

An Open Letter on the Swindon Labour Group's Proposed Recovery Plan for Swindon

Swindon along with the rest of the UK is beginning to exit the extraordinary measures produced by the need to respond to the challenges created by combatting the Coronavirus Pandemic. The vast majority of the Swindon community have responded with countless examples of fortitude, good neighborliness, kindness and adaptability to combat the virus. In the similar fashion Swindon Borough Council and its staff have shown it to can adapt at speed and demonstrate why local government is vital in meeting local needs.

We all know that fighting the virus has come at a price. Our local and national economy has taken a severe hit at a time of local uncertainty following the impending closure of Honda. Whilst the unresolved discussions with the EU on our future trade relationship continue to cast a shadow on our local economy.

In this light the Leadership of the Labour Group in Swindon Borough Council has produced the attached outline plan to aid the discussion on how Swindon can learn from the events of the last few months. The detail of the plan has been drawn from material supplied by the Local Government Association. We believe the detail of the recommendations set out below provides the basis of a constructive cross-party approach to a Swindon wide recovery plan. The next few months and years ahead will be amongst the most challenging Swindon has seen in the past three decades. No one-part of the town holds all the answers to the best way forward.

This set of proposals is an opportunity for the wider Swindon community to engage with the Borough. It is offered as a real attempt to begin a dialogue within Swindon Borough Council and more importantly its citizens.

In the current uncertain times, we need to show all the good features which have enabled Swindon to meet the demands on us all from the virus. Our social solidarity, fortitude, good spirit, adaptability, and humanity have been at the core of our activity. This plan seeks to build on these virtues and we look forward to engaging with the wider Swindon public on how best we can go forward to lead Swindon away from the problems ahead into a sustainable and profitable future.

If you wish to comment on the suggestions found in the plan or have new ideas to aid recovery, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Grant at grant4gt@btinternet.com.

Sincerely,
Swindon Labour Group Leader,
Jim Grant.