

## **COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, 17 JANUARY 2013**

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Rex Barnett, Mike Bawden, Andrew Bennett, Alan Bishop, Roderick Bluh, Wayne Crabbe, Mark Dempsey, Michael Dickinson, Mark Edwards, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Emma Famarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Peter Heaton-Jones, Neil Heavens, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Nick Martin, Cindy Matthews, Brian Mattock, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Garry Perkins, Julian Price, David Renard, Ann Richards, James Robbins, Rochelle Russell, Nicky Sewell, Kevin Small, Vera Tomlinson, Joe Tray, Steve Wakefield, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams, Robert Wright and Julie Wright.

### **86. Minutes Silence**

The Mayor reported that the recent death of Mr. Denys Hodson CBE, former Director of Arts and Recreation for the Council. The Council held a Minutes Silence in respect of Mr. Denys Hodson CBE.

### **87. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Baker, Maureen Penny and David Wood.

### **88. Section 100(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972**

In accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor determined that an additional item concerning “a Motion on the recent redundancies at Honda” be considered as a matter of urgency in order to allow Council to consider this matter which had been announced following the dispatch of the Notice of Meeting. (Minute 94 refers.)

### **89. Communications**

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

### **90. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012, be confirmed and signed.

### **91. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Michael Dickinson made a personal and prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of Agenda item 6(1) (Cabinet Minute 71(3)) as he was an employee of New College.

Councillors Derique Montaut and Teresa Page made personal declarations of interest in respect of the urgent Item (Motion – Honda) as they had family members who worked for the company.

**92.**

### **Public Question Time**

Mr. Brian Cockbill submitted written questions regarding (a) Bus Routes, (b) Ward Councillor notification prior to changes, (c) the former No. 23 Bus Service, (d) complaints received regarding changes to bus services, (e) compensation to bus companies for over 60's National Bus Pass journeys, (f) cuts to services to the Great Western Hospital, (g) outstanding responses to questions asked at Scrutiny Committee, (h) current Council consultation exercises, (i) Community Governance reviews, and (j) Standards training for the Deputy Mayor. Written responses were tabled.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplemental question regarding the Council seeking a suspension of alterations to bus services to allow further consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport responded at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Cockbill asked a supplemental question regarding Community Governance returns.

The Leader of the Council requested that Mr. Cockbill liaise with the Director of Law and Democratic Services regarding this matter.

Mr. Des Morgan submitted written questions in respect of Digital City UK Limited.

The Leader of the Council indicated that in light of Mr. Morgan not being in attendance to ask his questions a copy of the written response tabled at the meeting would be sent to him.

Mr. James Boyd asked a public question regarding usage figures for Moulton Hill Country Park that had been quoted by the Deputy Leader of the Council.

The Deputy Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. James Boyd asked a public question regarding whether the proposed site for a school at Moulton Hill was suitable because of potential flood issues.

The Deputy Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. James Boyd asked a supplemental question seeking clarification on whether costings had been undertaken for the works required to put a school at the proposed Moulton Hill site.

The Deputy Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. James Boyd asked if work on costings for the proposed site had not been undertaken, and if not, how the Cabinet report could say it was a viable option?

The Deputy Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr. Richard Symonds asked a public question regarding the contractual relationship between Enterprise Works and SEQAL.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care indicated that a written response would be sent to Mr. Symonds and would be copied to all Councillors.

Mr. Richard Symonds asked a public question regarding how Enterprise Works could be better publicised and developed.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care responded at the meeting.

Mr. Tim French asked a public question regarding the future of the Clapham Hobbs Care Centre site when it became empty.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care responded at the meeting.

Mr. Tim French asked a public question regarding disabled car parking provision.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport responded at the meeting.

### **93. Minutes for Confirmation**

(1) Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor Jim Grant seconded:

“That Minute 55(4) of the Cabinet (Review of Town Twinning) be confirmed and adopted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(2) Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor Jim Grant seconded:

“That Minute 71(3) of the Cabinet (Economic Strategy for Swindon Consultation and Adoption) be confirmed and adopted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(Councillor Michael Dickinson made a personal and prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of this as he was an employee of New College and left the room during the discussion.)

(3) Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

“That Minute 79(1) of the Cabinet (Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors’ Allowances – Recommendations 2012/13) be confirmed and adopted.”

Councillor Mark Dempsey moved and Councillor Bob Wright seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“That subject to the removal of the Vice-Chair Allowance for the Joint Police and Crime Panel, Minute 79(1) of the Cabinet (Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors’ Allowances – Recommendations 2012/13) be confirmed and adopted.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared lost.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(4) Councillor Dale Heenan moved and Councillor Roderick Bluh seconded:

“That Minute 82(1) of the Cabinet (Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Sites Allocation Plan – Inspectors Report and Adoption) be confirmed and adopted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(5) Councillor Mark Edwards moved and Councillor Roderick Bluh seconded:

“That Minutes 52(9) and (10) of the Cabinet (Financial Update 2012-13 and 2013-14) be noted.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(6) Councillor Russell Holland moved and Councillor Roderick Bluh seconded:

“That Minute 80 (6) of the Cabinet (Houses in Multiple Occupation) be noted.”

#### **94. Motion - Honda**

Councillor Rod Bluh moved and Councillor Jim Grant seconded and Councillor Stan Pajak concurred:

“That this Council notes with regret the announcement that Honda, a key local employer, will be making 800 posts redundant as a result of the company’s current trading position in the European market.

The Council requests:

The Leader of the Council to continue to work with Swindon’s Members of Parliament to do all they can to attract Government support for the workers and their families who will be affected by these job losses; and

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture to bring a report to Cabinet no later than 20th March 2013, with a report to Council no later than 11th April 2013 setting out what the Local Enterprise Partnership and One Swindon partners can do most effectively to help those employees in finding new employment or re-training.”

The Motion was put to the vote and unanimously carried.

(Councillor Derique Montaut made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as a member of his family worked for Honda.)

(Councillor Teresa Page made a personal declaration of interest in respect of this item as a member of her family worked for Honda.)

**95. Motion - Swindon Dial A Ride**

Councillor Nadine Watts moved and Councillor Steve Wakefield seconded:

“This Council notes the Administration’s proposal to cut £70K from Swindon’s Dial a Ride service and to tender the service out to the private market.

With further cuts also being proposed to Swindon’s Bus Services subsidised by the Council’s Revenue Budget, this Council believes it is likely that demand from Swindon’s elderly and disabled for Dial a Ride services in the Borough will likely increase. This Council is concerned that if it doesn’t meet that need then more elderly and disabled people in the Borough will feel isolated from society.

The Labour Group does not believe £70K should be cut from Swindon’s Dial a Ride service and also doesn’t believe another transport provider could provide as quality a transport service to Swindon’s disabled and elderly as Swindon Dial a Ride.

Cabinet is requested to have regard to these concerns in its final budget proposals to be determined by Council on 21st February 2013.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

**96. Motion - North Swindon Schools**

Councillor Mark Dempsey moved and Councillor Rochelle Russell seconded:

“This Council supports the principle of building a new primary school in North Swindon to meet the increasing demand for school places and to ensure that every child in Swindon is provided with a school place in their local area.

In order to meet the demand for primary school places in North Swindon, this Council notes Cabinet’s preference to build a primary school on the Mouldon Hill Country Park.

Cabinet is requested to ask for a report explaining:

(i) All possible options for providing the required new school places. These options include building a new primary school at the following sites:

- Redhouse Village Centre
- An additional school on Tadpole Farm
- The Groundwell Park & Ride Site
- The Clary Road Site;

(ii) The option of expanding existing schools in North Swindon, including PFI schools, in order to provide more school places.

This Council calls on Cabinet to make a decision regarding which site it will use to provide more primary school places in North Swindon as urgently as possible in order to ensure new school places are in place by September 2014.”

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Toby Elliott seconded that the Motion be amended to read:

“This Council supports the principle of building a new primary school in the Borough to meet the increasing demand for primary school places as needed and notes that currently 98% of families applying for primary school places secure one of their top 3 preferences.

In order to meet the demand for primary school places in North Swindon, this Council notes Cabinet is consulting on 2 options to provide more places in September 2014. Cabinet will receive feedback from the consultation in March.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared carried becoming the Substantive motion.

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

#### **97. Motion - Chief Officer Terms and Conditions**

Councillor Julian Price moved and Councillor Des Moffatt seconded:

“This Council endorses the Special Committee’s decision to review existing and future Chief Officers’ terms and conditions.

This Council recognises the hard work and dedication senior officers provide to make Swindon Council as effective an organisation as it can possibly be. Notwithstanding that salaries should reflect the responsibilities and skill sets of officers employed; this Council does not believe that senior officers should receive more favourable terms and conditions than lower-level Council staff in respect of redundancy payments (based upon a pro-rata formula of salary), bonuses, daily expenses or officer mileage allowance.”

Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor Fionuala Foley seconded:

“This Council recognises the hard work and dedication senior officers provide to make Swindon Council as effective an organisation as it can possibly be, and considers that their terms and conditions should reflect those officers’ accountabilities, responsibilities and skill sets. This Council endorses the Special Committee’s decision to review existing and future Chief Officers’ terms and conditions.”

The amendment was put to the vote and declared carried becoming the Substantive Motion.

With the agreement of the Council the Substantive Motion was amended to read:

“This Council recognises the hard work and dedication all levels of officers provide to make Swindon Council as effective an organisation as it can possibly be, and

considers that their terms and conditions should reflect those officers' accountabilities, responsibilities and skill sets. This Council endorses the Special Committee's decision to review existing and future Chief Officers' terms and conditions."

The Substantive Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

**98. Motion - Statements on the Council's Financial Position 2002-2004**

Councillor Dale Heenan moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

"This Council notes that in March 2002 its external debt was £34.6m, and in 2003 this increased to £46.4m, therefore any statement by a political party that Swindon Borough Council was debt free and "in surplus" in either of these years are incorrect.

This Council requests the Director of Law and Democratic Services writes to each Councillor to ask if he or she has made any statement in the last three months that Swindon Borough Council was "debt free and in surplus" in 2002, 2003 or 2004 and to report back to the Council on any responses on 21st February 2013."

With the agreement of the Council the mover and seconder amended the Motion to read:

"This Council notes that in March 2002 its external debt was £34.6m, and in 2003 this increased to £46.4m, therefore any statement by a political party that Swindon Borough Council was debt free and "in budget surplus" in either of these years are incorrect.

This Council requests the Director of Law and Democratic Services writes to each Councillor to ask if he or she has made any statement in the last three months that Swindon Borough Council was "debt free and in budget surplus" in 2002, 2003 or 2004 and to report back to the Council on any responses on 21st February 2013."

The meeting was adjourned for five minutes to allow the removal of a member of public from the Public Gallery.

Following a debate and with the agreement of the Council the Motion was withdrawn.

**99. Appointment of Directors to Forward Swindon Ltd**

Councillor Roderick Bluh moved and Councillor David Renard seconded:

"(1) That Ms Jeanette Harris be appointed, with immediate effect, to serve on the Board of Forward Swindon Ltd and that her term of office run until 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

(2) That Mr. Robin Bailey, Ms Tina Cumpstey, Mr. Mark Beard and Mr. James Lockhart be re-appointed, with immediate effect, to serve on the Board of Forward Swindon Ltd and that their term of office run until 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

**100. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members**

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 31<sup>st</sup> October and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, and (b) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received.

**101. Minutes of other Council Bodies**

The Council (a) received the Minutes set out in the “Minutes of Other Council Bodies” circulated with the Agenda, and (b) considered questions to Chairs regarding the work of their Committees and other bodies and answers received.

**102. Councillors Question Time**

There were no Standing Order 15 Questions for consideration.