

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2017

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Russell Holland, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Martin, Cathy Martyn, Garry Perkins and Keith Williams

Councillor Emma Bushell attended the meeting in respect of Minute Nos. 47, 48 and 53. Councillor Jane Milner-Barry attended the meeting in respect of Minute Nos. 48, 49 and 56. Councillor Bob Wright attended the meeting in respect of Minute Nos. 49, 50, 54 and 56.

39. Section 100B(4)(b), Local Government Act 1972

In accordance with Section 100B(4)(b), Local Government Act 1972, the Chair advised that the following item would be considered as a matter of urgency on the grounds stated:

18. Carriage Works Investment - in order to avoid any unnecessary delay in the commencement of the proposed development, minimise disruption to tenants of other units, and to maximise the Council's income from the development.

40. Declarations of Interest.

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

Councillor Toby Elliott made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of Cabinet's consideration of Agenda Item No. 18 ("Carriage Works Investment") on employment grounds. Councillor Elliott indicated that he would not vote on the decision in respect of this item.

41. Minutes.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September, 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

42. Public Question Time.

Mr Les Durrant, Chair of Swindon Development Delivery Panel, (Chairman & Managing Director, DPDS Consulting Group) had submitted a question about the provision of strategic planning up to 2050. Councillor Toby Elliott, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, had provided a written response which was tabled at the meeting. Mr Durrant asked a supplementary question about the provision of infrastructure to support development to which the Cabinet Member responded at the meeting.

43. 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 the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Item No.	Paragraph No.	Minute Nos.
17 and 18	3	55 and 56

44. Annual Report of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and Authority

Councillor Garry Perkins, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Vice-Chairman of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority, and the Chief Fire Officer, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's endorsement of the 2016-17 Annual Report of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. Chief Fire Officer Ben Ansell, Area Manager, Craig Baker, and Director of Finance, Phil Chow, attended the meeting to introduce the report and responded to members' questions about the provision of services to the Borough as well as further opportunities for partnership working.

Following the Chief Fire Officer's introduction of the report, members were given the opportunity to put questions to him and his support officers on the issues raised. In particular, Councillors Toby Elliott, Fionuala Foley, and Brian Ford, asked questions and made observations regarding the new Fire Safety Centre in Wroughton and opportunities for the Fire Service to engage with the local community and its elected representatives, the high quality of the Annual Report and sharing the information with as wide an audience as possible, including its availability online and in libraries, the comparison of stated emergency response times with those recorded in other areas, the context of some of the key financial headlines within the Annual Report, and the data regarding the military as a high risk group for involvement in road traffic accidents and the specific work undertaken by the Service to engage with the military on this issue.

Resolved – (1) That the 2016-17 Annual Report of the Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service be endorsed.

(2) That Mr Ansell and his colleagues be thanked for attending the meeting and for their full and open responses to members' questions on issues regarding the provision of services to the Borough as well as further opportunities for partnership working.

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

45. Swindon - A Learning Town

Councillors Fionuala Foley, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment, and Oliver Donachie, Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills, and the Head of Education, submitted a joint report informing Cabinet of a new initiative called "Swindon: A Learning Town", being developed as an important part of Swindon Challenge with the overall aim to raise aspirations, improve educational

attainment and improve the profile of the importance of learning and its potential to improve lives.

It was noted that the report was necessary because the Learning Town initiative would raise educational standards by engaging a wide range of partners across the town, including local business, cultural and community organisations and all those engaged in education and training. The focus of the initiative would be to raise the profile of the benefits of learning and celebrate achievement whilst raising the aspirations of children, young people and adults.

Councillor Foley introduced the report and drew members' attention to the successful outcomes achieved through a similar approach in Bristol. Councillor Donachie, as co-author of the report, informed members about how Swansea had used an equivalent policy as a catalyst for economic development. The Director of Children's Services added that the proposals would complement the work of the Swindon Challenge Board.

Resolved – (1) That the principle of developing the “Learning Town” concept in Swindon, the key objectives, governance arrangements and timescales for development and delivery, outlined in the report, be approved.

(2) That Cabinet commits to championing the concept of “Swindon: A Learning Town” and authorises the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Children's Services and School Attainment and the Economy and Skills, to support the concept.

(3) That the financial arrangements outlined in the report be endorsed.

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

46. Council Tax and Care Leavers

Councillor Russell Holland, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member Finance and Commercialisation, and Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and School Attainment, and the Head of Revenues and Benefits and Director of Children's Services, submitted a joint report recommending that consultation be commenced on granting Discretionary Discounts of Council Tax to care leavers. It was noted that this would help in delivering the Council's Priority of helping 'people to help themselves while always protecting the most vulnerable' and also its Corporate Parenting responsibilities for the children in the Council's care.

Councillor Foley introduced the report, commenting on the Council's wish to help all individuals leaving care to live independent lives. She also advised the meeting of the positive response of the main Opposition Group to the report and, in particular, thanked that Group's spokesperson for his support for the proposals. Councillor Russell Holland added that the Council needed to act to help ensure the best possible outcomes for those leaving care systems.

Resolved – (1) That consultation be authorised on the granting of a 100% Swindon Council Tax exemption for Swindon care leavers until the age of 21 and on a 50% discount for those with joint Council Tax responsibility with one other person living in the Swindon Borough Council area. That, where care leavers have joint Council Tax

responsibility with 2 other persons, the discount to be 33%, and 25% if the joint responsibility is with 3 other persons.

(2) That consultation be also authorised on extending any Exemption or Council Tax Discount for Swindon Care Leavers under the age of 25, where good reason or hardship is shown, and in order to prevent destitution or homelessness, and where help provided under the Council Tax Support scheme, other discounts or Discretionary Housing Payments is not sufficient.

(3) That it be noted that the result of the consultations will be reported to Cabinet with any final proposals in February 2018. That it be also noted that, if agreed, these discounts will be effective from 1st April 2018 with discretion to cancel any outstanding arrears owed prior to this date.

(4) That, subject to (3) above, and the discounts being agreed, a review of these measures be undertaken at the beginning of the financial year 2019/20. This review will report on the numbers and values of discounts granted in the first full financial year and will evaluate whether any further measures are required, particularly to help care leavers aged between 21 and 25.

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

47. Fire safety in high-rise residential blocks of flats

Councillor Cathy Martyn, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, and the Corporate Director of Communities and Housing, submitted a joint report advising Cabinet on the existing fire safety measures that are in place to the Council's residential blocks of flats, which ensure that they are safe to live in. It also set out the proposed activities to improve fire safety following the Grenfell Tower fire, in response to the resolution at Council of 13th July 2017 (Council Minute 19, 2017/18 refers). The report also sought Cabinet's approval for the proposed fire safety improvements to comply with current benchmark standards and further enhance fire safety, which will also help to make sure that residents feel safe.

Councillor Martyn introduced the report, setting out the background, including the consultation that had taken place with the Adults' Health, Adults' Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the ongoing communications with tenants and leaseholders.

Following her introduction of the report, Councillor Martyn, supported by the Head of Property Maintenance and the Fire Service Area Manager, responded to questions put by Councillors Emma Bushell, Oliver Donachie and Bob Wright on the following issues:

- the funding of the proposed fire safety improvement works, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and the lobbying of Central Government for additional resource for this unforeseen budget pressure;
- the materials used in panelling at the David Murray John Tower;
- the "stay put policy" and the consistency of advice given to residents on how to respond in the event of an alarm;
- the need to keep communal areas clear in 3 and 4 storey residential blocks; and
- the proposed use of a rescue chair to evacuate residents at Rueben George Hall.

Resolved – (1) That the fire safety improvement works and the requisite budget of £1,066,380, as set out in the summary of fire safety costs shown in Appendix 1 to the report, be authorised.

(2) That a revenue budget of £50k be allocated to appoint a consultant for a sample of intrusive type 4 fire risk assessment surveys to be carried out, which will provide a comprehensive fire safety report for the different types of flats.

(3) That resources be increased and a revenue budget of £40k be allocated for a temporary post to manage fire safety activities for a 12 month period, as a one-off cost.

(4) That future fire risk assessments be carried out to a type 3 level to ensure that the communal areas (common parts) and a sample of flats are included within the fire risk assessment for each block of flats, which is to be an ongoing cost of £20k per annum.

(5) That the Head of Housing Services be authorised to prioritise future fire safety work arising from more in-depth fire risk assessments, as part of the annual budget setting process for future capital programmes of work.

(6) That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety report these decisions to Council in response to the resolution of 13th July 2017.

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

48.

Budget Update

Councillor Russell Holland, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member Finance and Commercialisation, and the Corporate Director of Resources and Growth, submitted a joint report providing an update on the position in relation to the 2017/18 forecast outturn and setting out the approach for addressing the financial challenge in the period to March 2020.

Councillor Holland introduced the report and expanded on the opportunities that might be realised by participating in the business rates retention pilot scheme.

Following Councillor Holland's introduction of the report, members were invited to put questions on the issues raised and on specific items within the appended budget management report. Councillors Cathy Martyn, Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities and Place, Oliver Donachie, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Skills, Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Digitalisation, and Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, responded at the meeting to questions put by Councillors Emma Bushell, Jane Milner-Barry and Toby Elliott, on the following matters:

- the number of void council properties
- the increased use of hybrid vehicles and options for the provision of electric car charging points
- the timescale for reorganising STEAM so as to maximise income generation.

Resolved – (1) That the in-year forecast outturn position for 2017/18 be noted and that it also be noted that responding management actions are in place to manage the projected year-end overspend.

(2) That the update on delivering the renewables target and reducing energy costs be noted.

(3) That the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercialisation be authorised to

respond to the invitation for the 100% business rates pilot scheme for 2018/19.

(4) That (a) the virements set out in Appendix 2, and (b) the approach set out in the Swindon Programme to manage the financial challenge facing the Council whilst targeting resources to delivering essential services to the most vulnerable, be agreed.

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

49. Swindon Museum and Art Gallery - Round 1 bid submission

Councillor Garry Perkins, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, and the Corporate Director for Resources and Growth, submitted a joint report informing the Cabinet of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid to secure funding to develop a detailed business case for the proposed new Museum and Art Gallery. The report also sought the 'in principle' agreement of Cabinet to ongoing financial support for the operation of the proposed new Museum and Art Gallery, in order to facilitate this bid. This report restated the Council's ongoing revenue support for a new facility in light of a previous Cabinet commitment in December 2014.

Councillor Garry Perkins introduced the report and advised the meeting of an additional recommendation to be considered, regarding the endorsement of the draft Partnership Agreement between the Council and Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Trust.

Councillor Jane Milner-Barry stated that the Opposition Group welcomed the report and supported the Trust's bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Following his introduction of the report, Councillor Perkins responded to questions put by Councillors Toby Elliott, Jane Milner-Barry, and Bob Wright regarding:

- the viability of local residents being given free entry to the new Museum and Art Gallery;
- the precise location of the Museum and Art Gallery within the site footprint; and
- communications with the public, Members, and the Council administration regarding the proposals for the Museum and Art Gallery.

Resolved – (1) That the Trust be supported in its forthcoming bid for HLF funding for a new Museum and Art Gallery facility.

(2) That the previously agreed revenue funding of up to £245,000 per annum, (Cabinet Minute 51(3)(2014/15)) refers), to support the operational costs of a new Museum and Art Gallery, should the HLF bid be successful, be endorsed.

(3) That officers be authorised to work with the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Trust to identify funding to address the remaining estimated deficit through the introduction of a nominal or voluntary entrance fee.

(4) That, if required, the application of resources such as business rates and New Homes Bonus, arising from further development/uplift in the vicinity to meet the funding shortfall identified in Appendix 1 of this report, be agreed, subject to the governance arrangements as set out in para 3.16 of the report being put in place, and confirmation of the feasibility for the project through the Development Phase of the bid.

(5) That the Partnership Agreement between the Council and Swindon Museum and

Art Gallery Trust be endorsed, and that the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council

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

50. County Ground Recreation Improvements and Asset Transfer

Councillor Mary Martin, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place, and the Corporate Director Resources and Growth and the Head of Property Assets, submitted a joint report providing an update on the Swindon Town Football in the Community Trust's interest in (a) taking a lease of part of the County Recreation Ground Swindon for the use and development of a pavilion to be shared with the Swindon Harriers Athletics Club and other community sports and social users, and (b) constructing an enclosed full size FA registered artificial grass pitch on the public open space to provide enhanced formal sports and community related facilities. It was noted that the report was necessary as it involved a leisure asset that serves the whole borough and that Cabinet approval was being sought to grant the required leases to enable the proposed improvements to be delivered.

Councillor Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities and Place, introduced the report and thanked ward members for their participation in the consultation process.

Councillor Bob Wright advised that it was his view that the area identified in Appendix 1 to the report for lease to Swindon Town Football Club, was not the same as that used in the consultation exercise. Councillor Martin noted his comments and, since the matter could not be clarified at the meeting, she proposed an amendment to the recommendations to that effect, that she be authorised to determine the precise area to be the subject of the lease, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Resources and Growth, the Head of Property Assets and the Ward Members.

Resolved – (1) That the Head of Property Assets, in consultation with the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to agree terms for the grant of a lease of the land at the County Recreation Ground Swindon ('the Grounds'), shown edged red on the plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report, to the Swindon Harriers Athletics Club ('the Club'), for a term of 25 years, to enable the improvements detailed in the body of the report.

(2) That the Head of Property Assets, in consultation with the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to agree terms for the grant of a lease of an area of land at the County Recreation Ground Swindon ('the Grounds') to the Swindon Town Football in the Community ('the Trust') for a term of 25 years, subject to planning permission being secured, to enable the improvements detailed in the body of this report. In addition, that the area of land to be leased shall be determined under the Delegated Authority of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Resources and Growth, the Head of Property Assets and the Ward Members.

(3) That the Head of Property Assets, in consultation with the Director of Finance, be authorised to agree all necessary documentation to support the grant funding bids on such terms and conditions as are necessary to protect the Councils interests.

(4) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to complete all

necessary legal documentation to enable the lease of the areas of land at the County Recreation Ground Swindon, referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, to the Club and the Trust respectively, on such terms and conditions as he considers necessary to protect the Council's interests.

(5) That a budget of £215k be approved for the County Recreation Ground Improvements, to be funded from Section 106 Planning Agreement income.

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

51. Polling District and Places Review

Councillor David Renard, the Leader of the Council, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's authorisation to (a) undertake a review of polling places within the wards of Blunsdon and Highworth, (b) create new polling districts within the Blunsdon & Highworth, Chiseldon & Lawn and St Margaret & South Marston wards, and (c) re-adjust the boundary of SAB & SAD polling districts in St Andrews ward.

It was noted that a polling district review is carried out every 4 years in accordance with regulation and that a limited review is undertaken each year, following on from the Council's elections, to look specifically at issues raised in connection with polling districts, places or stations. This review was necessary as the recent Community Governance Review created some anomalies between new parishes and existing polling district areas. It was further noted that, in addition to it being good practice to keep the location of polling stations under constant review, in case venues cease to be available, the report also set out specific issues that had been brought to the attention of the Returning Officer.

Resolved – That Council be recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the recommended changes to Polling Places within the Borough as follows:
 - a. Blunsdon & Highworth Ward - that the polling place for electoral registers BHG & BHI be moved to Westrop School from Highworth Youth Centre.
- (2) Endorse the recommended changes to Polling Districts within the Borough as follows:
 - a. Blunsdon & Highworth Ward - that new polling districts BHJ and BHK be created to correspond with the parish boundary, both BHJ and BHK fall within South Marston Parish Council.
 - b. Chiseldon & Lawn Ward - that an adjustment to the polling district boundary for CLB be made to create the polling district CLD to correspond with the parish boundaries, CLB falls within Chiseldon Parish Council and CLD within Central Swindon South Parish Council.
 - c. Ridgeway Ward – that new polling district RWE be created to correspond with the parish boundary, RWE falls within for Central Swindon South Parish Council.
 - d. St Margaret and South Marston Ward - that new polling districts SME, SMF and SMG be created to correspond with parish boundaries, SME falls within Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, SMF within South Marston Parish Council and SMG within Nythe, Eldene and Liden Parish Council.

- e. St Andrews Ward – that an adjustment to the polling district boundary for SAB and SAD be made to create a more convenient Electoral Register.
- (3) Note that the Director of Law and Democratic Services (as Returning Officer) will implement the proposed changes for future Borough, Parish and Parliamentary elections.

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

52. Swindon Borough Local Plan Review - Regulation 18 (Issues & Options) Consultation

Councillor Toby Elliott, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and the Corporate Director for Communities and Housing, submitted a joint report seeking approval to undertake public consultation on Issues and Options as the first major stage of the review of the Swindon Borough Local Plan, for a six week period, and to prepare and publish supporting evidence base material.

It was noted that, in accordance with Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), local planning authorities are required to undertake public consultation regarding the scope and strategic issues to be addressed as the first formal stage in the production of a Local Plan for the area.

Paragraph 158 of the National Planning Policy Framework stipulates that each local planning authority should ensure that the Local Plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area.

Resolved – (1) That the Head of Planning, Regulatory Services and Heritage, be authorised to undertake public consultation on the Issues and Options of the Swindon Borough Local Plan Review, as attached at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report, and in accordance with the arrangements set out in paragraph 3.21 of the report.

(2) That the Head of Planning, Regulatory Services and Heritage, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to make any necessary changes to the consultation documents before they are finalised for publication, and agree any changes to Appendix 2 with Wiltshire Council.

(3) That the Head of Planning, Regulatory Services and Heritage, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and other relevant Cabinet Members, be authorised to produce and publish evidence base material required to support the preparation of the Local Plan Review.

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

53. Affordable Housing Development Update

Councillor Cathy Martyn, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, and

the Head of Housing Services, submitted joint report providing an update on the Affordable Housing Development Programme and seeking approval for the Head of Housing Services to use Housing Revenue Account resources to develop the sites detailed in the report.

Councillor Martyn responded to questions put by Councillors Emma Bushell and Brian Ford on:

- the delays to the construction at Bembridge Close,
- the net loss or gain from construction at Queens Drive and Ventnor Close
 - the mix of the units to be offered – affordable, social, or for sale.

Resolved – That the Head of Housing Services be authorised to -

- a) Complete the construction of the Penhill United Reform Church site at a cost of £2,066,000, supported by grant funding from the Shared Ownership and Affordable Housing Programme 2016 – 2021.
- b) Complete the construction of assisted living bungalows at Linden and Bembridge Avenue at a cost of £2,030,000, supported by Department of Health grant funding of £30,000 per unit.
- c) Spend £340,000 additional Department of Health grant funding to further enhance the assisted living homes at Hawthorns in Gorse Hill, Linden Avenue in Pinehurst and Bembridge Close in Park North, to minimise future care costs.
- d) Complete the decant and demolition of existing buildings on Queens Drive, and develop plans in readiness for a Planning Application at an initial cost of £2,000,000.
- e) Design and carry out a consultation on a potential assisted dwellings development on Council land at Ventnor Close. Early design work will cost £30,000.

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

54. Wichelstowe Joint Venture

Councillor Toby Elliott, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and the Corporate Director for Resources and Growth, submitted a joint report setting out the amendments proposed to be made to the Joint Venture terms for the development of Middle and West Wichel, previously reported to Cabinet, and seeking approval to move forward with the finalisation of the 5-year business plan and finalisation of the legal agreements. It was noted that, due to the time elapsed since the original decision was made, the officers felt it appropriate that an update be made to Cabinet prior to finalising the Joint Venture agreement.

Resolved – (1) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and the Corporate Director, Resources & Growth, be authorised to complete the necessary contractual arrangements for the Joint Venture, together with associated documentation, on such terms as he considers necessary to protect the Council's interests.

(2) That the Corporate Director, Resources & Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, be authorised to work with BDW Trading Ltd to finalise the 5 year business plan.

(3) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, be authorised to provide formal approval for relevant business plans.

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

55. Site in South East Swindon - Proposed disposal and collaboration agreement

Councillor Toby Elliott, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and the Corporate Director, Resources and Growth, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's approval for (a) the provisional terms that have been agreed with the Company identified in the report, which will lead to the construction of some 250 new homes on a brownfield site, and (b) the provision of additional funds to invest in supporting the community.

Resolved – (1) That the final heads of terms of the Option Agreement, as set out in the main body of the report, negotiated with the Company referred to in the report by the Head of Property Assets in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability, and the Corporate Director, Resources and Growth, for the disposal of the site identified in the plan attached to the report, be agreed.

(2) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Sustainability and Corporate Director for Resources and Growth, be authorised to create the Community Fund referred to in the report, and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Company referred to in the report, which will set out the terms of reference of the Community Fund and its governance arrangements.

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

56. Carriage Works Investment

Councillor Garry Perkins, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, and the Corporate Director, Resources and Growth, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet authorisation to proceed in conjunction with Forward Swindon Ltd (FSL) with further phases of redevelopment of the "Carriage Works" site, as detailed in the report. The report also sought approval of additional funding for the redevelopment of Units 5, 7, 9, 11 and bike sheds of the Carriage Works.

Councillors Jane Milner-Barry and Bob Wright asked questions relating to the proposal and the further development of the site, to which the Cabinet Member responded at the meeting.

Resolved – (1) That the provision of the additional capital investment for further redevelopment of the Carriage Works, as detailed in the report, be agreed, with the release of funds to be authorised by the Director of Finance in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to support the work for units 5, 7 and 9.

(2) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with Forward Swindon Ltd, the Corporate Director Resources and Growth, and the Cabinet

Member for Regeneration, be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation (including an initial lease, if necessary) with Network Rail for the section of the Carriage Works that will be the subject of Phase 2 (redevelopment of Units 7, 9, 11 and bike sheds of Carriage Works – as detailed in Appendix A to the report), on such terms as he considers necessary to protect the Council's interests.

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

(Councillor Toby Elliott made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of this item, on employment grounds, and took no part in the voting thereon.)