

## **Cllr James Swindlehurst**

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Cllr Swindlehurst is 32 years old, and is the Deputy Leader of the Labour Group (opposition) on Slough Borough Council (the Council has been under N.O.C. since 2004). He is currently Chair of the Council's main Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having twice served as Chair of the Green & Built Environment Scrutiny Committee as well. He is an active and enthusiastic member of scrutiny committees and keen to promote Councillors' research skills and a proactive approach that uses scrutiny to address issues relevant to the public and develops good practice and innovative ways of working.

Prior to holding these scrutiny posts, James was the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Street-scene services, transport, planning and economic development when the Council was controlled by Labour. He was first elected as a Councillor for the Cippenham Green ward, to the south west of Slough, in 2002 and has been re-elected twice since then. He has been a Councillor for just over 5 years.

James is single, and runs his own business landscape gardening. He also does occasional freelance work for the Slough MP, Fiona Mactaggart and has been her Election Agent and Campaign Co-ordinator at the last two General Elections. He has a first-class Honours degree in English and French from London University and an MA in European Literature and Culture, and in the past, he has lived and worked in France, teaching English, and for the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium after leaving University.

James is also a Board Member of Blue Sky Enterprises, a social business run by Groundwork Thames Valley, which helps to train, support rehabilitation and provide employment for ex-offenders in the South East region.