

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2012

PRESENT:- Councillors Roderick Bluh (Chair), David Renard (Vice-Chair), Fionuala Foley, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Brian Mattock, Garry Perkins, Vera Tomlinson and Keith Williams.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mark Edwards.

Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of minutes 34 and 37.
Councillor Steve Wakefield attended the meeting in respect of minutes 33, 34, 36, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43.

29. Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda item 6 (Introduction of Deregulatory Planning Measures to Promote Business Growth) as she was associated with a family business that owned property at a site identified in the report.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport and Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, made personal declarations of interest in respect of Agenda item 13 (Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme) as they were Council appointed non-executive Directors of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.

30. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

31. Public Question Time

The following questions were asked in accordance with Standing Order 28 –

Questioner

Mr Brian Cockbill, Stratton St Margaret.

Question

1. How much money is owed to the Council by:-

(a) Forefront Estates Ltd or/and the Director(s) in respect of Council Tax and all work carried out on the Mechanics' Institute, and

(b) Digital City (UK) Ltd or/and the Council's partner(s) and/or all Directors associated with the Wi-Fi enterprise?

(c) How much money in each of (a) and (b) above been written off as bad debt(s) as

not being recoverable or for any other reason?

(d) What steps have the Council made to date to recover the amounts at

(a) and (b) above? And

(e) Is there any risk that payment for any of these amounts will not be achieved because of the Limitation Act or any other legislation or legal loophole?

2. As Council Leader do you accept that you have a duty to see that all Officers and Cabinet members fulfil -

(a) every decision made by Council and

(b) any undertaking made by them to members of the public?

If, and when, such a failure(s) occur what sanctions are you or the Council prepared to use including instituting Disciplinary action or reducing Responsibility Allowances?

3. Is there any truth in the rumour that the Thamesdown Transport Service No. 20 is to be stopped? This bus serves the Great Western Hospital for residents of Central, Gorse Hill and Pinehurst, Penhill and Upper Stratton, St Margaret and South Marston, Covingham and Dorcan and Liden, Eldene and Park South Wards. Are Members representing these areas to be ignored by the Council-owned transport undertaking and Council Transport Officers until the last possible moment, as happened last year?

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Cockbill for his questions and comments and advised that a response had been prepared to his first two questions and circulated. The Chair and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport responded at the meeting to Mr Cockbill's third question.

Mr Cockbill asked a supplementary question concerning accumulated interest owed by Forefront Estates Ltd. to the Council and the responsibility for and ownership of the fencing, erected by the former Thamesdown Borough Council, that surrounded the Mechanics' Institute?

The Chair responded at the meeting to Mr Cockbill's supplementary question and advised that if Mr Cockbill could provide more detail of his questions in writing he would arrange for a written response to be provided.

Mr Cockbill asked a further supplementary question regarding the costs of preparing the Digital City (UK) Ltd. accounts?

The Chair and the Board Director, Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property responded at the meeting to the supplementary question.

Mr Cockbill asked a supplementary question seeking clarity of the response provided to his second question. The Chair responded at the meeting and advised that he would be happy to meet with Mr Cockbill to address any specific concerns /cases that Mr Cockbill wished to discuss.

Questioner

Mrs. Kareen Boyd, Hesketh Crescent, Swindon (on behalf of Mr Colin Doubleday).

Question

Mrs. Boyd, on behalf of Mr Doubleday, asked a series of questions regarding-

- (a) The establishment, choice of location, and the costs and process associated with the moving of an Electricity Substation built adjacent to the new Croft School?
- (b) The costs associated with refurbishing and moving the building used as the temporary East Wichel School, and where the building was currently located?

Response

The Chair thanked Mrs Boyd for her questions on behalf of Mr Doubleday. The Chair and Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded at the meeting. The Chair advised that he would provide a fuller written response if Mrs Boyd could clarify the details of her questions in writing.

Questioner

Mrs. Kareen Boyd, Hesketh Crescent, Swindon.

Question

Mrs. Boyd asked a series of questions regarding -

- (a) The Capital Programme Monitoring report (Agenda Item 10) and an explanation of the reasons for the variance between the agreed budget for the new Croft School and the current total scheme projected cost?
- (b) Clarification on the detailed costs of the groundworks associated with the Croft School and the other construction costs.
- (c) Clarity on whether Classroom Solutions would be involved in works associated with the proposed expansion of Even Swindon, Haydonleigh and St Francis Primary Schools, and an explanation of the costs associated with these projects when compared with the Croft School.

Response

The Chair thanked Mrs Boyd for her questions. The Chair, Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Board Director, Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property responded at the meeting. The Chair advised that he would provide a fuller written response if Mrs Boyd could clarify the details of her questions in writing.

Questioner

Mrs. Carole Bent, Marlborough Lane, Swindon.

Question

Mrs. Bent asked a series of questions regarding -

- (a) The environmental and health implications for local residents of an Electricity Substation built adjacent to the new Croft School?
- (b) The condition of hoardings surrounding the Croft School Site and whether their appearance would be improved in the near future?
- (c) The appointment and selection process for the Independent Person to support the work of the Council's Standards Committee?
- (d) The proposed response by the Council to an incident that had recently occurred on the Croft School site involving a Council employee?

Response

The Chair thanked Mrs Bent for her questions. The Chair and the Chief Executive responded at the meeting.

32. Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Letter 2011/12 (Minute for Confirmation)

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report setting out the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Letter and Summary of Statistics for Swindon for 2011/12.

The Chair welcomed the contents of the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review and noted that there had been no cases of maladministration involving the Council in 2011/12. He highlighted that there had again been a reduction in the total number of complaints investigated and in the Council's response times to Ombudsman enquiries.

Resolved – That the Council be recommended to –

(a) Welcome and note the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Review for Swindon for the year ending 31st March 2012, that stated that the Local Government Ombudsman had no concern regarding the Council's response times and that there were no issues arising from the complaints investigated that she wished to bring to the attention of the Council;

(b) Note that

- the Annual Statistics indicate that the total number of enquiries and complaints received by the Local Government Ombudsman reduced slightly in the year ending 31st March 2012;
- the average time taken by the Council to respond to the Local Government Ombudsman's initial inquiry has also reduced for the year ended 31st March 2012;

(c) Request that the Board Director, Transformation and Strategic Projects and all relevant Heads of Service take further steps to continue the trend identified in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 of the joint report;

(d) Request that the Induction process for staff (both SBC and partners) should include information on the role of the Local Government Ombudsman and emphasise the importance for all staff to adhere to set procedures.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

33. Introduction of Deregulatory Planning Measures to Promote Business Growth

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and the Head of Planning submitted a joint report concerning a proposal to assist local businesses to "cut through" the national red tape and bureaucracy of the Planning system through the innovative use of Local Development Orders.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, referred to the frustration caused to many local businesses by the complexity of the current Planning process, and to how the use of Local Development Orders could assist in "freeing up" the system. He explained the

background to Local Development Orders and how they worked in practice. Whilst decisions on Local Development Orders would rest with the Planning Committee, the identification of potential strategic locations in support of the Council's emerging Economic Strategy was an area for the Cabinet's involvement, particularly in view of the link to the potential establishment of local Swindon Enterprise Zones. He referred to the different ways in which the Council was seeking to work with local businesses to develop and build the local economy.

Councillor Steve Wakefield referred to the proposals and hoped that steps could be taken to ensure that any relaxation in the Planning process did not result in uses that would be detrimental to the environment and / or have a negative impact for local communities.

Councillor Heenan thanked Cabinet colleagues and Councillor Wakefield for his comments and explained how the process would work and the Planning controls that would continue to protect local residents from inappropriate uses.

Resolved – (1) That the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Head of Planning, be authorised to assess the scope to introduce a series of Local Development Orders at key locations, employment sites and business parks in the Borough.

(2) That it be noted that the introduction of Local Development Orders is the first task after an Enterprise Zone is designated and that by implementing Local Development Orders, Swindon will have a head start over rival authorities in bidding for future Enterprise Zone status.

(3) That the Head of Planning, Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment and Board Director of Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property, in the context of the Draft Economic Strategy, be requested to report back to the Cabinet within six months on the benefits of establishing a Swindon Borough Council version of Enterprise Zones in the Borough, the use of Neighbourhood Development Orders, and the potential use and impact of localisation of business rates from April 2013 to promote Business growth and job creation.

(4) That the joint report of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and the Head of Planning be referred to the Planning Committee so that its content can be considered and noted.

(Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, made a personal declaration of interest in respect of the above item as she was associated with a family business that owned property at a site identified in the report.)

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

34. Neighbourhood Planning Protocol

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and the Head of Planning submitted a joint report concerning a proposed Neighbourhood Planning Protocol to assist parish and town councils and "neighbourhood forums" to prepare Neighbourhood Plans, and setting out the level of support that the Council will be able to offer to them.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, advised that the Localism Act 2011 introduced new neighbourhood planning provisions that came into force in April 2012. He commented on Neighbourhood Plans and who could prepare them, and on how they fitted into the wider Planning process. The Act and its associated Regulations placed various duties and responsibilities on the Council in relation to neighbourhood planning, and a Neighbourhood Planning Protocol had been developed. This aimed to assist parish and town councils and “neighbourhood forums” to prepare Neighbourhood Plans and also described the support available to them from the Borough Council.

Councillor Steve Wakefield commented on the proposed Protocol and enquired whether it would be possible to provide greater clarification within the document on the resources that would be available from the Council.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, welcomed the involvement of local communities in planning their neighbourhoods. He emphasised the need to engage with communities to encourage their involvement in the process.

Councillor Heenan thanked Councillors for their contributions. The resources available from the Council would to a great extent be dependent on the capacity of the Planning Team involved and this would depend on the number and complexity of plans that were forthcoming. This was difficult to predict in advance. He referred to the role that the localities could play in communicating the process.

Resolved – (1) That the draft Neighbourhood Planning Protocol attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report be approved for consultation in accordance with the arrangements detailed in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report.

(2) That the Head of Planning and the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to make minor changes to the content of the Neighbourhood Planning Protocol, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, as appropriate prior to publication for consultation.

(3) That the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to deal with matters relating to applications for designation of Neighbourhood Areas and Neighbourhood Forums, including determination and publication of the applications.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

35. Adoption of the Corporate Strategy 2012/13

The Leader of the Council, the Board Director, Transformation and Strategic Projects and the Head of Strategy and Innovation submitted a joint report concerning the progress made since the last meeting in the preparation of the Council's Corporate Strategy.

The Leader of the Council commented on the progress made and the importance of the emerging strategy to the Council, and clarified that the report related to the Municipal Year 2012/13. He stressed the significance of the contribution of Members and officers to the planning process and that it was important that sufficient time was made available to enable this to happen.

Resolved – (1) That the Head of Strategy and Innovation be authorised to

work with Members and officers to continue to develop the measures of success and the more detailed plans to deliver the strategies as the basis for Part Two of the Corporate Strategy for consideration by the Cabinet on 17th October 2012.

(2) That it be noted that the Council's complete Corporate Strategy will be presented to full Council for adoption on 8th November 2012.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

36. Military Covenant - Motion at Council (Minute for Confirmation)

The Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council submitted a joint report responding to a Motion arising from the Council meeting on 29th March 2012 that called on the adoption by the Council of a Military Covenant.

The Chair advised that a Military Covenant, or an Armed Forces Community Covenant, as it was more formally known, was a statement of mutual support between a civilian community and the serving members, veterans and families of the armed forces community. The joint report explained how the Council was able to work with its partners to support the principles of the Covenant and to support serving and former members of the military and their families. It also set out the proposed arrangements for the formal signing of the covenant. He hoped that all Councillors, the Council's partners and the local community would all support this covenant and its aims.

Councillor Steve Wakefield welcomed the proposal. He advised that the Council had long sought to support the Armed Forces and provided the example of a Council motion that he had proposed in January 2007 in support of access to Housing and that the Council had approved (Minute 103 2006/07).

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, advised that he and his political group fully supported the entering into of the proposed covenant.

Resolved –That the Council be recommended that –

- (a) Swindon Borough Council enters into an Armed Forces Community Covenant by way of the signing of a covenant agreement at the Royal Yeomanry Freedom event to be held on Sunday 21st October 2012 at the Civic Offices, Swindon.
- (b) The Council's participation in the Armed Forces Community Covenant reflects the commitments set out in paragraph 3.6 of the joint report.
- (c) The Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Board Directors and other partner organisations be authorised to prepare and finalise the detail of the Armed Forces Community Covenant to be signed on 21st October 2012.
- (d) The Mayor, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition and Minority Group be authorised to sign the Covenant on behalf of the Council.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

37. Budget Management 2012/13

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Finance,

Revenues, Benefits and Property submitted a joint report setting out the current forecast outturn position of the Council's Revenue Budget as at the end of June 2012.

The Board Director, Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property, in the absence of Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, explained the contents of the report and highlighted the projected position for the outturn of the Council's Budget, at year end. He referred to the actions being taken to manage spending within Adult Social Care and Children's services and the demand pressures that these services continued to face. He commented on the Adult Social Care Demand Enquiry and to what it was hoped this would achieve. He referred to a bid made to the European Regional Development Fund to access funds to promote economic growth and explained the match funding required from the Council should the bid succeed.

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, expressed his appreciation for the work being undertaken by all the officers involved in managing the Adult Social Care Budget and in the Adult Social Care Demand Enquiry. Unlike many local authorities across the country, Swindon was controlling its budget and it was hoped that through initiatives such as the Adult Social Care Demand Enquiry this would continue.

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Board Director, Commissioning explained the reasons for the overspend in the Children's Services budget and the steps that were being taken to minimise this. However, as a result of the impact of legislative changes on responsibilities around Looked After Children they believed it likely that pressures in this area would continue.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, referred to the contents of the report and supported the need for all parties to work together, particularly in respect of Adult Social Care, to protect services to vulnerable people.

Resolved – (1) That the projected out-turn position of the Council's Revenue Budget for 2012/13, as set out in Table 1 and Appendices 1 and 2 of the joint report, be noted.

(2) That it be noted that the Adult Social Care service is currently operating within budget.

(3) That the work that officers are undertaking to manage demand pressures within the Adult Social Care service be endorsed, and that a further update be provided to the Cabinet in Autumn 2012.

(4) That, should the Council be successful in its bid to the European Regional Development Fund to secure a share of £5m of available resources for the South West of England to fund work associated with promoting economic growth within the region, the Council will put forward up to £400,000 of match funding, to be met from existing one-off reserves or the Corporate Contingency Fund, over a 24 month period from January 2013 to December 2015.

(5) That the Revenue Budget virements, as set out in Appendix 3 to the joint report, be approved.

(6) That the Cabinet express its appreciation to all those in the Council's officer team involved in managing the Adult Social Care Budget and in the Adult Social Care Demand Enquiry for their valuable work.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

38. Capital Programme Monitoring - 1st Quarter 2012/13

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property submitted a joint report concerning the projected outturn position of the Council's Capital Budget for 2012/13 as at the end of June 2012.

The Board Director, Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property, in the absence of Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, explained the projected outturn position of the Council's Capital Budget for 2012/13, and referred to proposed changes to the current Capital Programme and to the reasons these were necessary.

Resolved – (1) That the projected Capital Out-turn position of the Capital Programme for 2012/13, as set out in the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the changes to Capital Programme schemes, as set out in paragraphs 4.2 to 4.8 of the joint report, be approved.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

39. Capital Building Projects - Partnership Framework Agreements

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning a proposal to review the previous decision to create a "Swindon Partnership Framework Agreement" for tendering non-housing related building construction and refurbishment projects (Minute 53, 2011/12 refers) and to continue tendering for the delivery of non-housing related building construction and refurbishment projects on the basis of existing agreed criteria.

Councillor Gary Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, explained current economic conditions, their effect on the supply market and the potential for this to impact on the viability and stability of any partnership framework. Therefore, it was not felt appropriate to move forward to introduce a Framework Agreement at this time. He advised that the Council since the last report to Cabinet had tendered a significant number of projects applying a combination of agreed criteria and this has proved very successful in stimulating the supply base and improving value for money. It was proposed that this approach should continue to be taken until market conditions changed.

Councillor Steve Wakefield commented on the report and expressed his hope that there would be assurances that value for money was being achieved by the Council.

Councillor Perkins thanked Councillor Wakefield for his comments and explained how through the ability to benchmark locally assurances could be provided that best value was being achieved.

Resolved – (1) That the key findings resulting from research and analysis undertaken over the previous 6 months into the implications of the creation of a

“Swindon Partnership Framework Agreement” for tendering non-housing related building construction and refurbishment projects, be noted.

(2) That the Head of Commercial Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Director of Law and Democratic Services, and the Head of Design and Architecture, be authorised to continue tendering for the delivery of non-housing related building construction and refurbishment projects on the basis as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the joint report.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

40. Recycling Improvements

The Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services and the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart submitted a joint report concerning the proposed implementation of an action plan setting out potential improvements to the Council's waste and recycling service to improve the current recycling rate of 50%.

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, explained that the joint report and action plan responded to a Motion arising from the Council meeting on 22nd November 2011. She highlighted the success of the Council's Recycling Service to date and referred in detail to the various elements of the Action Plan, to the associated schemes and initiatives, and to what it sought to achieve.

Councillor Steve Wakefield referred to the content of the report and the proposed Action Plan. He noted the proposals for the replacement of recycling boxes and commented on how Councillors through localities and ward surgeries could become more involved in the initiative and in the promotion of recycling generally. He referred to the significant amount of waste generated by business that was not recycled. He believed that the Government should do more to encourage the recycling of commercial waste and the limiting of unnecessary packaging. He wondered if it would be possible to include more information with the annual Council Tax Bill on the amount that Council Tax payers saved on their bills by recycling and avoiding sending waste to landfill.

Councillor Foley thanked Councillor Wakefield for his comments and advised that she and the officers would look into these matters. She commented on the importance of communication to increasing the level of recycling. She fully supported the view that more should be done nationally to cut down on unnecessary packaging.

Resolved – (1) That the Council's ambitions to go beyond its 50% recycling and composting rate and reach 60% be noted.

(2) That in order to move towards the position of a 60% recycling and composting rate, the action plan outlined in Appendix 1 to the joint report be approved, and the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart be authorised to implement those actions in the timescales identified in the Action Plan.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

41.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport and the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment submitted a joint report concerning the detailed scheme proposals associated with the Local Sustainable Transport Fund for 2012/13, and seeking approval for the Programme Budget apportionment for 2012/13 and a protocol for agreeing and progressing individual schemes.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, referred to Swindon's successful bid to the Department for Transport that had enabled access to £4.47m of funding over the period 2011-2015, to support the Swindon Workplace Initiative for Transport project. This project, linked to the Council's Local Transport Plan 2011/26, supported the regeneration of Swindon Town Centre and would implement a package of measures targeted on changing the travel behaviours of car commuting employees. He commented on the success of the project to date and highlighted initiatives contained within the Year Two Implementation Plan. He advised that there had been a typographical error in the Appendix to the report and that the figure "(£000)" should not have been used in the heading for tables 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 16.

Councillor Steve Wakefield commented on the investment in cycleways in the programme. He hoped that existing routes could also receive investment to bring them to the high standard of some of the newer routes. He also hoped that there would be investment in the routes surrounding the new Oasis leisure facility. He believed the higher the standard of the route the more people would be encouraged to cycle.

Resolved – (1) That the Local Sustainable Transport Fund Programme Budget categories and allocations for 2012/13, as detailed in the Implementation Plan attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report, be approved for inclusion in the Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme.

(2) That, where delivery risks arise that will put in jeopardy the Council's ability to benefit in full from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund annual grant allocation, the Head of Highways and Transport Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport and Board Directors, be authorised, within the parameters of the implementation plan and Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid document, to prioritise schemes and add or substitute schemes relevant to the Package Elements.

(Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport and Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, made personal declarations of interest in respect of the above item as they were Council appointed non-executive Directors of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.)

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

42.

Proposals for the Permanent Expansion of Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, the Board Director, Commissioning and the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment

submitted a joint report concerning the outcome of the consultations on proposals to permanently expand Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools from September 2013.

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, referred to the proposals to seek the permanent expansion of Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools as a result on the current and predicted pressure for school places in those areas. He commented on the consultation that had been carried out and on the response received to the consultation exercises. He believed that taking into account the outcome of the consultation and the officers' responses to the issues raised the proposed expansion of the schools should move forward to the next stage of the decision-making process.

The Chair advised that he had received comments on the proposal for Even Swindon Primary School from Councillor Kevin Small who was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Small was supportive of the expansion of the School but had concerns regarding a number of highways and similar issues associated with a larger school. The Chair noted that such issues would be addressed as part of the Planning process and should not be affected by a move forward to the next stage of the decision-making process.

Councillor Steve Wakefield referred to the proposals for Even Swindon Primary School. He welcomed any provision that enabled children to attend their local school. However, he shared Councillor Small's concerns regarding a number of highways and parking issues that he hoped would be addressed if the scheme progressed. He was supportive of moving forward to the next stage of the process.

Resolved – (1) That the outcome of the consultations on the proposed permanent expansions of Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools to 3 forms of entry from September 2013, be noted.

(2) That the Board Director, Commissioning be authorised to conduct statutory consultation on the proposed permanent expansions of Haydonleigh and Even Swindon Primary Schools to 3 forms of entry from September 2013.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

43. Street Lighting and Traffic Signals Review (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport and the Head of Highways and Transport submitted a joint report that responded to Council motions regarding street lighting and traffic signalled junctions (Minute 113 of the Council 2011/12, Minute 96 of the Council 2011/12 and Minute 73 of the Council 2010/11) and provided an update on the progress of outcomes of the Traffic Signal Review approved by the Cabinet in April 2011 (Minute 109 2010/11 refers).

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, referred to the background to the joint report and highlighted the outcomes of the trials conducted to date. He commented on how proposals for schemes identified from the outcomes of the Swindon Traffic Signal Review would be progressed.

Councillor Steve Wakefield commented that there had been a mixed reaction from local residents to the changes made to the Mannington Roundabout, but there was overall support for the new arrangements. He was supportive of completing the trial and analysing the results. He wondered if the review could be extended to include neighbouring roundabouts such as that at Meads.

Resolved – (1) That it be reaffirmed that there are no plans to conduct street light switch-off trials in the future.

(2) That, in recognition of the benefits of the reduced off-peak delays to traffic and public support for the scheme, the part-time operation of the traffic signals at Mannington, Swindon, continues but it remain on a trial basis until a full 12 month review of driver behaviour is available for analysis in March 2013.

(3) That it be noted that the Traffic Signal Review Stage 1 of all roundabouts, junctions and pedestrian crossings controlled by traffic signals in Swindon is now complete and that future decisions on individual signal installations arising from the Review will be undertaken through the agreed Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Implementation Plan process.

(4) That, subject to approval by the Department for Transport, the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to undertake a trial of Pedestrian Countdown Timers in Swindon.

(5) That it be noted that work on Bruce Street Bridges and the Meads Roundabouts, Swindon, to improve junction efficiency and reduce delays has been prioritised within the Local Transport Plan (LTP3).

(6) That the Council be advised of the recommendations set out above in response to the Council Motion of the 23rd February 2012.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

44. Stronger Together - Accommodation

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Finance, Revenues Benefits and Property submitted a joint report concerning proposed changes in Council office accommodation, involving the vacation of Sanford House and the optimisation of space in Wat Tyler House and across the Civic Campus.

The Board Director, Finance, Revenues Benefits and Property, on behalf of Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, highlighted the proposals contained in the joint report and explained that they aimed to strengthen and improve collaborative working and increase the efficient use of office space making accommodation “fit for purpose” for the new Stronger Together staffing structure.

Resolved – That the Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property be authorised to:-

- undertake works in Wat Tyler House to enable staff to be located to reflect the Council's new organisational structure,
- provide a central area for Board Directors within Wat Tyler West,
- relocate all Capita staff from Wat Tyler House-West 1st floor to Clarence House 1st floor after refurbishment work has been carried out,
- relocate all staff from Sanford House into Wat Tyler House-West,
- demolish Hut 7, Hut 8 and the old part of the Civic Annex on the Civic Campus,
- relocate the staff refreshment facility, prayer room and Unison office, currently located in Hut 8, into the newer part of the Civic Annex, along

with the print room currently located in the older part of the Civic Annex.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.