

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 16 JULY 2012

PRESENT:- Councillors Kevin Small (Chair), Peter Heaton-Jones (Vice-Chair), John Ballman, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Brian Ford, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Maureen Penny and James Robbins

Councillors David Renard, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, Vera Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for a Safer and Stronger Borough, and were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Des Moffatt, David Wood and Robert Wright

10. Declarations of Interest

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

11. Public Question Time

No questions were asked under Standing Order 18.

12. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 6th and 14th June 2012 be confirmed and signed.

13. Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

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

16. *Adoption of the Corporate Strategy 2012*

Resolved - That Minute 16 of the Cabinet be noted.

17. *Budget Management 2012/13 and Budget Strategy 2013/14 and Beyond*

Resolved - That Minute 17 of the Cabinet be noted.

18. *Capital Programme 2011/12 Out-turn, Capital Programme 2012/13 and Treasury Management Performance 2011/12*

The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property responded to a question put by the Chair regarding the forecast group net re-phasing amounts identified in the report to Cabinet.

Resolved - That Minute 18 of the Cabinet be noted.

19. *Additional Primary School Places in Swindon Town Centre*

Councillor David Renard, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to questions put by the Chair regarding the options considered by Cabinet for the provision of an additional two forms of entry to increase primary school places in Swindon Town Centre, specifically the St. Joseph's Catholic College option and the placement of children not of the Roman Catholic faith, and the evidence from the consultation exercise that there was a demand for additional denominational school places.

Resolved - That Minute 19 of the Cabinet be noted.

20. *Additional Primary School Places in North Swindon*

Resolved - That Minute 20 of the Cabinet be noted.

21. *One Swindon - Annual Report - First Year*

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, responded to a question put by the Chair regarding the apparent omission of the Localities themselves from the process for the development of a set of objectives for the second year.

Resolved - That Minute 21 of the Cabinet be noted and that the Cabinet Member's agreement, at the meeting, to involve the Localities in the process be welcomed.

22. *A Community Infrastructure Levy for Swindon*

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, responded to a question put by Councillor Brian Ford regarding the process for the apportionment of the community infrastructure levy (CIL), particularly in respect of the rural areas of the borough. Councillor Heenan also commented in relation to issues raised by the Chair regarding the CIL as a means of authorities attracting new development and the possible implications of the recommended "zero" levy for any future "health" categorised development.

Resolved - That Minute 22 of the Cabinet be noted.

23. *Towards a University in Swindon*

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to questions put by Councillor Peter Heaton-Jones regarding the reasons for the UTC decision not to proceed in relation to its preferred site option and any implications for the funding bid.

Resolved - That Minute 23 of the Cabinet be noted.

24. *Swindon Local Transport Plan - Implementation Plan 2012/13 - 2014/15*

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, agreed to provide a written response to a question put by Councillor Brian Ford regarding the process for determining the 10% of highways and transport projects that would be the subject of competitive tender. Councillor Williams also accepted observations made by the Chair regarding the extent and nature of the consultation undertaken in respect of the “Western Flyer” cycleway.

Resolved - That Minute 24 of the Cabinet be noted.

25. *Debt Management*

Resolved - That Minute 25 of the Cabinet be noted.

26. *Review of Education Transport Appeals Procedure*

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, responded to questions put by Councillor Peter Heaton-Jones regarding the results of the consultation undertaken in support of the review and Cabinet’s decision to restrict parents’ opportunity to address the appeals panel on their particular case. Councillor Renard also responded to comments by the Chair and Councillor John Ballman regarding cost savings as a factor in the Cabinet decision to limit parental access to the Appeals Panel.

A motion put by Councillor John Ballman to refer the decision back to Cabinet on the grounds that the right of parents to make representations to the Appeals Panel had not been fully considered was voted upon and declared lost.

Resolved - That Minute 26 of the Cabinet be noted.

27. *Train Services for the Future - Update on Great Western Main Line Rail Issues*

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, responded to questions put by Councillor Toby Elliott regarding the Great Western consultation and whether any work was being done regarding new stations and local rail links within the borough and also whether any submission had been made in relation to the higher level operating strategy document and/or possible “light rail” options.

Resolved - That Minute 27 of the Cabinet be noted

28. *Strategic Acquisition of Buildings and Land at Regent Street and Morley Street, Swindon Town Centre*

Councillor Garry Perkins, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, responded to questions put by the Chair regarding the likelihood of Compulsory Purchase Orders being necessarily used in future to secure the future strategic development of the area and also the intention that, in the short term, the existing uses of the buildings would continue after purchase.

Resolved - That Minute 28 of the Cabinet be noted

It was agreed that information requested by individual members during the course of the Committee's consideration of this item should be forwarded to the Committee Clerk for distribution to Scrutiny Committee members.