

COUNCIL

THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2013

MINUTE FOR CONFIRMATION

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2013

59. Public Service (Social Value) Act (Minute for Confirmation)

The Cabinet Member for Finance and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report concerning (a) the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 that required all public bodies to consider how services over the European Union procurement threshold, which they commissioned and /or procured, might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area in which they operated, and (b) proposals for the adoption by the Council of a protocol for administering its responsibilities under the Act, together with required revisions to the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts.

Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance, commented on the implications of this new legislation for the Council. The Act would enable the Council to undertake procurement and to give weight to the social value that would be produced. He believed this would potentially enable the Council to take into account issues such as whether a company submitting a bid would directly support the Swindon Economy if that bid was selected, or if it reflected a commitment to a Council priority, such as the training and employment of young people. However, he cautioned that this was new legislation that was yet to be tested in the courts and so its true potential and implications for the Council were yet to become totally clear.

Resolved – (1) That the Council be recommended to amend Standing Orders relating to Contracts (Section 7 of Part 4 to the Council's Constitution) to reflect the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 as specified in paragraph 3.5 of the joint report, and to authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services to make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

(2) That the Board Director Commissioning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, the Director of Law and Democratic Services and relevant Service Heads, be authorised to develop and maintain an appropriate protocol and internal guidance to assist in the procurement process to ensure that Social Value is duly considered in accordance with the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, and to provide a format on the Council's website for the public to view the Council's policy with appropriate links to the procurement process pages.

(3) That the Guidance on the legal requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 for publication on the Council's website, and as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, be noted and endorsed.

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

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2013

MINUTE FOR APPROVAL

56. Swindon's Energy Future

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and the Board Director, Commissioning submitted a joint report concerning the Council's future energy objectives and its potential role in the development and delivery of energy projects in Swindon.

Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, explained the Council's ambition for Swindon to be at the forefront of the provision of local, affordable and sustainable energy provision. He referred to how the Council had a number of key opportunities to help lead the development such provision and to reinforce key "low carbon" sectors of Swindon's economy to the benefit of residents and businesses. He referred to each of the initiatives within the report and highlighted the key role that the Council could play in promoting, enabling, assisting and delivering energy projects and a One Swindon low carbon economy. He commented how the report was closely linked to the earlier report on progressing the Economic Strategy and unlocking Swindon's economic potential.

Resolved – (1) That the Council approve the following energy objectives:-

- (a) Swindon Borough Council will lead the development of renewable energy projects that demonstrate clear local economic benefits, and will aim for Swindon to generate sufficient low carbon energy to power all residential properties by 2020, through the actions detailed in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of the joint report;**
- (b) By 2020, Swindon will be recognised as a UK centre of excellence for hydrogen energy technologies, creating new job opportunities by building on Swindon's emerging strength in hydrogen energy storage.**

(2) That the Board Director, Resources be authorised to:-

(i) Develop a business model for investment in solar development on Council land that maximises local economic benefit.

(ii) In consultation with the Leader's Asset Management Advisory Group, to engage the relevant external expertise to prepare individual business cases for sites which conform with the business model and the design criteria at paragraph 3.12 and where the business case is positive, to submit such schemes to the Cabinet for approval.

(3) That the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for

Strategic Planning and Sustainability, be authorised to investigate and, if appropriate, progress a Local Development Order that would help to facilitate new renewable and low carbon infrastructure developments.

(4) That the Swindon Hydrogen Roadmap, as set out in Appendix 1 to the joint report, and the formation of the Swindon Hydrogen Group, which will identify key projects and initiatives by Spring 2014, be approved.

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