

## **CABINET**

**WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2013**

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Vera Tomlinson.

Councillor Mark Dempsey attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 116, 117, 120 and 127. Councillor Michael Dickinson attended the meeting in respect of Minute 115. Councillor Jim Grant attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 112, 115, 121, 122, 126, 128 and 130. Councillor Des Moffatt attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 120, 123, 125 and 134. Councillor Stan Pajak attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 115, 120, 121, 124, 126, and 128. Councillor Robert (Bob) Wright attended the meeting in respect of Minutes 120, 121, 124, 128 and 131.

### **106. Section 100 B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972**

The Chair advised that he intended, in accordance with Section 100 B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to take an additional urgent item concerning Swindon Town Centre Car Parking Spaces. The reason for the urgency was because a decision on the matter was required prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Cabinet, which was not until the new Municipal Year (May 2013). (Minute 134 refers.)

### **107. Changes to Cabinet Membership 2012/13 - 2013/14**

The Chair advised that this was the last Cabinet meeting of the Municipal Year and also the last he would Chair as he was to stand down as Leader of the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013. He would wish to express his appreciation to Cabinet colleagues, partner organisations and, in particular, the officer team for their support and commitment over the years in which he chaired the Cabinet. He offered Cabinet colleagues his best wishes, particularly to those who had indicated that they would not be seeking to continue on the Cabinet.

The Chair explained that Councillors Mark Edwards and Vera Tomlinson had indicated that they would not be seeking re-appointment as Cabinet Members for the next Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the Cabinet express its appreciation for the hard work and commitment shown by Councillors Roderick Bluh, Mark Edwards and Vera Tomlinson, over the years in which they have served on the Cabinet and offered them its best wishes for the future.

### **108. Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillors Fionuala Foley and Keith Williams made personal declarations of

interest in respect of Agenda Items 15 (Swindon Local Transport Plan – Implementation Plan 2013/14) and 22 (Civil Enforcement of Bus Lane and Bus Gate Contravention) as they were Council appointed Non-Executive Directors of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.

Councillor Garry Perkins made a personal declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Items 6 (Budget Management 2012/13) and 23 (Green Waste) as he was a Council appointed Non-Executive Director of Swindon Commercial Services Ltd.

**109.**

### **Minutes**

Resolved –That the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**110.**

### **Public Question Time**

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

#### Questioner

Mr Tim French, Cassan Road, Swindon.

#### Question

Could the Cabinet clarify the position regarding public use of non-24 hour Bus Lanes?

Would it be possible to investigate changes to the length of the existing Princes Street Bus Lane to facilitate easier traffic movement?

#### Response

The Chair thanked Mr French for his questions and comments, particularly with regard to Members leaving the Cabinet. The Chair and Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, responded at the meeting to the questions.

#### Questioner

Mr Daniel Rose, The Mechanics Institution Trust.

#### Question

Further to Agenda Item 8 Options Appraisal – Leisure and Culture Commissioning - The Trust would like to ask whether the report and subsequent review could more clearly set out the range of options for the re-delivery of services/assets to include the role of the voluntary and community sector?

What steps does the Council intend to take to help enable the sector to engage, for example appropriate timescales?

#### Response

The Chair thanked Mr Rose for his questions and comments and advised that a response had been prepared and circulated at the meeting.

The Chair and Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, responded at the meeting to the questions.

Mr Rose asked a supplementary question on whether the offer from his Trust and other community and voluntary groups to become involved in the process was welcomed by the Council.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, responded at the meeting to the supplementary question.

Questioner

Mr Richard Symonds, Shaw Swindon.

Question

Further to Agenda Item 21 Recording and Broadcasting Full Council Meetings – Motion at Council - Could the Cabinet clarify why he had been prevented from filming the whole of the Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013? If only a limited number of people were interested in recording meetings of the Council at their own cost why should this not be allowed?

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Symonds for his questions and comments. The Chair, Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, responded at the meeting to the questions.

Questioner

Mr Hugh Reader, Highworth, Swindon.

Question

Further to Agenda Item 8 Options Appraisal – Leisure and Culture Commissioning – Will the Council ensure thorough communications take place with Highworth Town Council on the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet?

Can the Council ensure that community groups are not disadvantaged in any “Expressions of Interest” exercise?

Can the Council revisit the decision not to install solar panels at the Highworth Recreation Centre?

Response

The Chair thanked Mr Reader for his questions and comments. The Chair and Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, responded at the meeting to the questions. Councillor Williams advised that he would also provide Mr Reader with a fuller written response.

**111. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved – That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in Agenda Item No. 27 of the Notice of the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information concerned. (Minute 134 refers.)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report setting out (a) the current forecast outturn position of the Council's Revenue Budget as at the end of January 2013, (b) issues impacting on the Council's finances, and (c) the current position of the Housing Revenue Account and the Dedicated Schools Grant.

Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, commented on the report and highlighted the projected position for the outturn of the Council's Budget. He explained that the Council would be using one-off resources as well as tight controls on spending to achieve a balanced Budget position at "year-end". This would affect the challenge the Council would face in the next Financial Year to deliver its Budget.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, referred to the Council's financial position and cautioned on the use of New Home Bonus funds to support the Council's Base Budget. He noted the Council's debt position and suggested that a cross-party working party should be established to consider this and how it could be managed.

Councillor Edwards noted and endorsed concerns at using potentially one-off funding to support base Budget items. He would welcome joint working across a range of budgetary concerns but felt that this was a matter for the "new" Cabinet and lead member to consider.

Resolved – (1) That the current projected Revenue Budget Outturn for 2012/13, as set out in Table 1 and Appendices 1 and 2 of the joint report, be noted.

(2) That (a) one-off resources of £20,000 be released to support InSwindon's provision of market chalets, digital radio expansion and an upgrade to the Swindon Town Centre website, and (b) it be noted that the £20,000 investment will enable InSwindon to generate additional income each year through sales and sponsorship which has been reflected as a reduction in the Council's contribution to the company from 2013/14.

(3) That the Council provide a loan to Swindon Commercial Services Ltd (SCS) to cover one-off severance costs with the sum to be repaid by SCS over the next two financial years, as detailed in paragraph 4.7 of the joint report, on such terms as shall be determined by the Board Director, Resources, in consultation with the Director of Law and Democratic Services.

(4) That the Board Director, Resources be authorised to make use of specific reserves, as detailed in the joint report, to bring the Council's 2012/13 Budget in on target.

(5) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Board Director, Resources, be authorised to complete 'parent company guarantees' in relation to Swindon Commercial Services Ltd on such terms as he may consider necessary in order to protect the Council's interests.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, made a personal declaration of interest in respect of the above item as he was a Council appointed Non-Executive Director of Swindon Commercial Services Ltd.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the

report to the meeting.

#### **113. Capital Programme Monitoring - Third Quarter 2012/13**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Board Director, Resources submitted a joint report concerning (a) the forecast outturn position for the 2012/13 Capital Programme as at the end of December 2012, (b) proposed changes to the Capital Programme, (c) Equal Pay Costs, (d) Treasury Strategy, (e) the proposed Housing Repairs and Improvement Programme for 2013/14, and (f) a supplementary Appendix setting out a recommendation of the Housing Advisory Forum on the Housing Repairs and Improvement Programme.

Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, referred to the contents of the report and in particular to the proposed changes to the Capital Programme. He highlighted Minute 46 of the Housing Advisory Forum concerning the Housing Repairs and Improvement Programme that had been circulated at the meeting.

The Board Director, Resources explained how changes in Government financial rules meant that the Council could now use Capital receipts to support Equal Pay costs.

Resolved – (1) That the forecast out-turn position of the Capital Programme 2012/13, as detailed in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.5 of the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the (a) Housing Repairs and Maintenance Programme, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report of the Board Director, Service Delivery (b) Housing Capital Repairs and Improvement Programme, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report of the Board Director, Service Delivery, and (c) the Non-Core Works Programme, as set out in Appendix 3 of the report of the Board Director, Service Delivery, be adopted, and (d) officers be authorised to make applications to utility companies for grant funding to support the delivery of energy efficiency programmes of work.

(3) That the decision set out in Minute 46 of the Housing Advisory Forum concerning the Housing Repairs and Improvement Programme, be noted and endorsed.

(4) That the changes to the 2012/13 Capital Programme, as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the joint report, be approved.

(5) That the use of Capital Receipts to fund Council Equal Pay costs in 2012/13, as detailed in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.3 of the joint report, be approved.

(6) That the change to the cash investment limits, as detailed in paragraphs 6.1 to 6.3 of the joint report be noted.

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

#### **114. Options Appraisal - Leisure and Culture Commissioning**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Board Director, Service Delivery submitted a joint report concerning a proposal to develop and implement a Leisure and Culture Commissioning change programme that would ensure the most viable option for the continued provision of sustainable leisure and culture within the Borough and to help enable the Council to meet the One Swindon outcomes and its strategic objectives.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Members for Leisure and Strategic Transport, and Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, commented on the report and its implications.

Councillor Garry Perkins referred to the importance of Swindon's cultural heritage and in particular to its Art and museum collections. He referred to recent initiatives to display more of its Art collection and how it was hoped that the review would identify opportunities to provide greater public access to Swindon's heritage collections. He referred to paragraph 3.24 of the joint report that addressed the issue of the museum and art collection and emphasised that all options, including use of the current building, would be considered by the review.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Council's Minority Group, referred to the importance of leisure and culture to the success of any town. He referred to Swindon's heritage with regard to its leisure, culture and arts provision and that he would not wish to see this damaged. He referred to the former Swindon Technical College site and how he believed this would be an ideal location for Swindon's collections should a way be found to acquire and operate from within this building.

The Chair welcomed the report and the interest shown by Councillors and the public in its contents. He commented that the biggest danger for the Council and for the future of Swindon's leisure and cultural provision was to not act now.

Resolved – (1) That the Board Director, Service Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, be authorised to develop a Leisure and Culture Commissioning Change Programme to seek alternative ways to ensure the continued delivery of sustainable Leisure and Culture provision in the Borough.

(2) That the Board Director, Service Delivery be authorised to invite expressions of interest from the market for proposals to enable provision at a significantly reduced cost for the Council's leisure centres and golf courses including exploring alternative uses.

(3) That the Board Director, Service Delivery, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, be authorised to undertake feasibility studies and investigations into the relocation or re-provision of cultural services and/or facilities, as set out in paragraphs 3.22 to 3.30 of the joint report.

(4) That the use of up to £75,000 of 'one off' resources be authorised to cover the costs of any necessary financial, legal or technical advice relating to developing the proposals referred to in the joint report.

(5) That the Board Director, Service Delivery be requested to report back to the Cabinet with detailed findings and recommendations, as set out in the Programme Plan at Appendix 1 to the joint report.

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

#### **115. Community Governance Review 2013 - Reference from Corporate Governance Review Working Group**

The Leader of the Council and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report setting out (a) the contents of a report on the Community

Governance Review of Swindon submitted to the Corporate Governance Review Working Group on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013, attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report, (b) the recommendations arising from the meeting of the Corporate Governance Review Working Group on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013, as set out in Appendix 2, circulated at the meeting, and (c) the draft proposals in relation to the Community Governance Review of Swindon, as set out in Appendix 3 to the joint report.

The Chair and the Director of Law and Democratic Services commented on the submissions received and on the draft proposals.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability submitted a petition containing the signatures of local Nythe residents that called for the establishment of a Nythe Parish Council.

The Chair advised that in view of this further information in support of an earlier proposal considered by the Working Group, a further meeting of the Corporate Governance Review Working Group should be held to consider the matter prior to the Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013. He confirmed that others who had previously commented on the proposal for Nythe would be provided with the opportunity to provide their further views to the Working Group in respect of the petition and proposal.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, expressed concern at the receipt of the petition at such a late stage in the process. He believed this was inappropriate, particularly as it followed the closing date for final submissions and the Working Group's consideration of the proposals received.

Councillor Michael Dickinson referred to the proposals put forward by the Working Group and his concerns regarding the establishment of polling districts that contained no electors.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services advised that the Boundary Commission would be asked to review existing boundaries so polling districts with no voters could be avoided. He reminded the Cabinet that a proposal had previously been put forward for a Nythe parish and had been included in the submissions to the Council.

Resolved – (1) That the report on the Community Governance Review of Swindon submitted to the Corporate Governance Review Working Group on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the recommendations of the Corporate Governance Review Working Group on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013, as set out in Appendix 2, to the joint report be noted and endorsed.

(3) That the draft proposals in relation to the Community Governance Review of Swindon, as set out in Appendix 3 to the joint report, be noted.

(4) That the petition presented at the Cabinet meeting in further support of the creation of a separate Nythe parish, be noted, and (a) the petition be referred to the Corporate Governance Review Working Group and it be asked to convene as a matter of urgency to consider the petition and advise the Council at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013 as whether it wishes to change its recommendation that a separate Nythe parish not be created; and (b) the Director of Law and Democratic Services be requested to inform those parties who have already made representations on this issue, of the receipt of the petition in order that any comments can be taken into

account by the Corporate Governance Review Working Group.

(5) That, following the Corporate Governance Review Working Group meeting, the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to prepare the draft Scheme and consequential draft Parish Changes Order resulting from the Community Governance Review of Swindon, for submission to Council on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

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

#### **116. Motion at Council - Honda Task Force - Summary of Support to Honda**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning the response of the Council and its partners to the announcement of redundancies amongst Honda staff and employees of supply chain companies in Swindon.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, referred to the Motion at the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 (Minute 94 of the Council refers) concerning the response to the redundancies announced by Honda and highlighted the actions taken by the Council, its partners and the Members of Parliament for Swindon to date.

Councillor Mark Dempsey welcomed the lead that had been shown by the Council in supporting and working with the task force to respond to the impact of the Honda redundancies. He commented on the skills-matching that had taken place, on the numbers affected within supply chain companies and on the need for the future long term development and support of Honda and its supply chain companies.

Councillor Perkins referred to the skill-matching exercise and to how supply chain companies were not always willing to share information on the impact of the Honda decision for their business and workforce. The importance of building the right economic conditions for Honda and similar companies was clearly recognised by the Council and its partners.

Resolved - (1) That the actions taken by the Leader of the Council, the Members of Parliament for Swindon North and Swindon South, One Swindon partners and the Local Enterprise Partnership to support employees of Honda and its supply chain companies affected by the redundancies, be noted.

(2) That the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture be requested to advise the Council of the position and the contents of the joint report at its next scheduled meeting.

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

#### **117. Additional Primary School Places in North Swindon**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, the Board Director, Commissioning and the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment submitted (a) a joint report concerning (i) the outcome of the consultation on the site for an additional two forms of entry (60 reception places) in North Swindon from



September 2014, and (ii) the outcome of the consultation for the permanent expansion of Orchid Vale Primary School for September 2013, and (b) a supplementary joint report setting out an options appraisal of the possible sites for an additional two forms of entry in North Swindon from September 2014.

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, referred to the pressure on school places in North Swindon and explained the options that had been considered and investigated to respond to this demand. He referred to the outcome of the consultations that had taken place and the analysis of the options considered. He noted that whilst the decision to expand Orchid Vale was fairly straightforward, the identification of a site for a new school was much more complex and difficult exercise. He believed the proposed solution was the best possible in the circumstances and in the best interests of the children in the area.

Councillor Mark Dempsey welcomed the proposals and that the views of both his Group and local residents on possible sites had been listened to. He noted the difficulties associated with a new school site and sought confirmation that the school would be provided in time for a September 2014 intake. He asked whether any additional Government funding was likely to be available to support building the new school.

Councillor Renard advised that the site was the preferred option because it was believed it could be delivered by the September 2014 deadline. It was not certain that additional Government support would be available but he hoped that this would be the case.

Resolved – (1) That the outcome of the consultation for an additional two forms of entry (60 reception places) from September 2014 and the outcome of the consultation to expand Orchid Vale Primary School from one to two forms of entry be noted.

(2) That the Board Director, Commissioning be authorised to proceed to the representation stage and publish notices for the permanent expansion of Orchid Vale Primary School.

(3) That, for the reasons set out in the supplementary joint report, Tadpole Farm be selected as the preferred location for a new primary school and nursery to meet the need for additional primary school places in North Swindon from September 2014, and the Head of Design and Architecture be authorised to seek planning permission for this site and project.

(4) That the Board Director, Commissioning, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, be authorised to appoint an Academy Sponsor for the new school referred to in (3) above and fulfil all statutory processes to ensure the Secretary of State for Education makes an appointment.

(5) That the Board Director, Commissioning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, be authorised to continue negotiations with Crest Nicholson to secure a future additional school site within Tadpole Farm as referred to in the supplementary joint report.

(6) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Board Director, Resources and the Cabinet Member for Finance, be authorised to enter into an agreement with Crest Nicholson that will ensure the return of the Council's "up-front" investment in the road infrastructure in the Tadpole Farm development to enable access to the proposed school site, on such terms as he considers best to protect the Council's interests.

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

#### **118. Education Matters - School Admission Arrangements 2014-15**

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 proposed School Admission Arrangements for 2014/15. In particular, the co-ordinated admission arrangements for the normal point of entry (Reception, Year 3 and Year 7) and In-year admission arrangements for all Swindon Schools and neighbouring Local Authorities and Published Admission Numbers (PAN) for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Swindon for September 2014.

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, commented on the proposed changes to School Admission Arrangements for 2014/15 and the reasons why these had been required.

Resolved – (1) That the Co-ordinated Scheme of Admission Arrangements for the normal point of entry (Reception Year, Year 3 and Year 7) and In Year admissions for all primary schools and secondary schools in Swindon and neighbouring Local Authorities for September 2014, as set out in the appendices to the joint report, be approved.

(2) That the admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for September 2014 as set out in the joint report, be approved.

(3) That it be noted that the proposals referred to in (1) and (2) above were determined by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and will be implemented by the Board Director, Commissioning for school admission for September 2014 for all new applicants.

Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, made a personal declaration of interest in respect of the above item, as he was the parent of a child that would be subject to the proposed School Admission Arrangements for 2014/15.

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

#### **119. South Marston Education Provision**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, the Board Director Commissioning and the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment submitted a joint report concerning (a) the strategic context for future housing development in South Marston that would inform the emerging village Supplementary Planning Document, and (b) the identification of a preferred option to address the need for primary school places that might arise from new houses in South Marston.

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, referred to the development pressures affecting South Marston and the proposal to respond to the potential need for additional primary school places. He advised that the preferred option was supported by the local community.

Resolved – (1) That in the event of planned housing development identified in the draft Local Plan for South Marston taking place, the Cabinet confirms that it will endorse the expansion of the existing school facility to meet the future demand

for school places.

(2) That the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment, be authorised to include Option 2 (South Marston Expanded School at existing site, assuming shared-use soft pitches), as referred to in the joint report, within the proposed South Marston Village Supplementary Planning Document to be considered by the Council's Planning Committee.

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

## **120. Swindon Town Centre Masterplan**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning a proposed Swindon Town Centre Masterplan, including details of the process adopted for the production of the Masterplan and the public and business consultation that informed it.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, explained that, once endorsed, the Masterplan would be used to stimulate and facilitate private investment, inform negotiations relating to town centre regeneration and development proposals and act as the basis for on-going prioritisation by the public sector of the projects in it, and their implementation.

The Chair advised that Cabinet Members had, prior to the meeting, received correspondence from the Wiltshire and Berkshire Canal Trust and the Wiltshire Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership on the issue of the re-establishment of the canal in central Swindon.

Councillor Mark Dempsey commented that this was a key document to the future of Swindon. He emphasised the need for it to "go live" at the earliest opportunity in order to deliver change.

Councillor Des Moffatt referred to the aspirations for a Swindon Canal and the significant implications of this, were it constructed, for the residents of his ward.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Council's Minority Group, welcomed the Plan. He noted that the Council had agreed to hold a referendum should a proposal come forward to deliver a Swindon Canal.

Councillor Bob Wright referred to the proposals for the University Technical College and to the need to ensure that action was taken to protect Swindon's heritage area and the environment of those living in the Railway Village. He commented on the additional traffic and bus movements that could be expected with the opening of the college.

Resolved – (1) That the details of the Swindon Town Centre Masterplan consultation responses, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the content of the Swindon Town Centre Masterplan, as set out in Appendix 2 to the joint report, be endorsed and recommended to the Planning Committee for approval.

(3) That the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, be authorised to make

minor changes to the content of the Swindon Town Centre Masterplan as appropriate prior to publication.

(4) That the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Director of Law and Democratic Services, and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, be authorised to use the Swindon Town Centre Masterplan in conjunction with the Central Area Action Plan (2009) to inform negotiations with developers for planning applications relating to the Town Centre, and as the basis for Development Briefs on priority redevelopment sites.

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

## **121. Swindon Local Transport Plan - Implementation Plan 2013/14**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services and the Board Director, Service Delivery, submitted a joint report concerning the proposed Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan for 2013/13.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, referred to the Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) that had been adopted by the Council in April 2011. He explained that the LTP programme was subject to an annual report to the Cabinet to ensure transparency in the apportionment of the funding and to aid the delivery of the programme. He highlighted the budget savings that had been required for 2013 /14 and the impact of this for the Local Transport Plan. He commented on the main features of the Implementation Plan for 2013/14 and explained how flexibility was built into the Plan to enable schemes to be brought forward or delayed if circumstances required this.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, referred to the Thamesdown Drive / Bruce Street Bridges link road proposal and his belief that design work should be undertaken to enable a plan to go forward should at some time the necessary funding become available

Councillor Bob Wright referred to the establishment of the University Technical College and the impact of its opening for the local community. He commented on the tunnel access between the Designer Outlet and the Town Centre and the possibility of creating a footbridge link to support both access to the University Technical College and between the Designer Outlet and the Town Centre.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group on the Council, referred to the Whalebridge development and the knock-on effect of the new road layout that had resulted in traffic problems in his ward. He hoped that the current layout could be revisited and improvements made.

Resolved – (1) That the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Implementation Plan for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 3 to the joint report, be approved.

(2) That the Local Transport Plan Capital Programme budget categories and total spend for 2012/13, as detailed in Tables 1 to 8 of the Implementation Plan, be approved.

(3) That, further to the decisions in (1) and (2) above, the Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic

Transport and the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, be authorised to:

- prioritise schemes in accordance with One Swindon priorities,
- approve scheme progression in accordance with the updated Protocol (originally approved by the Cabinet in July 2010),
- vary allocations between different budget categories,
- approve variations in scheme costs, and
- add / substitute schemes, provided expenditure is contained within the approved total budget.

(4) That in respect of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) budget categories and allocations for 2013/14, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the joint report, where delivery risks arise that would put in jeopardy the Council's ability to benefit in full from the annual grant allocation, the Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport and relevant Board Director(s), be authorised within the parameters of the implementation plan and LSTF bid document, to prioritise schemes and add/substitute schemes relevant to the Package Elements.

(5) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to award individual schemes to Swindon Commercial Services Ltd. (SCS), as set out in the programmes in Table 22 of Appendix 3 to the joint report, and that Contract Standing Orders be waived accordingly.

Councillors 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 on the Board of Thamesdown Transport Ltd.

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

## **122. Statement of Community Involvement in the Planning Process (Minute for Confirmation)**

The Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning and the Head of Planning submitted a joint report setting out a revised Statement of Community Involvement in the Planning Process prepared following a public consultation exercise undertaken between November 2012 and January 2013.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Strategic Planning, commented on the consultation outcomes and on the main features of the revised Statement.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, commented that it would be useful to engage people earlier in the planning process. He suggested that it would be useful for the Council to produce a guide to how people could oppose a planning development earlier in the process and prior to the planning application stage.

Councillor Dale Heenan advised that it was intended to publish a "Plain English" guide to the Local Plan that should assist residents in understanding the planning process.

Resolved – (1) That the Council be recommended to adopt the 'Swindon

Borough Statement of Community Involvement in the Planning Process', as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, and to authorise the Head of Planning to make it available in accordance with the arrangements detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the joint 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 Statement of Community Involvement in the Planning Process, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and the Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, prior to publication.

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

### **123. Local Welfare Assistance**

The Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing and the Head of Revenues and Benefits submitted a joint report concerning the establishment of a proposed Local Welfare Assistance Policy for Swindon, to be known as the Swindon Emergency Assistance Fund.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, explained that following the abolition of the discretionary elements of the National Social Fund, the Government has asked Local Authorities to deliver their own Local Welfare Assistance schemes. He explained the basis of the proposed Swindon Scheme, and emphasised that this was new Government funding being provided to the Council to run this important scheme that sought to try to assist those in real need.

Councillor Des Moffatt referred to the proposed scheme and to the safety-net it offered to those in real need. He noted that again the Government was passing down its responsibilities to local government and reducing the funding being made available.

Councillor Holland referred to the efforts that would be made to publicise the scheme and to involve the voluntary and community sector in its promotion.

Resolved – (1) That the Local Welfare Assistance Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be approved, and the Board Director, Resources be authorised to implement this policy from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

(2) That future changes to the Eligibility Criteria associated with the Policy set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be made by the Cabinet Member Decision Note process by the relevant Cabinet Member with portfolio responsibility for the service.

(3) That the Head of Revenues and Benefits be authorised to seek to engage the local third sector and other partners in both the determination of applications and the delivery of goods and services.

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

### **124. Use of "A" Boards Policy**

The Cabinet Member for a Safer and Stronger Borough, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart

submitted a joint report concerning the proposed introduction of a policy for the control of articles such as advertising “A” Boards that are placed on footways to ensure that footways are attractive, safe and easy to use for all.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, referred to the Cabinet’s recognition of the importance of the use of “A” Boards for local businesses and to the need to better control the number, position and style of the ‘A’ boards being used to ensure an attractive and safe environment that would encourage “footfall” and avoid problems.

Councillor Bob Wright expressed disappointment that ward councillors had not been consulted on the proposals before they were presented to Cabinet. He referred to apparent contradictions in the approach taken by the Council to “A Boards” and street traders.

Councillor Stan Pajak referred to the enforcement of the scheme and that 28 days seemed a long time to wait before a Board could be removed. Councillor Perkins advised that there were provisions within the proposed policy that would allow for the immediate removal of a Board where this was necessary.

Resolved – (1) That the policy as set out at Appendix 1 to the joint report for controlling the use of Advertising ‘A boards’ in the Business Improvement District area of Swindon Town Centre, be approved.

(2) That the proposed timeframe for the implementation of the policy by the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart, be agreed.

(3) That the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart be authorised to

- Apply for planning consent to permit the use of “A” Boards in accordance with the policy set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report.
- Develop and implement, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s), a “licensing” regime to support the administration of the policy.
- Undertake promotional work to ensure that businesses are aware of their responsibilities.

(4) That the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart be authorised to promote the alternative advertising options available in Swindon Town Centre when communicating the ‘A’ Boards policy with businesses.

(5) That the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart be authorised to review the “A” Boards policy after 12 months of operation and to report back to the Cabinet if necessary.

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

## **125. Use of Bailiffs - Motion at Council**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Head of Revenues and Benefits submitted a joint report responding to a Motion at Council on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012 (Minute 63 of the Council refers) concerning the use of Bailiffs and outlining the occasions when Bailiffs were employed in the collection of Council debts and how their use was monitored.

Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, referred to the Council's Code of Conduct for all Bailiffs and how their operation was actively monitored. He emphasised that the Council's aim was always to work to help people to pay their debts and only to use Bailiffs as a last resort.

Councillor Des Moffatt commented that the problem was not the Council's policy and code of practice. It was where individual Bailiffs chose not to follow it. He would like to see greater use made of technology to monitor their activities.

Resolved – (1) That the contents of the joint report and the fact that the number of complaints about Bailiffs represents half of one per cent of the total number of debts referred to Bailiff companies, be noted.

(2) That the Cabinet Member for Finance be requested to advise the Council of the position and the contents of the joint report at its next scheduled meeting.

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

## **126. The Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board (Minute for Confirmation)**

The Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and the Director of Public Health submitted a joint report concerning the proposed composition and terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board that was to move from "shadow" status to become a formal "committee" of the Council from April 2013.

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care explained that the Health and Wellbeing Board was the forum where key leaders from the Health and Care-System worked together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. The change of status was necessary under the provisions of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the proposed terms of reference had been discussed by the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board and had been supported.

Councillor Mattock commented on the transfer of the Public Health function and staff to the Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, and Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Council's Minority Group suggested that in view of the importance of the new "committee" it would be appropriate for the leaders of the Council's opposition groups to also serve on the Board.

The Chair advised that he would arrange for this suggestion to be considered at the new Board's first meeting and for an appropriate recommendation to be made to the Annual Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

Resolved – (1) That the Council be recommended to adopt the draft Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board, as set out in Appendix One to the joint report.

(2) That the Council be formally requested to approve the appointment of the Health and Wellbeing Board as a Committee of the Council and agree the terms of reference as referred to in (1) above, and authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services to make any necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

(3) That it be noted that 15 Public Health staff will be transferring from NHS



Swindon to Swindon Borough Council under TUPE on 1st April 2013 and that those staff have already physically relocated to Wat Tyler West.

(4) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to complete any necessary documentation to ensure the successful implementation of the transfer of Public Health accountabilities to Swindon Borough Council.

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

## **127. Recording and Broadcasting Full Council Meetings - Motion at Council**

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, the Chief Executive and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report responding to a Council Motion on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2012 (Minute 82 of the Council) that requested a report investigating the cost and feasibility of recording and broadcasting Council meetings.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, explained that the report sought to provide an analysis of a range of options available to the Council to record and broadcast Full Council meetings. He commented on the costs associated with the various options and his belief that the cost of recording and broadcasting could not really be justified given the likely potential viewing figures. He believed that funds could be better spent in communicating with residents in other ways and by encouraging and assisting those residents who wished to record meetings at their own cost to do so.

Councillor Mark Dempsey welcomed the range of options presented and commented that he still believed that a cost effective solution could be found that would be welcomed by residents and increase the openness and transparency of the Council's proceedings.

Resolved – (1) That the Cabinet note the –

- contents of the report;
- costs of recording and broadcasting full Council meetings, and that the market leading solution used by 70 other local authorities would cost over £1000 per meeting;
- Council has to date never refused a request by the media or a resident to record a meeting.

(2) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be requested to work with the Corporate Governance Review Working Group on the development of a Standing Order giving a presumption in favour of recording meetings by residents, and to identify ways that residents who wish to record meetings have the same access to the full Council Chamber as the media.

(3) That the Head of Communication and Insight include social media engagement by Councillors and residents during full Council meetings as part of the Council's emerging new Digital Strategy.

(4) That the Council be advised of the contents of the joint report and the Cabinet's decisions as set out in (1) to (3) above.

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

## **128. Civil Enforcement of Bus Lane and Bus Gate Contravention**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services and the Head of Highways and Transport submitted a joint report concerning proposals for enforcing the Traffic Regulation Orders that apply to the Bus lanes and Bus gates in Swindon to overcome problems of misuse and to improve the environment.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, commented on the problems associated with the misuse of Bus lanes and Bus gates and to the benefits that would arise from more rigorous enforcement.

Councillor Bob Wright explained the problems for local residents in the Railway Village resulting from the location of the Bus Gate. He asked that this be taken into account and the problem resolved if the scheme was to move forward.

Councillor Stan Pajak, Leader of the Minority Group on the Council, expressed his support for the proposal and referred to the dangers caused by motorists misusing Bus gates and Bus lanes in his ward.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, supported the proposal but cautioned that if it proved successful, as hoped, in deterring motorists from misusing Bus Gates and Bus Lanes then fewer offences would take place and that this could reduce the penalty income to the Council being used to fund the scheme.

Councillor Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, suggested that a monitoring report be brought back to the Cabinet six months after implementation so that the scheme's success and any lessons learned could be reviewed.

**Resolved** – (1) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to introduce the civil enforcement of Bus lane and Bus gate contraventions pursuant to the Transport Act 2000, Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers.

(2) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to use approved devices (cameras) to enforce Bus lane and Bus gate contraventions pursuant to the Transport Act 2000.

(3) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to enter into a legal agreement with the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee (BLASJC) in pursuance of Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order for the Council to become a member of the BLASJC.

(4) That the Cabinet appoint the Cabinet Member with portfolio responsibility to be the representative to the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee (BLASJC) to act on behalf of the Council, and that the opposition spokespersons for the Cabinet portfolio concerned be appointed as deputies to that body.

(5) That a Penalty charge of £60 be introduced for Bus lane and Bus gate contraventions, with motorists discharging this penalty within 14 days paying at a 50% discount rate of £30.

(6) That any surplus net revenue generated from introducing the enforcement of Bus lane and Bus gate contraventions, estimated at around £70,000 per year, be used for Highway Maintenance for a period of 3 years and reviewed thereafter.

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

**129.**

### **Green Waste**

The Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services and the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart submitted a joint report providing an update and response to issues highlighted at the last Cabinet meeting regarding revisions to the Green Waste Policy and the Green Waste Collection Scheme adopted by the Council (Minute 103 refers).

Councillor Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, referred to the changes to the Green Waste Collection Scheme proposed by the Cabinet in February 2013 and explained the changes to that scheme which aimed to address concerns highlighted by local Councillors and residents.

Resolved – (1) That, as part of the Green Waste Policy, an additional bag scheme be introduced for those residents who either maintain Council owned green spaces or clear footpaths of green waste produced from Council owned assets.

(2) That the proposed timeframe for the implementation of the Green Waste Collection Policy by the Head of Public Protection and Streetsmart be approved.

(3) That the Board Director, Service Delivery be authorised to introduce a limit on the volume of garden waste presented from each house to one yellow bag per fortnight (maximum 90 litres per bag) for those residents who collect green waste from Council owned assets.

(4) That the Board Director, Service Delivery be authorised to suspend the green waste collection service during December and the first two weeks of January each year.

(5) That the senior responsible officer for Localities be requested to manage and record the distribution of the yellow bags to residents who qualify for the yellow bag scheme through Locality Leads and Ward Councillors.

(6) That the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services be requested to report to Cabinet at its meeting in February 2014 on the outcome of the trial of the yellow bags and the suspension of the green waste collection service in December and first two weeks of January.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, made a personal declaration of interest in respect of the above item as he was a Council appointed Non-Executive Director of Swindon Commercial Services Ltd.

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

**130.**

### **Motion at Council - Housing Market Support**

The Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment, submitted a joint report concerning a response to a Motion at the Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012 concerning Housing Market Support (Minute 49 of Council refers).

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, explained that the report sought to identify strategic housing initiatives that responded to the concerns raised in the Council Motion. He apologised to opposition groups for not advising them in advance of the intention for this report to

address only the strategic Housing support issue. He confirmed that a further report would be forthcoming on the Motion regarding Adult Social Care issues.

Councillor Jim Grant, Leader of the Opposition, expressed his support for the development of initiatives to assist families in securing appropriate housing and he welcomed the cross-party discussions that were undertaken on housing related issues in the run up to the setting of the Council's Budget.

Resolved – (1) That the summary of the key issues around families securing appropriate accommodation, as requested by the Council and as highlighted in the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the Board Director, Commissioning be authorised to develop an overarching housing strategy, which will encompass social housing, intermediate and private market housing and include a refined approach to the challenge of vulnerable people facing homelessness, and that this draft strategy be submitted to the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity in 2013.

(3) That it be noted that a conference to address the issues contained within the joint report will form part of the consultation and evidence gathering stage of the proposed Housing Strategy formulation process.

(4) That the Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing be requested to investigate:-

- How the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme could be applied to the Swindon housing market as part of a package of measures in line with the proposed housing strategy, and
- In consultation with a Lead Member Advisory Group, if he considers appropriate, the use of specific Council land assets to deliver new housing including affordable rented homes and a private rented sector offer on terms broadly aligned with those set out in the detail of the joint report.

(5) That the Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing advise the Council, at its next scheduled meeting, of the contents of the joint report progress being made in response to this Motion as referred to in the decision in (1) to (4) above.

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

### **131. Swindon Town Centre Car Parking Rationalisation - Phase 1**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning proposed options for managing the potential future over supply of car parking spaces in Swindon Town Centre and the resulting budget pressures following the opening of the new multi storey car park at Union Square, in late summer 2013.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, explained that the opening of the new Union Square Car Park provided the opportunity for the Council to identify existing time expired car parks for closure or decommissioning and that this would contribute to the regeneration of Swindon Town Centre by the release of land for alternative uses in line with the Central Area

Action Plan, the emerging Town Centre Masterplan and the Council's emerging Parking Strategy. He advised that this was the first phase of the process and that other proposals would be submitted to a future meeting.

Councillor Bob Wright expressed disappointment that ward councillors had not been consulted on this issue. He referred to the problems facing local residents in his ward as a result of limited on-street parking and the operation of Residents Parking Schemes. He noted that some of the car parks identified for closure and development were currently used by local residents when no other parking was available to them. They were also used by those attending community events such as Friday Prayers at the local mosque. He emphasised the advantages of a mixed provision of car park types in an area of diverse needs such as the Town Centre. Parking issues would be exacerbated if the proposed development of a thousand new homes within the Town Centre occurred.

Councillor Perkins noted the concerns and explained the reasons for the programme of closures and the regeneration benefits that would result.

Councillor Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport referred to the regeneration benefits that would result from the proposals and that it was important that car parks remained safe and fit for purpose.

Resolved – (1) That the approach adopted in identifying proposals to rationalise Town Centre Car Parks, as set out in paragraph 3.8 of the joint report, be noted.

(2) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the closure of Queenstown, Cheltenham Street and the smaller surface car parks as identified in Appendix 1 to the joint report.

(3) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the change of provision to parking bays for "Blue Badge" holders only at Catherine Street, Princes Street and Regent Close, Swindon.

(4) That the Head of Highways and Transport be authorised to decommission and demolish the multi storey car park in John Street, Swindon, as soon as practically possible.

(5) That a budget of up to £165,000 be made available from the Regeneration Reserve for the demolition of the multi storey car park in John Street, fencing and planting for Cheltenham Street, and the transformation of existing car parks in Swindon Town Centre to alternative uses.

(6) That the Head of Highways and Transport and the Head of Commissioning, Economy and Attainment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport and the Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, be authorised to submit a further report to the Cabinet in June, 2013 with the outcomes of an investigation into a second phase of Swindon Town Centre car park rationalisation targeting Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP) provision as detailed in paragraph 3.10 of the joint report.

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

**132.**

### **Town Centre Car Parking Spaces**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Head of Highways and Transport submitted a joint report concerning a proposal to agree an appropriate car-parking leasing tariff for the bulk purchase of long-term car parking spaces in Swindon Town Centre Car Parks.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, explained that landlords and letting agents had expressed concern at the difficulties of letting office space in Swindon Town Centre in the current economic climate and car parking was often cited as a key reason for potential employers locating elsewhere. The opportunity existed for the Council to set an appropriate car-parking leasing tariff for the bulk purchase of long-term car parking spaces that would help to encourage potential employers to the office provision available in the Town Centre.

Resolved – That the Head of Highways and Transport, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and the Board Director, Resources, be authorised to agree an appropriate car-parking leasing tariff for the bulk lease of long-term car parking spaces at Swindon Town Centre Car Parks.

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

### **133. Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan - Inspectors Report and Adoption (Minute for Confirmation)**

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and the Head of Planning submitted a joint report setting out the proposed Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan, as amended by the changes identified in the Planning Inspector's Report.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, commented on the Plan and that it would now move forward for formal adoption.

Resolved – (1) That the Council be recommended to adopt the Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan, as amended by the changes identified in the Planning Inspector's 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 Site Allocations Local Plan, if required, prior to publication, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and appropriate representatives of Wiltshire Council where necessary.

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

**134.**

### **Union Square - Growing Places Fund - Muse**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning the use of the Growing Places

Fund to support the next phase of infrastructure and development of the Union Square project in Swindon Town Centre.

Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, referred to the opportunity for the Council to work with its development partner and the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership to access Growing Places Fund to help support the next phase of development for the Union Square project.

Councillor Des Moffatt referred to the proposed funding arrangements and to the potential revenue implications of Capital funding. He encouraged the Council to carefully monitor the funding arrangements as they moved forward.

Resolved – (1) That the Board Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to implement the financial and legal arrangements, referred to in section 4 of the joint report, to be entered into with MUSE Developments Ltd and the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership in order to secure the Growing Places Funding of £5m for the next phase of infrastructure at Union Square, Swindon.

(2) That the requirements for further investment by the Council in the Union Square Project, as detailed in section 5 of the joint report, be noted, and a further detailed report regarding those investments be submitted to the Cabinet in due course, including the potential requirement to acquire the outstanding land interests through use of Compulsory Purchase powers.

(3) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Board Director, Resources and the Chief Executive of Forward Swindon Ltd, be authorised to finalise the necessary legal agreements, including any consequential variations to the Development Agreement, for the Union Square project, on such terms as he deems appropriate to protect the Council's interests.

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