

## **Appendix to the Leader's Half Yearly Update**

Further achievements to date include:

### **Pledge 1 Digital Innovation:**

Swindon had already achieved its target of having at least 95% of its population with access to the Government's standard of superfast broadband in January 2017; coverage will be 99.6% by the end of this calendar year. Since then, residents have benefited from further investment from private companies that was stimulated by the Council's actions. Relish, the company providing a commercial wireless broadband service, had 1403 subscribers at May 2018. This work has enabled essential infrastructure for Swindon's businesses, particularly SMEs and home workers and also for education providers to support a thriving and inclusive economy. Work with DCMS to install superfast broadband through their voucher scheme has supported the value-for-money take-up of this facility.

We have just completed a soft market testing exercise ahead of a business case being prepared for digital billboards.

### **Pledge 2 Sustainable Energy:**

On a 2.5Mw solar farm at Barnfield, the Council continues to be more than 6 months ahead of its schedule to deliver 200 Megawatts of renewable energy by January 2020.

A study has been commissioned from Public Power Solutions, the Council's wholly owned power company, to 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. This work is in the context of the SWLEP Local Energy Strategy, which is in turn feeding into the SWLEP Local Industrial Strategy. As part of the Local Plan review, the Council will also revisit its planning policies to consider provision of electrical vehicle charging points. Meanwhile, progress is being made on a business case for charging points on the Civic Campus, Whalebridge and Brunel North Car Parks and at Waterside. This will go to the Corporate Investment Strategy Board on 11<sup>th</sup> December for approval.

### **Pledge 3:**

**Pledge 3b Bus Boulevard:** In July 2018, Cabinet agreed a preferred option for the new Bus Boulevard at Fleming Way which will deliver a high quality public transport interchange and create a welcoming environment which links Kimmerfields with the Town Centre, enabling easy movement and access for pedestrians and cyclists as well as bus users. The bus boulevard reimagines Fleming Way as a new Green Boulevard, a linear park in the town which improves this gateway location and creates a safe and attractive route from the station into the town, encouraging inward investment. Concept designs for a regraded Fleming Way and new transport interchange were finalised in September 2018 and the project is now moving into delivery with pump

priming funding from the SWLEP. Detailed designs for the bus boulevard will be available in the new year, accompanied by artist's images showing how the area will look and feel.

Pledge 3c Town Centre Transport: Accommodation works to provide additional parking in Islington Street is currently underway on site in preparation for the temporary bus station at Princes Street. Designs for this temporary bus facility have been received positively by the bus operators and works to create a temporary surface car park on the Wyvern Multi Storey Car Park have commenced to provide for blue badge parking when the temporary facility is in operation.

The draft Town Centre Movement Strategy was completed last month (Oct). We are currently seeking clarification on the governance, timescales, and consultation at the same time and are aiming for wider consultation starting Mar 19.

In addition, SWLEP Board have this week agreed the profiling of LGF funding for Great Stall Bridge to be allocated to White Hart Junction and A420 Gablecross.

Pledge 3e Aspen House: We have completed the viability testing, outline planning agreed subject to s106 agreement and de-risking. A commercial agent was commissioned to market the site and produce a marketing brief and 6 notes of interest resulted in 2 development proposals. Developer interviews took place in first week of November 2018 and all proposals have been analysed by finance, planning, property, FSL and economy teams. We expect a recommendation of next steps to go to Cabinet with a target date February 2019.

#### Pledge 5 Wellington Street:

The project at Wellington Street is on-track. Following competitive tendering, Britannia have been appointed as the contractor for the construction phase. Public Information event for the proposed roadworks and traffic management sequencing is arranged for the 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 18. The programme remains targeted on commencement of works at the beginning of January with completion by the end of April 2019.

#### Pledge 6:

Pledge 6a NEV: Following the Lotmead Farm public inquiry (held in November 2017), the Council received the decision of the Secretary of State in June 2018 who agreed with the Council that the proposal failed to deliver sustainable development in accordance with the Council's adopted Local Plan. The Secretary of State refused planning permission for 2,600 homes and awarded full costs to the Council. The Council are working with the applicants on a revised scheme to address the concerns. The new shared footway/cycleway at Symmetry Park has been completed along with significant landscaping, and a reserved matters application Phase 2 of the site is expected before the end of the year. Significant progress has also been made on the comprehensive access strategy for the NEV, with support from the Department of Transport (DfT), Homes England (HE) and the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise

Partnership. Detailed business cases for improvements at White Hart Junction and Southern Connector Road (grant funded) will be submitted to the DfT and HE in December for approval, and early contractor involvement in scheme design has ensured robust challenge and risk mitigation including deliverability and costs.

Given the scale and complexity of development, various liaison groups have been established which continue to meet on a regular basis with a particular focus on infrastructure delivery. These include the Strategic Health Partnership with Great Western Hospital, Care Commissioning Group, and Emergency Services, A420 Business Users Group, Parish and adjacent Authorities.

Pledge 6c Wichelstowe Southern Access: The procurement process for the Wichelstowe Southern Access and tunnel under the M4 is in progress. Construction is programmed to commence late summer 2019. The procurement process for a design and build contractor has now started, with advertisements to tender going live at the end of August. Due to the nature and anticipated value of the scheme the tender process will be in two stages and take roughly six months, with the contract award expected in April 2019. The scheme remains on track for completion by March 2021.

Pledge 6f Housing Options: We have been consulting on the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Assessment (SHELAA). The initial list of sites that may deliver future housing and employment needs has been published for comments. Work is on-going to refine the list of sites for recommendation as allocations in the forthcoming Local plan Review due to be published for public consultation next year

Pledge 6h Badbury Park: We continue to support final phases of additional housing at Badbury Park with community space and improvements to Day House Lane to link to Coate Water. In addition, we have determined the detailed planning applications for the residential parcels at Badbury Park resulting in a new community. The developers are seeking to build on the success of this development and have submitted plans for the next phase of 300 additional dwellings. We are hoping to use the developer contributions from this development to help fund improvements at Coate Water for the wider benefit of the community.

#### Pledge 9 Apprenticeships:

The Council has worked with the SWLEP to develop an Apprenticeship Strategy and to commission a campaign to increase awareness of Apprenticeships by SMEs and by young people. The outcome of the campaign will be available in December. We also held another successful JobFestSwindon at the STEAM museum to provide an opportunity for over 800 young people, to meet the 62 local employers present who recruit young people to job or apprenticeship opportunities.

#### Pledge 11 Workforce Skills:

To date, the Council had 793 adult enrolments on adult learning courses focusing mainly on courses to engage learners, English, Maths, Digital and Employability Skills. We are delighted that 43% of learners responding to our survey have progressed into work since starting their course

#### Pledge 12 Healthy Lifestyles:

During Quarter 1 2018/19 our NHS Health Check programme (offered to everyone aged 40-74 to prevent premature death from: heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease) achieved an uptake rate of 58% which is a marked improvement on the 2018/19 annual figure of 44%. We have delivered the annual NHS Health Checks training day to ensure all those delivering health checks are updated. At this event we rolled out the introduction of dementia information previously provided only to those over 64 year to all those eligible for a check. The key message is that healthy lifestyle can reduce the risk of developing dementia and what is good for your heart is good for your head.

#### Pledge 16 Town Centre:

The Town centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which covers dogs on long leads, street drinking, begging, skateboarding and cycling has been extended for a further 3 years until Nov 2021, following consultation with stakeholders. Further work is underway to consider effective enforcement.

#### Pledge 18 Volunteering:

We are pleased to have completed an exercise that demonstrated that over the past year,(2017/18) across the adult's voluntary sector commissioned providers, we have delivered over 48,900 hours of volunteer time, equating to a value of over £372,800 when multiplied by the minimum wage. If the full cost were calculated on volunteer job descriptions this figure would undoubtedly be far higher. Swindon Circles continues to support people of all ages who have been identified as lonely and isolated. Their offer includes: long term volunteer befriending; Local Heroes (volunteers providing assistance with practical tasks); Community Support for individuals receiving adult social care services; and Neighbourhood Connectors who are focussed on building community capacity. The team has visited 80 clients since April 2018 and has 92 active volunteers. In addition, an online toolkit for volunteer managers has been created to support SBC managers to follow good practice in recruiting and managing volunteers. Each service area is responsible for managing, recording and reporting their own volunteers. Good practice documents, templates and processes have been created, constantly reviewed, added to and refreshed. The introduction of a Volunteer manager's network will reinforce, through regular meetings and e-bulletins, the share of good practice as well as highlighting areas where further strategic guidance is needed which can then be added to the tool kit.

#### Pledge 20 Looked After Children:

Three hundred and sixty five (365) children were Looked After at the end of September which places Swindon above national and statistical neighbour

averages. The number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Swindon has increased to 28 now looked after by the Authority. There are a number of work programmes taking place which will include the development of an Edge of Care Service. The direct impact of this should start to be realised in a reduction of children becoming Looked After during the latter part of 2019.

The stability of placements for children is indicative of the lack of local placements for children, particularly in relation to finding placements for children and young people with challenging behaviours. The placements for all these children are being reviewed to understand if their needs can be met in a more local placement. 94.1% of children looked after received their review in a timely manner which is above the national average of 91%. This is positive and evidences that increased numbers of children being looked after is not impacting negatively on timeliness of reviews.

We can also report that 58.3% of care leavers were in education, employment, or training at the end of September 18 (49 out of 84) young people. This is higher than the national average of 51%. 89.3%, (75 out of 84), of Swindon's care leavers are in suitable accommodation which is also stronger than national comparators (Nationally 84% and statistical neighbours 82%). The service consistently tracks and works with the young people who need suitable accommodation

#### Pledge 23 Safeguarding of Adults:

A new interim team manager is now in post leading the team and a permanent manager is starting in January 2019. Supervision and quality assurance has been strengthened and all staff have training in place. There has been a 20% increase in alerts set to the safeguarding team of which 68% have progressed to enquiry, ensuring that our triage function improves