

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 2012

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair), Peter Heaton-Jones (Vice-Chair), John Ballman, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Brian Ford, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Des Moffatt and Robert Wright

Councillors Roderick Bluh, Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet, David Renard, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, , Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, were in attendance.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Maureen Penny

6. Declarations of Interest

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

7. Public Question Time

No questions were asked under Standing Order 18.

8. Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a report introducing decisions arising from the Cabinet meeting held on 11 June 2012.

5. *Site at Gorse Hill, Swindon*

Resolved - That Minute 5 of the Cabinet be noted.

6. *Revenue Budget Out-turn report and wider financial position*

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, responded to a query by Councillor Bob Wright regarding the report author's reasons, and decision, not to produce a Diversity Impact Assessment for this report. Councillor Wright accepted the comments made but indicated that he would pursue his concern outside the meeting.

The Leader of the Council and Councillor David Renard, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to questions put by Councillor Des Moffatt regarding the budget strategy for the long-term delivery of adult care services and adult care facilities.

The Chair referred to the Plas Pencelli facility and the decision that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services be authorised to agree financial matters relating to the facility without apparent reference to the Management Board. The Cabinet Member accepted the Chair's comment and agreed that such decisions should be taken in consultation with the Management Board.

Resolved – That Minute 6 of the Cabinet be noted, subject to the requirement, agreed by the Cabinet Member at this meeting, that the Management Board of the Plas Pencelli facility be consulted prior to decisions being made by the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services regarding financial matters relating to the facility.

7. *Public Health Transition Plan for Swindon*

In response to comments by Councillor Peter Heaton Jones, the Leader of the Council agreed that, for clarity, the draft Cabinet Minute be amended to make reference to the specific public health responsibilities that would transfer to the Council (these as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the Cabinet report).

The Leader of the Council also responded to questions by Councillor Heaton Jones and the Chair regarding (i) the composition of the Public Health Transition Board and the role of the Health and Well-Being Board in relation to the transition, and (ii) the minimisation of financial risk to the Council as a result of the transition.

Resolved - That Minute 7 of the Cabinet be noted.

8. *Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations development Plan Document*

Resolved - That Minute 8 of the Cabinet be noted.

9. *References from other council bodies*

Resolved - That Minute 9 of the Cabinet be noted.

10. *Proposed redevelopment of Dorcan House/Eldene Shopping Centre*

The Leader of the Council responded to a question put by Councillor Bob Wright regarding the level of involvement of the Swindon Federation of Small Businesses in the development of this and similar proposals for new retail developments.

Resolved - That Minute 10 of the Cabinet be noted.

9. **Appointment of Scrutiny Localities Sub Group**

Further to Minute 5, the Committee considered a proposal that a Sub-Committee of the Scrutiny Committee be established to “fulfil all the functions of the Scrutiny Committee as they relate to the decision making process and the operation of the Localities within the Borough of Swindon”. The proposed terms of reference of the proposed Sub-Committee were tabled at the meeting.

Resolved – (1) That a “Localities Scrutiny Sub-Committee” comprised of 4 Scrutiny Committee members (2 x Conservative Councillors and 2 x Labour Councillors), and such other non-voting co-opted members as may be agreed by the Scrutiny Committee, be established and that the proposed terms of reference of the Sub-Committee, tabled at the meeting and attached at Appendix 1 to these minutes, be agreed.

(2) That Conservative Councillors Toby Elliott and Richard Hurley and Labour Councillors James Robbins and Bob Wright be appointed to the Sub-Committee.

(3) That a schedule of meetings for the new Sub-Committee be determined by the officers and circulated to all members for information.