

# Swindon Strategic Partnership Conference Report 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010 - STEAM



Swindon  
Strategic  
Partnership

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# Introduction

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October around 200 people gathered in the Great Western Hall at STEAM Museum in Swindon.

It was an interactive conference with delegates looking at **One Swindon** priorities and how to take them forward.

This short report is a summary and reminder of the event.

It aims to highlight themes discussed on the day and next steps for **One Swindon**.

Tom Charnock, Chair of Swindon Strategic Partnership Overview & Monitoring Group



# Context of the Day

We were joined on the day by:

- **Cllr Roderick Bluh, Leader of Swindon Borough Council and Chair of the Partnership** who talked about the current political climate, after the recent general election, and, the possible outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review
- **Paul Howlett, Divisional Commander from Wiltshire & Swindon Police** talked about how things will be very different in the future for Policing and how public agencies will all need to work together for the people of Swindon.
- **Heather Mitchell, Chief Executive of NHS Swindon** talked about communities and individuals looking out for each other, enabling people to be supported at home and the future for Primary Care Trusts over the next 3 years.
- **Gavin Jones, Chief Executive, Swindon Borough Council** stated that the cuts from central government will have an impact on the way the Council does its business in the future and the importance of voluntary and community groups coming together with public sector agencies to deliver services to the people of Swindon in a different way. He talked about collaboration being the way forward for the way we have to work from now on and how **One Swindon** will enable us to prioritise and move this way of working forward.

# Session 1

This session explored what it is like to live in Swindon and asked delegates to discuss the big priorities of **One Swindon** and capture its impact on the lives of residents.

## Examples:

**Bob**



I live with my wife of 50 years who has dementia. I enjoy coming to my club to meet my friends while a volunteer sits with my wife.

I am worried about the cost of living. I can manage now but I don't want to lose my bus pass, and the winter fuel allowance. I want to feel safe in my community and be able to walk to the bus-stop. I am worried about my grandson who hasn't got a job. I want him to be able to get a job in Swindon

**One Swindon**

I am making a contribution by mentoring a young person. I organise a monthly event at the club. My wife has a care co-ordinator who helps with her everyday needs and monitors her care plan. The young person I mentor comes over once a week to sit with my wife. When I see my Doctor he understands – I know there is a plan for my wife's care if I am poorly. I am part of the community watch. I use the internet which has made my life easier – I don't wear cardigans!

**Smith Family**



**We have everything we need and want, right here, right now**

- We've both got a job close to our home that we enjoy
- We can easily and quickly get out to the countryside and open green spaces near our home
- Being green is made easy for us
- We think Swindon town centre is a great place to spend time – shopping and leisure
- There are lots of different things for us to try (as a family) across the Borough
- We're confident that our children have a bright future
- We live healthy lifestyles and have access to good quality health services when we need them
- I live in a friendly neighbourhood
- We feel safe wherever we are in Swindon
- We enjoy the richness and diversity of Swindon's culture
- We've got nice safe places to play near our house
- Proud to live in Swindon
- Swindon's a great place to live
- We love going to school
- We look after each other and can play an active role in our community if we want to

(All the Posters from this session can be viewed at [www.swindonsp.org.uk](http://www.swindonsp.org.uk))

## Pop-Up Sessions – examples of successful new ways of working

### Ian Jankinson & Helena Robinson – Swindon Sports Forum

- In response to one of SBC's 50 promises, the Swindon Sports Forum was established in 2006.
- The promotion of sport and increasing opportunities available are key elements of the Sports Forum's work plan.
- The Sports Forum acts as an enabler, empowering clubs to be the best they can be and since 2008, the Forum has been managing a small grants programme, distributing money to local clubs and individuals.

### Cllr Derique Montaut – Broadgreen Project

- This is a project which is being organised by Broadgreen Community Council, supported by the Broadgreen community, Tesco, Swindon Town Football Club, and Swindon Borough Council
- Initially it was linked to a clean up of the County Ground Extension and to address local environmental concerns
- 8 priorities have been agreed and work includes fund raising, improving parking concerns on match-days and reduced rate match-day tickets for local people to promote community cohesion. Other initiatives are being planned.

For more information contact **Broadgreen Community Partnership Group**

### Clarissa Mitchell & Rev. Celia Carter – Trustees from Hop Skip & Jump

- Hop, Skip & Jump aims to provide flexible, immediate and sustained day care for children with special needs and their families using a purpose built facility at Lydiard Park, Swindon.
- Our appeal is being backed by Swindon Borough Council and the Government's Aiming High programme.
- Find out more visit [www.hopskipandjumpswindon.org](http://www.hopskipandjumpswindon.org)

### Intergenerational Project – Bill Gulliver OAP Mentor, Toni Dickinson 'No Added Sugar' & Ian Bickerton SBC

- Project brought young and older people together to work on a specific Arts project
- The aim was to build understanding of each other's needs as well as make bunting for the Big Arts Day
- Project was so successful that the team are investigating how to roll it out to different age groups

### 360 Team

- A pilot project in Parks testing out new ways to grow community networks, support small projects and create positive relationships.

## Session 2

We heard from the pop-ups and considered exemplars from other places. Groups become excited by the art of the possible and started to think what would need to change about current behaviours, cultures and processes if operating differently is to become commonplace

**Delegates unpacked what was *different* about these and other exemplars from around the world. Key points included:**

- Thinking should start from the perspective of the citizen/customer, their capabilities and needs
- The locus of power shifts radically away from those traditionally in control, towards participants and users
- Time is given to shared problem-framing
- It is worth noting that there is a diverse mix of service providers across different sectors in Swindon
- The pop ups were good examples of how red tape was removed or pushed aside to enable the projects to move forward
- Citizen agency is central, and the role of the professional is re-thought

## Session 3

One Swindon has 4 key priorities:

- **Regeneration, Employment, Skills and Managed Growth**
- **Everyone is enjoying sports, leisure and cultural opportunities**
- **Living independently, making a positive contribution**
- **I like where I live**



We asked delegates to consider the top outcomes that have been identified for each priority and were asked ...

- Should there be more?
  - What would success look like?
  - Likes and dislikes: prioritisation exercise. How do they match up to the design principles?
  - What else is already going on in Swindon which is relevant to the priority and can be built on?
- What these will outcomes mean in practice; what will success look like?

Groups produced posters which show their best ideas and are displayed on the website: [www.swindonsp.org.uk](http://www.swindonsp.org.uk)

# Delegates identified a range of specific actions for the Partnership to discuss.

Learn from good practice!

Engage with those who are 'disengaged'. Those here are the 'informed few' How do we get the voice of the majority?

Better communication – let people know what's happening

Don't use complex language

Just say yes! Work with people who want to make things happen, be open to do things differently.

Cut Red Tape

Engage with Head Teachers and young people

Use parish councils more!

Improve the relationship between Public bodies and Voluntary & Community Sector to build mutual respect and services together

# Commitments

Delegates also recognised that making One Swindon a reality will mean personal commitment. Many made personal commitments. Here are a few examples:

I will establish a Swindon street party event

Public Services could engage with more communities

Lets organise a Swindon Sports Day

What about a Swindon currency?

I will...Create a Swindon Network

A better 'hub' of information with all agencies could be started

We will all work harder to remove red tape and barriers

Lets make people more empowered

Lets all engage with the talent in our communities

Lets all learn how to Trust each other

Lets talk to local groups and start community allotments

## Round-up of the day

*“This was one of the best partnership conferences we have had in recent years, over two hundred delegates from public services, voluntary, community and charitable sectors and private industry met to discuss the evolving One Swindon agenda.*

*As I looked across the room it was heartening to see that we had people from different backgrounds focusing on the needs of the people of Swindon, what outcomes were really desired and how best they should be achieved. This was not just an argument about how we manage the sharing of resources. This was a proper debate about how we can transform ourselves so that residents cannot tell how or by whom services are provided; instead they can just appreciate the positive results.*

*The atmosphere was incredibly creative. If I may use a metaphor, in the past the arguments may have been about how big is my slice of the cake? If the conference is anything to go by, the future will be about what ingredients can I bring and do we really want a cake after all?*

*Feedback and commitments from the day will be used to inform One Swindon and the way forward.”*

**Cllr Roderick Bluh, Leader of Swindon Borough Council and Chair of Swindon Strategic Partnership**