in the process of finalising the plan with DEFRA. One major action; that of putting in place a Traffic Regulation Order to prohibit heavy vehicles from Kingshill, is well into the planning stage, and this action is expected to remove up to 30% of the excess Nitrogen Dioxide from that road.

3.7.2 The Public Protection team has also extended its network of routine monitoring devices to increase its awareness and understanding of current or emerging air quality issues around the Borough. This will be reported through the Annual Status Report to DEFRA.

3.8 Customer Services

3.8.1 We continue to work to improve responsiveness to residents with a new telephony system in Customer Services and three additional staff within the Call Centre. This has improved our ability to answer calls within the agreed service level agreement, although this is still variable depending on demand, and we're doing more work to improve this further and offer greater consistency to our residents. To support residents to use our online offer through the website, we are currently trialling a chatbot free of charge on the website to direct simple resident enquiries and assist in navigation around the web, as part of our ambitions, as laid out in the Customer Access Strategy, and protect our contact centre offer for those that really need it. The success of this will be reviewed in due course.

3.9 Estate Rationalisation

3.9.1 The project is on track to be completed by the end of the financial year, with a reduction in the use of five buildings for office accommodation. This will save the Council £150,000 a year and has also allowed for the consolidation of Children's Social work teams in one location, with three hubs for early help services out in the community. The project has improved the working environment for many of our staff and will also, once completed, provide a new Learning and Development suite to allow for alternative uses for the David Murray John building, a new members room and a quiet zone for colleagues across the Council to use.

3.10 Challenges for the Year Ahead:

3.10.1 Climate: This year I had the honour of being elected Environment spokesman for the Local Government Association Councils and have an important leadership role in creating low carbon and climate-resilient

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

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communities. Whilst I recognise fully the need to reduce our own carbon emissions, I accept it is equally important to work with our partners and our local communities to tackle the impact of climate change on our local area.

31 per cent of UK greenhouse gas emissions come from residential buildings, surface transport and waste – all areas that the council has some responsibility for.

The Local Plan Review has given us an opportunity to refresh those policies used to determine planning applications in light of revisions to the NPPF, best practice and experience in their operation. Such policies include design, open space provision, affordable housing and infrastructure. One of these policies is existing Policy SD1 with clear links to how the Plan is meeting the climate change challenge.

We may not do as well as our Rural neighbours with environmental protection due to the fact that we are predominantly Urban and have very little land and thus opportunity with which to offset carbon footprint. However, we are committed to expanding the Forest Meadows project with our partner, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. This project will see up to £80,000 invested in the three-year programme to enhance meadow and forest sites across 12 sites within the Borough of Swindon covering more than 170 hectares.

We are also working hard to tackle harmful air pollution by devising clean air zones and protecting at-risk areas outside schools, encouraging the use of electric vehicles through promoting recharging points, and investing in cycling. A recent study commissioned from Public Power Solutions, the Council's wholly owned power company, will look at short, medium and long term policy on electric vehicle charging. Over the next year, the Council will continue to examine the potential for supporting domestic and fleet electrical vehicle charging points. This report will present a business case for potential installations on Council owned sites and will also consider where we may be able to influence partners to deploy this facility.

As part of the Local Plan review, the Council will also revisit its planning policies to consider provision of electrical vehicle charging points.

There is much work to be done if we are to mitigate and protect ourselves from the effects of Climate change. I am pleased that my colleagues see the Council's role in leading by example and we will continue to strive to be that exemplar through our vision and commitment to our Climate Change Working Group and its individual steering groups.

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3.10.2 Elections: A surprise General Election to be held on 12th December sees us all waiting to assess the implications for local government as the political parties unveil their General Election manifestos.

At a local level, residents in Swindon will continue to elect their local councillors in 'thirds' following a recent Extraordinary Council meeting at which the threshold vote for driving a change to all-out, four yearly elections was defeated.

3.10.3 Honda: The Council is a member of the Honda Swindon Task Force, convened by the Business Secretary, which has brought together civic leaders, local partners and MP's, Honda, leading government officials, union and sector representatives. The Task Force's priorities are to match the highly sought after skills of the workforce to local opportunities, provide support for the supply chain, identify future opportunities for the site and secure Swindon's continued economic growth. The work of the Task Force is supported by a Steering Group and local Task Groups coordinated by the Council.

3.10.4 Brexit: The precise nature of Brexit is still unknown to us and whilst the debate about Brexit continues, the Council recognises that it must continue to discharge its statutory duties, especially in providing personal care services, as well as delivering the refreshed Vision Priorities and the Swindon Programme. The greatest issue for the Council remains the uncertainty about whether Parliament will approve this Draft Treaty or, if it does not, what could happen next. A future report to Cabinet will set out immediate, medium-term, and long-term possible effects on the Council by comparing a possible worst-case scenario with the draft Treaty. It will focus primarily on those issues as they relate to the local council.

Developing appropriate responses to possible effects of leaving the EU is an absolute priority for this council. We continue to be an active member of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) chaired by the Chief Constable of Wiltshire. This body is already undertaking appropriate preparations with "blue light" services, local authorities, and relevant central government departments and agencies to account for a range of scenarios. The Council's Business Continuity Manager is leading the core LRF task group and senior officers are being kept informed about any pressures as they emerge.

3.10.5 Funding: With the right funding and powers, councils can continue to lead their local areas, improve residents' lives, reduce demand for public services and save money for the taxpayer.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

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In my report to Scrutiny last December I referred to the uncertainty surrounding the future funding of local government. That continues to be the case, although the Spending Round announcement in September 2019 did set out a proposal for much welcomed additional funding for Social Care and Special Education.

We anticipate that provisional local finance settlement for 2020/21 will be in the New Year and that the medium term outlook will be established in a spending review later in the year. In the meantime, we are developing our approach to meet the key financial pressures facing the Council, with a particular focus on managing the increasing demands on social care through early intervention and prevention services.

The Council has a strong record of managing its budget and it was good to note the positive external auditor's report to Audit Committee in July. In a challenging year for the sector nationally only around 60% of audits were completed on time. As one of the councils which was within the timescale, that reflects well on the Council's financial management arrangements.

- 3.10.6 Health and Social Care: The new Health and Care Board was approved by Cabinet in October 2019 and is due to start in 2020. The new Board will bring together elected members and CCG Governing Body members to develop our approach to joint commissioning of health and care services in Swindon. The new Board will be an excellent opportunity to continue to strengthen our work with the NHS at a local level.

In relation to Clinical Commissioning Groups, Swindon CCG has voted to merge with Wiltshire and Bath and North east Somerset CCG on 1st April 2020. The Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health continues to work closely with health colleagues thorough the CCG and the Sustainable Transformation partnership now called the BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) partnership.

- 3.10.7 Obesity: Trends for the last 3 years show a reduction of 5.5% in adult obesity with Swindon going from having a statistically significant greater prevalence of adult obesity to now being similar to England. Whilst in Reception (age 4/5 years) the long term trends are essentially flat, in Year 6, there is a small but discernible long term upward trend in those with obesity or any excess weight. Swindon is nearer the poor performing end when compared to authorities in its benchmarking 'cluster' on all weight measures. Additionally, large inequalities are seen between affluent and deprived areas in Swindon.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

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Scrutiny Committee

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3.10.8 Broadband: Swindon is now part of City Fibre's next round of investment. City Fibre already have around 8 kilometres of fibre in the ground in Swindon delivering services to business. We will continue progressing this investment to deliver services to residents and businesses helping to make Swindon a gigabit city of the future.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 Article 6.02 of the Council's Constitution requires the Leader to submit a report immediately after the Council's Annual meeting or at such time as may be agreed by the chair of the Scrutiny Committee and the Leader. The Committee could eschew receiving the half-year update; however, this would weaken the Committee's ability to hold the Administration to account.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

5.1 Financial and Procurement Implications

There are no financial or procurement implications in this report.

5.2 Legal and Human Rights Implications

The author has considered legal and human rights legislation in the preparation of this report. It is considered that the report's recommendations are compatible with Convention Rights.

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

Where appropriate, these are addressed in the body of the report.

5.4 Diversity Impact Assessment

Full Diversity Impact Assessments will be undertaken on proposals listed in this report when they are included in Cabinet reports for Members to determine whether to implement them. Hence, no DIA was undertaken at this time.

5.5 Risk Management

None

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

Leader of the Council: Six Month Update

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6. Consultees

The Corporate Director of Finance and Assets (Section 151 Officer) and Monitoring Officer have not been consulted as this is a Report for Scrutiny and not a decision making report.

7. Background Papers

None.

8. Appendices

There are no Appendices.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Caroline Ramsey, (01793) 463420, CRamsey@swindon.gov.uk

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North Star Regional Leisure Development

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Author: Cabinet Member for the Town Centre and Head of Property Assets

Wards: Rodbourne Cheney

Parishes Affected: Central Swindon North

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out progress on the North Star Development trigger points, which has been requested by the Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 Pledge 3F of the Council's Vision is "Working with Seven Capital, to deliver the development of the new regional leisure destination at North Star."

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 Seven Capital (SC) obtained outline planning consent S/OUT/15/0143, for the erection of indoor ski, cinema, bowling and trampoline facilities (Class D2), shops, restaurants & cafes (Class A1 - A4), parking, landscaping, access and associated works in February 2018. This was then followed up in November 2018 by the highway condition being discharged under S/COND/18/1738.
- 3.2 Since obtaining planning consent for the proposed development, SC have been unable to secure lending to build out the leisure destination. Generally, large funders are not committing to fund developments of this nature nationally due to economic uncertainty around Brexit. In an effort to raise finance for the scheme, SC has been talking to lenders, who would, rather than acquire the completed development as would a funder, lend finance on the basis that the loan was repaid by SC. SC have also been having discussions on what is required to secure a sufficient legal interest in the North Star site in a way that is acceptable to a funder to obtain £80m+ of loans recognising what is needed in the current funding environment.
- 3.3 To address these issues, and following discussions with SC, the Council have identified changes to the development agreement that should secure a way forward with a funder. The changes look to mitigate some (but by no means all) of the risks, and new clauses would be included to state that the build contract must be explicitly for the construction of the consented leisure destination, and that it is placed with a major contractor. SC has advised that they have completed pre-lets achieving £4m of rental income as part of their funder discussions. In addition, as part of varying the development agreement, the

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Rob Richards, Direct Dial 07400 37316, rrichards@swindon.gov.uk.

North Star Regional Leisure Development

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Council would also require evidence of a signed finance offer for the full development costs.

- 3.4 Based on these changes, and by way of a decision note dated 3 September 2019, the Council agreed to amend the Council's right to terminate the North Star development agreement, which was exercisable in the event that the developer does not complete the piling works for the leisure destination by 13 March 2022. The new provision is now that the Council has the right to terminate the agreement if a building contract for leisure destination is not placed by 13 March 2024. This recognises that the scheme is at a critical stage and the variation is realistically the last opportunity for SC to secure finance for its delivery.
- 3.5 This termination clause is the only "trigger point" in the development agreement. If the building contract is not placed by this date, either party has the ability to terminate the development agreement. If the agreement is terminated, the 3 leases of the North Star site that form part of the agreement would also terminate, and control of the site would return to the Council.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 There are no alternative options that apply in relation to the contents of this report.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

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

- 5.3 There are no known implications.

Diversity Impact Assessment DIA)

- 5.4 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this specific report as there are no proposed changes to the provision of any services.

Risk Management

- 5.5 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Rob Richards, Direct Dial 07400 37316, rrichards@swindon.gov.uk.

North Star Regional Leisure Development

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.

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Work Programme 2019/2020

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Author: Chief Legal Officer

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the topics for the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2019/2020, as agreed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10th June 2019 and revised at subsequent meetings throughout the year.
- 1.2 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to have a Work Programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the Municipal Year.
- 1.3 The Work Programme details the various topics and issues that each Committee intends to look into during the coming year with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies / bodies to consider.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the approved Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committee for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year.

3. Detail

The Work Programme

- 3.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to have a Work Programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the Municipal Year.
- 3.2 Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to agree a Work Programme at the start of the Municipal Year outlining their priorities and likely outcomes of considering these issues. This task was completed by all Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their first meetings during June and July 2019.
- 3.3 The Work Programme is developed taking into account:
 - 3.3.1 Corporate priorities and objectives, including the Cabinet Forward Plan.
 - 3.3.2 Partnership strategic priorities and objectives.
 - 3.3.3 The interests and concerns of Members, Council officers, members of the public, and other stakeholders such as community and voluntary groups and local businesses.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull (Committee Officer), 07980 752043, VYull@swindon.gov.uk.

Work Programme 2019/2020

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

- 3.4 Committees are encouraged to review the Work Programme on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to prioritise the workload of the Committee.
- 3.5 Members are reminded that the Work Programme must also take into account:
 - 3.5.1 The workload of the Committee and of individual members.
 - 3.5.2 The capacity of officers to support a review.
 - 3.5.3 The resource implications of carrying out a review.
 - 3.5.4 The timescales for a review.
 - 3.5.5 The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review.

Developing the Work Programme – The Executive

- 3.6 It is important that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Council and its partner agencies, and produces tangible outcomes for local people that result in real service improvements. Selecting the right topics is crucial to ensure that scrutiny will be effective.
- 3.7 In order to help the Scrutiny Committee select the right topics for the Work Programme, the Leader of the Council will be giving his annual presentation to the Committee at this meeting, where he will outline priority areas for the coming twelve months, and highlight problem areas or policies that require development and / or renewal. These issues should be considered by the Scrutiny Committee for possible inclusion in the Work Programme. In addition, the Leader may make suggestions for the Scrutiny Committee to include in its Work Programme.
- 3.8 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are encouraged to work with Cabinet in the best interests of the Borough and to take into account the priorities and suggestions of Cabinet as detailed in the Cabinet Work Programme and Forward plan, attached at Appendix 2, when considering the contents for the Work Programme.
- 3.9 In addition, Members attention is drawn to the Scrutiny Process Flowchart, attached at Appendix 3, which is aimed at assisting Members in identifying how they could influence policy development.

Standard Work Programme items

- 3.10 In addition to selecting various topics and issues for inclusion in the Work Programme, the Scrutiny Committee has a number of additional items that it has incorporated into its Work Programme, such as:
 - 3.10.1 Cabinet Member Question and Answer Sessions. Each Cabinet Member will be expected to appear before the Scrutiny Committee to answer

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull (Committee Officer), 07980 752043, VYull@swindon.gov.uk.

Work Programme 2019/2020

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

questions relating to their portfolio responsibilities, performance and future plans.

3.10.2 Review of Cabinet Decisions. The Scrutiny Committee will be required to review the decisions taken by Cabinet.

3.10.3 Leader's Report. The Scrutiny Committee will receive an annual presentation and a six monthly update from the Leader of the Council on the administrations priorities for the year and performance.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 The Committee can choose not to have a detailed Work Programme although it is recommended that it is best practice to do so.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's Work Programme will be met by the Overview and Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

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

5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the Work Programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull (Committee Officer), 07980 752043, VYull@swindon.gov.uk.

Work Programme 2019/2020

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

6. Consultees

6.1 None.

7. Background Papers

7.1 None.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2019/2020.

8.2 Appendix 2 – Current Cabinet Forward Plan.

8.3 Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Process Flowchart.

Scrutiny Committee **Work Programme 2019-2020**

Terms of Reference of the Committee

- To meet at regular intervals to review the policies, process and implications of Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Officer decision making, and the way in which Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions are made;
- To consider requests for “Call-in” as defined in the Council’s “Call-in” Procedure;
- To refer decisions back to Cabinet (or the decision maker) for reconsideration. It may do this once for any individual decision, after which if there is no agreement the decision will be referred to the full Council for determination;
- To refer Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for investigation without delaying the implementation of the decision concerned;
- To receive a report by the Leader of the Council at its first meeting after each Annual Council Meeting (or at such a meeting as is agreed by the Chair of the Committee and the Leader of the Council) on the service issues for the year ahead, the Leader of the Council’s priorities for the coming year, and on the Council’s performance in the previous year;
- To oversee the arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny within the Council, including determining (i) where matters fall within the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee which of those Committees will assume responsibility for any particular issue, (ii) a system to ensure that referrals from Committees to the Cabinet, either by way of report or for reconsideration, are managed efficiently and do not exceed any limits set out in the Council’s Constitution, and (iii) in the event of reports to the Cabinet exceeding any limits in the Constitution, or if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of Cabinet business or jeopardises the efficient running of Council business, at the request of the Cabinet to make decisions about the priority of referrals made;
- To carry out any investigation into the business and functions of the Council and to call in any Cabinet Member or senior officer of the Council so that they can offer advice, support or answer any question that will assist the Committee in carrying out its functions; and
- To carry out an external scrutiny function, particularly in relation to corporate issues and issues falling into the remit of a number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to –

- The review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations,
- The management of performance,
- The monitoring of progress towards delivering corporate priorities,
- The formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders, and
- Strategies to reduce or prevent Crime and Disorder.

To have specific responsibility (but not limited to)

- Good governance.
- The Budget Scrutiny function.

Review of the Work Programme

The work programme will be reviewed at every meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to ensure that it remains relevant, to ensure that Members and Officers have sufficient capacity to deliver the work programme and to include any additional items on the work programme, if appropriate.

To assist members in developing the Committee’s work programme, a copy of the current Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 2 to the covering report.

Contact details

Committee Officer: Vicki Yull
Email: vyull@swindon.gov.uk
Tel: 07980 752043

10th June 2019		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Work Programme 2019/20	To discuss and agree a rolling work programme for the 2019/20 Municipal Year and review the Overview Task Groups	n/a

15th July 2019		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Leader of the Council update	To receive a half yearly update from the Leader of the Council on the performance of the Council, to receive details of any major issues or problem areas and to review progress against priorities set out in annual presentation.	Councillor David Renard
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet

12th August 2019		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health.	Councillor Brian Ford
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Operational Excellence	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Operational Excellence.	Councillor Keith Williams

9th September 2019		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Economy and Place	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Economy and Place.	Councillor Oliver Donachie

21st October 2019		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Children's Services	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	Councillor Mary Martin

18th November 2019		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of the 2018/19 Municipal Year	To receive the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report.	Chief Legal Officer
Moredon Playing Fields Sports Hub	To review a progress report.	Head of Property Assets
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety.	Councillor Cathy Martyn

9th December 2019		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Leader of the Council update	To receive a half yearly update from the Leader of the Council on the performance of the Council, to receive details of any major issues or problem areas and to review progress against priorities set out in annual presentation.	Councillor David Renard
North Star Development – Trigger Points	To review a progress report.	Head of Property Assets
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet

13th January 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Budget Scrutiny	To review the Budget proposals for 2020-2021.	Councillor Russell Holland
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning.	Councillor Gary Sumner

10th February 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment.	Councillor Maureen Penny

16th March 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Finance and Education and Skills	To review the portfolio and performance of Finance and Skills.	Councillor Russell Holland

6th April 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for the Town Centre	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for the Town Centre.	Councillor Dale Heenan

Other issues for Scrutiny Committee to consider		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Averies Task Group Final Report	To receive the final report of the Task Group and make appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet and Council.	Task Group Members
Anti-social enforcement	To review what is being done to address enforcement against anti-social issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking • Public Space Protection Orders in the town centre • Anti-social behaviour 	Councillor Maureen Penny Councillor Oliver Donachie Councillor Cathy Martyn
An examination of the relationship between the Borough and Parish / Town Councils	One day review by Scrutiny Committee	Chief Executive
Closure of Honda	To receive a confidential update	Leader of the Council Chief Executive

Other issues to be referred		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Food Waste	To review proposals for dealing with food waste in the Borough	To be referred to Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Collection and Disposal of Used Needles	To review proposals for dealing with the collection and disposal of used needles	To be referred to Adults' Health, Adults' Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Leisure Contracts	To review the leisure contracts, in particular those run by GLL	To be referred to Resources and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Procurement	To review how SBC uses its procurement budget locally	To be referred to Resources and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
North Star	To review the ongoing development at North Star	To be referred to Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Proposed AGENDA ITEMS/DELEGATED DECISIONS

If you wish to make your views known on any matter set out in this work-plan, please contact the relevant Cabinet Member or the officer identified.

Councillor:	Portfolio:
David Renard	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
Russell Holland	Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice-Chair of Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Finance, Education, and Skills
Oliver Donachie	Cabinet Member for Economy and Place
Brian Ford	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
Dale Heenan	Cabinet Member for the Town Centre
Mary Martin	Cabinet Member for Children' Services
Cathy Martyn	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety
Maureen Penny	Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment
Gary Sumner	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning
Keith Williams	Cabinet Member for Corporate and Organisational Excellence

Senior Committee Clerk: Douglas Campbell, CommitteeServices@Swindon.gov.uk

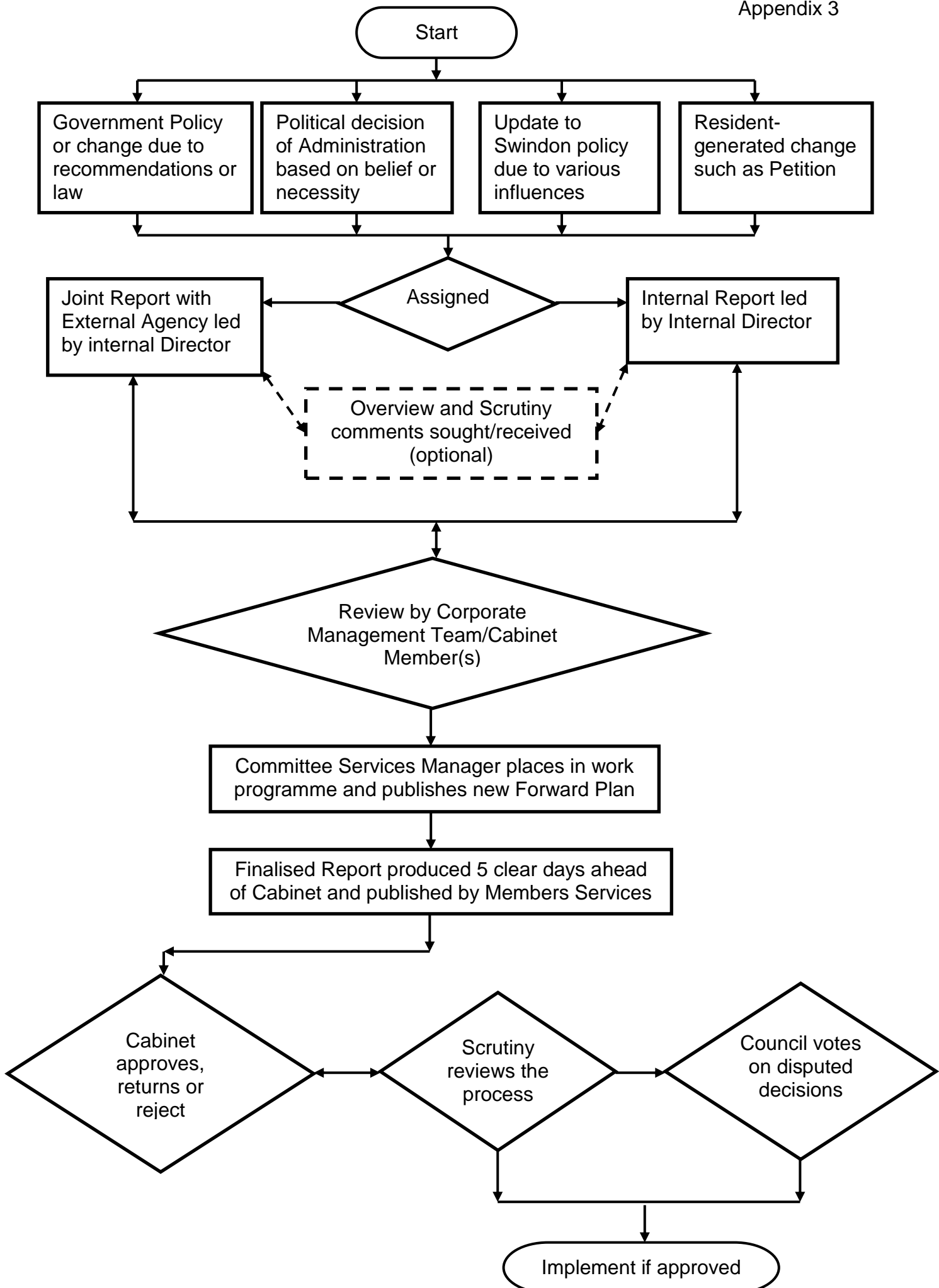
Cabinet Meeting Date - 5th February 2020

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
Budget 2020/21 and Beyond	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Education and Skills	Director of Finance (s151) Officer Director of Finance (s151) Officer
Capital Programme 2020/2021	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Education and Skills	Director of Finance (s151) Officer Head of Finance - Deputy Section 151 Officer
Treasury Strategy Statement 2020/21	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Education and Skills	Director of Finance (s151) Officer Head of Finance - Deputy Section 151

		Officer
Housing Revenue Account - Rents and Charges	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety	Corporate Director Communities and Housing Director of Finance (s151) Officer
Swindon Pay Policy Statement 2020 / 2021	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Operational Excellence	Director of Performance, Organisational Improvement and Communications Director of Performance, Organisational Improvement and Communications
School Admission Arrangements 2021-22 and Home to School Transport Policy	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Education and Skills	Corporate Director of Children's Services Strategic School Admissions Manager

Cabinet Meeting Date - 11th March 2020

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
Capital Programme Monitoring 3rd Quarter 2019/20	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Education and Skills	Director of Finance (s151) Officer Head of Finance - Deputy Section 151 Officer
Public Open Space and Parish Asset Transfers - Response to Council motion	Leader of the Council	Head of Property Assets Head of Property Assets



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Status of requests for action and / or information

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Author: Chief Legal Officer

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the status of requests for action to be taken or information to be provided.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Consider the responses provided by officers, and actions taken in relation to each issue, and determine if any further action is required.
- 2.3 Agree that, subject to the Committee's requests for further action to be taken, issues shown as being completed be removed from the status report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee has requested that a report be submitted to each meeting on the status of its earlier decisions, allowing members to consider if any further action is required.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 This report has no financial or procurement implications.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been fully taken into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with convention rights.

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

- 5.3 None.
-

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull (Committee Officer), 07980 752043, VYull@swindon.gov.uk.

Status of requests for action and / or information

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9th December 2019

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the Work Programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 None.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 The Minutes of previous meetings of the Committee.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Schedule of the status of requests for action to be taken or information to be provided.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 18 November 2019		
Minute No. 41	Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session - Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety	Outcome
Cllr Steve Allsopp referred to the 146 affordable homes enabled as part of S106 agreements in the first two quarters of 2019/20 and asked what ratio is that of the overall numbers of houses built during that same period, and is it matching the Council's aspiration of 30%.	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and the Head of Planning on 22/11/19.	Ongoing
Cllr Jim Grant requested that the legal definition used by the Council as to what constitutes acceptable levels of air quality be circulated to members.	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety on 22/11/19.	Ongoing
Cllr Emma Faramarzi requested information on where the air quality measuring tubes are currently located, and when (if ever) the area on Purton Road, leading from Thamesdown Drive, has been monitored.	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety on 22/11/19.	Ongoing

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