

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 25 MARCH 2013**

PRESENT:- Councillors Peter Heaton-Jones (Vice-Chair), John Ballman, Claire Ellis, Brian Ford, Richard Hurley, Colin Lovell, Des Moffatt, Maureen Penny, James Robbins and Alan Bishop

Councillor Roderick Bluh, Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet, David Renard, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Mark Edwards, Cabinet Member for Finance, Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart and Corporate Services, Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for One Swindon, Localities and Housing, Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, and Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Strategic Transport were in attendance

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kevin Small (Chair), Toby Elliott and Robert Wright

### **63. 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 Colin Lovell, Fionuala Foley and Keith Williams made non-prejudicial declarations of interest in respect of the Committee's consideration of matters relating to Thamesdown Transport, in their capacity as Council representatives on the Board of that organisation. Councillor Williams also declared a non-prejudicial interest in relation to the Committee's consideration of the Options Appraisal as the holder of a Cross Training passport.

### **64. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

### **65. Minutes**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 be confirmed and signed.

### **66. Consideration of Cabinet Decisions**

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a report introducing decisions arising from the Cabinet meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

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

Resolved – (1) That Minute 107 of the Cabinet be noted.

(2) That this Committee notes the decision of Councillor Rod Bluh to stand down as Leader of the Council and thanks him for his regular attendance at meetings of the Scrutiny Committee and for his constant support of the Council's Scrutiny

function. The Committee also welcomes Councillor David Renard as the prospective new leader of the Conservative Group.

*112. Budget Management 2012/13*

Councillor Mark Edwards, the Cabinet Member for Finance, responded to a question put by Councillor Des Moffatt regarding the use of specific reserves to achieve a balanced budget.

Resolved – That Minute 112 of the Cabinet be noted.

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

Resolved – That Minute 113 of the Cabinet be noted.

*114. Options Appraisal - Leisure and Culture Commissioning*

In response to a comment by Councillor Maureen Penny, it was confirmed that answers to questions put during the cabinet open forum, preceding the Cabinet meeting, were being progressed.

Resolved – That Minute 114 of the Cabinet be noted.

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

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, responded to a question put by Councillor Brian Ford regarding the number of signatories to a petition by Nythe residents calling for the establishment of a Nythe Parish Council.

Resolved – That Minute 115 of the Cabinet be noted.

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

Resolved – That Minute 116 of the Cabinet be noted.

*117. Additional Primary School Places in North Swindon*

Resolved – That Minute 117 of the Cabinet be noted.

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

Councillor David Renard, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, responded to a question put by Councillor James Robbins regarding the proposed admissions arrangements for the University Technical College.

Resolved – That Minute 118 of the Cabinet be noted.

*119. South Marston Education Provision*

Resolved – That Minute 119 of the Cabinet be noted.

*120. Swindon Town Centre Masterplan*

Councillor Garry Perkins, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture, responded to a question put by Councillor Brian Ford regarding the cost of holding a referendum in the event of any proposal being put forward for the delivery of a Swindon Canal.

Resolved – That Minute 120 of the Cabinet be noted.

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

Resolved – That Minute 121 of the Cabinet be noted.

*122. Statement of Community Involvement in the Planning Process*

Resolved – That Minute 122 of the Cabinet be noted.

*123. Local Welfare Assistance*

Resolved – That Minute 123 of the Cabinet be noted.

*124. Use of "A" Boards Policy*

Councillor Garry Perkins responded to questions put by Councillors Brian Ford and John Ballman regarding the extension of this policy beyond the town centre and its application in relation to other unauthorised advertising to the detriment of public areas.

Resolved – That Minute 124 of the Cabinet be noted.

*125. Use of Bailiffs - Motion at Council*

Resolved – That Minute 125 of the Cabinet be noted.

*126. The Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board*

Resolved – That Minute 126 of the Cabinet be noted.

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

Resolved – That Minute 127 of the Cabinet be noted.

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

Resolved – That Minute 128 of the Cabinet be noted.

*129. Green Waste*

Resolved – That Minute 129 of the Cabinet be noted.

*130. Motion at Council - Housing Market Support*

Resolved – That Minute 130 of the Cabinet be noted.

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

Resolved – That Minute 131 of the Cabinet be noted.

*132. Town Centre Car Parking Spaces*

Resolved – That Minute 132 of the Cabinet be noted.

*133. Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan - Inspectors Report and Adoption*

Resolved – That Minute 133 of the Cabinet be noted.

*134. Union Square - Growing Places Fund – Muse*

Resolved – That Minute 134 of the Cabinet be noted.

**67. Question and Answer - Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care**

Councillor Brian Mattock, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, was in attendance and presented a detailed report summarising progress and performance in respect of the various service areas within his portfolio of responsibility and providing an assessment of what he felt had been done well, what might have been done differently and the challenges facing his portfolio over the next year. He placed the report in the context of the further significant changes to the health service environment over the period of the last year, in response to Government legislation and guidance, including the new public health role for local authorities, and expanded on progress in 2012/13 in relation to:

- the development of the new commissioning model and the establishment of the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Board
- the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment process to assess the health and wellbeing needs of the local population
- the Adult Demand Enquiry (Adult Change Programme) to determine optimum solutions to challenges of increasing demand and reducing resources
- Accountability and the Adults Peer Challenge
  - Managing Expectations Systems and processes
  - SEQOL and its achievements in building upon the development around integrated approaches to Health and Social Care
- Safeguarding and the role of the Swindon Local Safeguarding Board

Councillor Mattock remarked on the budget position, and the successful management of the saving plan to achieve a forecast underspend in 2012/13, the pressures on Adult Social Care and the increasing demand for Adult Social Care services beyond available resources. He concluded his presentation by outlining the following service priorities for 2013/14:

- demand management/demand enquiry work streams
- personalisation
- safeguarding
- public health

Following his presentation of his report, Councillor Mattock responded to members' and health colleagues' specific questions and observations on the following topics:

- the updated forecast underspend on the Adult Social Care budget 2012/13 and the service areas in which the most significant savings have been achieved
- continuing demand pressures in 2013/14 and, in particular, the estimated additional demand pressure on the commissioning of individual care packages
- the presentation of the results and the analysis of the carers survey to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- the perceived impact of the recent cold weather on the demand for health care services
- the problems of focussing on reducing the cost of adult social care rather than introducing measures to address the future care requirements of an aging population
  - the encouragement of older people to vacate under-occupied private properties in favour of advanced sheltered schemes
- the success of the Homeline service and the feasibility of expanding the service into private care facilities
- the operational and “day-to-day” working relationship between SEQOL and the Council
  - members’ accessibility to SEQOL
- breastfeeding coverage and the significant improvement in the prevalence of breastfeeding
- Commissioning performance and measures to improve performance in relation to “stuck reds”, where performance has been below the required standard for more than 12 months
- the key public health responsibilities transferring to the Council and the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in providing local strategic leadership across health, social care and public health
  - residents’ perception of changes in the delivery of public health services following the transfer of responsibilities
  - the integration of the Council’s environmental health function with its new public health responsibilities
- adult mental health care and the monitoring of the performance standards of placements outside the borough

Resolved – (1) That Councillor Mattock be thanked for attending the meeting and for his full and open responses to members’ and health colleagues’ questions.

(2) That Councillor Mattock and the Adult and Social Care Directorate be congratulated on successfully meeting the continuing and growing challenge of increasing demand and reducing resources for adult social care provision and the significant achievement of a projected underspend against the Adult Social Care budget in 2012/13.

(In accordance with the National Code of Local Government Conduct, Councillor Brian Ford made a non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of the Committee’s consideration of matters relating to individual care packages, on the grounds that his business is licensed to supply long term care packages)