

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

16 December 2014

Public Participation

Item 8 - Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Governance

Question from Mrs Charmian Spickernell

Response by Councillor Jane Scott, OBE, Leader of the Council

Question

With the Government seeking to involve and engage the business community in setting local economic priorities including funding for transport, does this mean others will be left out altogether? While joint working between Swindon and Wiltshire Councils and the setting up of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Task Group is welcomed, where in the governance rules is debate among Councillors other than those on the JSEC provided for, and where is public involvement provided for? Will democracy prevail?

Response

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is a non statutory joint local authority-business bodies' partnership created to promote sustainable economic growth within the Wiltshire and Swindon area.

Debate on issues of sustainable growth pertaining to Wiltshire remains within Wiltshire Council's decision making process. The purpose of the LEP is to encourage effective joint working between the individual bodies to promote effective joint working to achieve the LEP's aims of sustainable economic growth within the Swindon and Wiltshire Area.