

Appointment of Directors to Forward Swindon Ltd

Special Committee

Date: 20th April 2011

Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To appoint further Directors to the Board of Forward Swindon Ltd.

Recommendation

- The Special Committee is recommended to approve, on behalf of the Council, the appointment of the individuals named in paragraph 2.4 below to the Board of Forward Swindon Ltd, for a term expiring on 18th May 2012, and that the membership and structure of the Board be reviewed prior to that time.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 The Board of Forward Swindon Ltd. currently has only two Directors. It is important that membership is increased to include further individuals with a range of commercial and business skills and experience capable of providing strategic oversight and direction of the company's activities. It is proposed to keep the number of directors relatively small for the next 12 months whilst the company continues to establish itself, with a review taking place within a year.
- 1.2 It is a requirement of the company's articles that the Council appoints its Directors.

2. Detail

- 2.1 Forward Swindon Ltd. was incorporated on 17th March 2010 following approval by the Cabinet in December 2009. It is a company limited by shares with the Council as the only holder of the issued ordinary share.
- 2.2 The company is charged with developing the economy and culture of Swindon and for delivering regeneration. It has a small executive team of 12 and is overseen by a Board of Directors.
- 2.3 It is for the Council to appoint the directors of the company. The current directors are Mr. Gavin Jones, Chief Executive of the Council and Councillor Garry Perkins, Deputy Leader of the Council.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Angela Ashdown, Director of Corporate Services, Forward Swindon Ltd. on Direct Dial (01793) 429253 or Email AngelaAshdown@forwardswindon.co.uk

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2.4 The following five individuals, who are viewed as having the necessary experience and skills required by the company, have indicated their willingness to serve as non-executive directors of Forward Swindon:

- Robin Bailey – Divisional Director Savings & Investments, Nationwide
- James Lockhart – Partner, Whitmarsh Lockhart Chartered Surveyors and Valuers (Commercial Property and Development)
- Tina Cumpstey – Centre Manager, Mcarthurglen Swindon Designer Outlet Centre
- Tony Wilkes – Brunel Shopping Centre Manager, Jones Lang LaSalle Ltd
- Mark Beard – Managing Director, EW Beard Ltd (Construction Company).

Further details of their career histories are attached in Appendix 1.

2.5 The Special Committee is requested to consider the appointment of these individuals to the Board of Forward Swindon Ltd. for a term expiring on 18th May 2012, which is the date of the Annual Council meeting in 2012. It is envisaged that during that period, the structure and future membership of the Board will be reviewed.

Alternative Options

- The Council could determine to not appoint the individuals listed in the report. No other alternative options are suggested.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are no financial or procurement implications arising from these appointments.

Legal / Human Rights Implications

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

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies)

- None.

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Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Board Members - Details of Career histories¹.