

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 1 JULY 2013

PRESENT:- Councillors Andrew Bennett, John Ballman, Michael Dickinson (Vice-Chair), Emma Faramarzi, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Cindy Matthews, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak and Michael Bray.

Councillors Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and Richard Hurley, Cabinet Member for Public Protection, Housing and Streetsmart (Delivery), were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kevin Small (Chair) and Maureen Penny and from Councillor David Renard, Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet, and Councillor Brian Mattock, Deputy Leader of the Council, Vice-Chair of Cabinet, and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care.

7. Declarations of Interest

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

8. Public Question Time

Mr Brian Cockbill, a local resident, put questions regarding:

- the frequency of Cabinet members' usage of public transport;
- communication that the Leader of the Council might have had with the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils and Local members of Parliament regarding "the funding of local council tax"; and
- the outcomes of questions he had put to the Council meeting on 21st February 2013 regarding drainage and highways issues relating to Stratton Road.

The Chair thanked Mr Cockbill for his questions. He advised that the matter regarding Cabinet Members' use of public transport was not relevant to this meeting but he agreed to advise those members of the request for information and invite them to reply directly to Mr Cockbill if they wish. He agreed that the other matters be referred to the Leader of the Council and to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Strategic Transport and Leisure, to provide written responses.

9. Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

The Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a report introducing decisions arising from the Cabinet meeting held on 26 June 2013.

21. Strategic Review of Swindon Commercial Services Ltd (Minute for Confirmation)

Resolved - That Minute 21 of the Cabinet be noted

22. Kimmerfields (Union Square) - Future Investment and Financial Implications

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Committee determined that the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in Cabinet Minute 22, on the grounds that this would involve 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.

Councillor Dale Heenan, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, responded to comments made by Councillor Des Moffatt regarding the net annual revenue implications of the proposed capital investment in Kimmerfields.

Resolved - That Minute 22 of the Cabinet be noted.

10. Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report

The Committee received the draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2012/13 be accepted and agreed for submission to the Full Council for approval.

11. Overview update

The Committee received a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services on the work programmes established by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2013/14.

Councillor Brian Ford, the Chair of the Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Councillor Emma Faramarzi, the Chair of the Economic, Environmental and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee, introduced the work programmes of their respective committees. In the absence of Councillor Nicky Sewell, Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Mick Bray introduced that Committee's work programme. In the absence of Councillor Maureen Penny, the Chair of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillors Mick Bray and Emma Faramarzi, introduced that Committee's work programme.

The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, or their representatives, summarised each committee's priorities for the year and the main scrutiny reviews to be undertaken, and responded to members' questions on issues raised in each presentation.

Resolved – That the updated information presented to the meeting in respect of the work programmes of each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.