

Swindon Borough Council

Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 8 February 2021

Microsoft Teams Meeting for Members - Live Event for Press and Public

At 6.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Steve Weisinger (Vice-Chair)
Matthew Courtliff
Barbara Parry
Kevin Parry
Roger Smith
Timothy Swinyard
Rahul Tarar

Labour Councillors

James Robbins (Chair)
Junab Ali
Emma Bushell
Jim Grant
Jane Milner-Barry

Liberal Democrat Councillors

Andy Spry

Committee Officer: Vicki Yull, 07980 752043, CommitteeServices@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council can be contacted at the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 445500)

AGENDA

NOTE

The link for the public session of the meeting is here: [link for the public and press to view Scrutiny Committee on 8th February 2021](#).

This link will only work from 6.00pm on 8th February 2021. For help on viewing the meeting, please visit: [link to help on live events in Teams](#).

Please note that if Members resolve to go in to a private and confidential session the public link will be closed.

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

3. Minutes (Pages 5 - 10)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2021.

4. Public Question Time

See explanatory note below. Please contact the Committee Officer whose details appear at the top of this agenda if you need further guidance.

During Covid-19, questions must be submitted by 3.00pm two working days before the meeting.

5. Consideration of Cabinet Decisions (Pages 11 - 12)

6. Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges (Pages 13 - 22)

7. Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session - Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services (Pages 23 - 50)

8. Work Programme 2020/2021 (Pages 51 - 68)

9. Status of Requests for Action and / or Information (Pages 69 - 74)

Date of Despatch: 29 January 2021

Access Arrangements: If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size, please contact the Committee Officer as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

Public Question Time: Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

The deadline for submitting questions for this meeting is 3.00pm on 3rd February 2021.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Chief Legal Officer. We will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the [Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance](#), which is available on the Council website or from the Committee Officer named above. A privacy note about how we record Public Questions is available here: [Publication of public questions and questioners](#)

Terms of Reference:

- To meet at regular intervals to review the policies, process and implications of Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Officer decision making and the way in which Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions are made;
- To consider requests for "Call-in" as defined in the Council's "Call-in" Procedure;
- To refer decisions back to Cabinet (or the decision maker) for reconsideration. It may do this once for any individual decision, after which if there is no agreement the decision will be referred to the full Council for determination;
- To refer Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny

Committee for investigation without delaying the implementation of the decision concerned;

- To receive a report by the Leader of the Council at its first meeting after each Annual Council Meeting (or at such a meeting as is agreed by the Chair of the Committee and the Leader of the Council) on the service issues for the year ahead, the Leader of the Council's priorities for the coming year and on the Council's performance in the previous year;
- To oversee the arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny within the Council, including determining (i) where matters fall within the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee which of those Committees will assume responsibility for any particular issue, (ii) a system to ensure that referrals from Committees to the Cabinet, either by way of report or for reconsideration are managed efficiently and do not exceed any limits set out in the Council's Constitution, and (iii) in the event of reports to the Cabinet exceeding any limits in this Constitution or if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of Cabinet business or jeopardises the efficient running of Council business, at the request of the Cabinet to make decisions about the priority of referrals made.
- To carry out any investigation into the business and functions of the Council and to call in any Cabinet Member or senior officer of the Council so that they can offer advice, support or answer any question that will assist the Committee in carrying out its functions.
- To carry out an external scrutiny function, particularly in relation to corporate issues and issues falling into the remit of a number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to –

- the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations;
- the management of performance,
- the monitoring of progress against corporate priorities and
- the formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders.

To have specific responsibility (but not limited to)

- Good governance
- The Budget Scrutiny function.

Quorum: The quorum for this meeting is at least one quarter of the whole number of the Committee, which is four Councillors.

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2021

PRESENT:- Councillors James Robbins (Chair), Steve Weisinger (Vice-Chair), Junab Ali, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Jim Grant, Jane Milner-Barry, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Roger Smith, Andy Spry, Timothy Swinyard and Rahul Tarar.

Also in attendance were: Councillors David Renard (Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet), Russell Holland (Deputy Leader of the Council, Vice-Chair of Cabinet, and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills), Brian Ford (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health), Dale Heenan (Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage), Maureen Penny (Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services), Gary Sumner (Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning) and Jenny Jefferies.

41. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. The following declaration was made:

- Councillor Roger Smith made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of agenda item 6 (Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session - Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport and Planning) as an employee of a company involved with the review of the Local Plan.

42. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

43. Public Question Time

There were no questions submitted under this item.

44. Budget Setting Process 2021-2022

The Committee received a report from the Chief Legal Officer about the Budget setting process for 2021/22.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Russell Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council, and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills to the meeting.

The Chair along with councillors Emma Bushell, Jim Grant and Jane Milner-Barry, raised the following issues set out below, to which Councillors Russell Holland and Brian Ford, together with Mick Bowden, Corporate Director of Finance and Assets, and David Haley, Corporate Director, Children Services, responded at the meeting.

- The 2020/21 Local Grant settlement for Swindon.

- The position of the budget following receipt of the Local Grant settlement, the details of any proposed savings planned and how Cabinet will be able to submit a balanced budget for scrutiny at the Council meeting on the 18th February 2021.
- The opportunity for all councillors to provide feedback on the draft budget before its submission to the Council meeting.
- How some grants received were one-off payments for this financial year, and that this would result on budget pressures in future years.
- The effect of long-Covid on demand for services.
- The array of short- and long-term pressures on the Adult Social Care budget and Children Services.
- The Dedicated Schools Grant recovery plan and how it is to be submitted for discussion at the next Schools Forum on 19th January 2021.
- How the Covid related grant was reserved for Covid related activity and reference was made to other grants received that included the new homes bonus, social care grant and a lower tier grant.
- An overview of potential risk factors and financial impact associated with the second Covid-related lockdown.
- The financial basis utilised to calculate the draft budget.
- Managing demand for older people and disability, learning disability and mental health services through robust dialogue and support provided to the service user and their carer and how community engagement would be essential.
- The methods implemented to ensure Adult Social Services aligned their programme of work to operate in a more modern, efficient and effective way.
- Confirmation that the car park financial forecast was based on pre-lockdown calculations and that the forecast did not identify specific car parks.

Resolved: – (1) That the budget position update be noted and that the Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills’ responses to questions about the financial context within which the budget proposals have been framed along with the budget and policy framework utilised by the Council in setting its 2021/22 budget, be noted.

(2) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Assets be requested to circulate the Local Grant settlement figures.

(3) That the Corporate Director Adult Services, Health and Housing be requested to circulate:

a) Information regarding “strength based” conversations held to support service users.

b) Information regarding the methods to be used to ensure the Directorate aligned the programme of work to operate in a more modern, efficient and effective way.

(4) That the Clerk be requested to circulate Schools Forum minutes to the meeting being held on 19th January 2021.

45. Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session - Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport and Planning

Councillor Gary Sumner (Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning) was in attendance and presented to the Committee a report summarising progress and performance in respect of the key objectives of his role, which are to:

- Have overview of the Strategic Spatial Planning and Development Planning Framework.
- Provide political leadership for the New Eastern Villages programme.

- Have overview of the Wichelstowe Joint Venture.
- Set the direction for future strategic infrastructure programmes to support economic growth including housing and transport.
- Ensure that the Council's agreed priorities within the portfolio are delivered.

The Cabinet Member is responsible for securing the following Vision Pledges:

- Pledge 3: Refresh and implement the Masterplan for Swindon Town Centre, supporting our vision that Swindon is a vibrant, modern place.
- Pledge 6
 - Deliver infrastructure in a timely way to assist in phased housing & employment delivery for the New Eastern Villages including White Hart Junction & A420.
 - Working with Barratt Homes through the Joint Venture we will deliver the District Centre facilities including a public house, the next phases of housing, a retirement complex and education facilities – whilst also delivering new sections of canal.
 - Create the Southern access to Wichelstowe via a tunnel to be constructed under the M4 to link to Junction 16.
 - Through the Local Plan review identify brownfield and green field sites for housing to deliver homes and employment land on a range of sustainable sites whilst ensuring that urban extensions are of the highest quality.
 - Continue to work with the developers at Tadpole Garden Village to bring forward facilities to ensure a sustainable community can continue to thrive.
 - Ensure that there is a range of good quality housing options in Swindon, including affordable opportunities to buy and rent.
 - Work with Nationwide Building Society to deliver homes at the former Oakfield campus.
 - Support final phases of additional housing at Badbury Park with community space and improvements to Day House Lane to link to Coate Water.

The Cabinet Member also has delegated responsibility for:

- Traffic and Transport Forward Planning (including Local Transport Plan and Implementation of Local Transport Plan).
- Neighbourhood Planning and Sustainability.
- Building Control and Local Land Charges.
- Housing Strategy.
- Design-based consultancy.
- Wichelstowe (Commercialisation).
- Strategic flood and water management.
- Street Naming.
- Environmental Issues Landscape & Countryside.
- Highways Strategy.
- Local Plan – oversight and assurance around delivery of housing numbers, employment land, planning policy.
- Strategic Infrastructure Plan.
- Developer Contributions.
- Transport Schemes – Delivery of existing schemes & determination of future schemes.
- Bus & Rail network – Network Rail & GWR – Swindon Station.

Councillor Sumner introduced his report and referred to the delivery of the infrastructure programmes across Swindon, particularly at Wichelstowe and the on-going construction development at Symmetry Park that will provide significant employment opportunities.

Councillor Sumner responded to questions put by Councillors Junab Ali, Jim Grant, Jane Milner-Barry, Steve Weisinger and the Chair on the following matters:

- The proposed timescale for the completion of the 3 and 5 year housing supply targets set in the Neighbourhood Plans and the progress made to date.
- The progress made on the number of houses completed in the Eastern Village sector.
- Adverse effects of Covid on new housing delivery.
- The report published on the Planning Resource website regarding Swindon's position in meeting the government housing requirements and confirmation that currently no government interventions have been proposed.
- The Council's performance in meeting current housing delivery targets.
- The promotion of Swindon as an ideal town for housing developers, how the number of planned houses currently surpasses the number of houses already built and that construction delays sometimes resulted from the need to lay in the services infrastructure prior to commencing any housing developments.
- An explanation that whilst work was being undertaken by the Planning Department to ensure that the Local Plan met the achievable and deliverable targets, it was beyond its control if developers opted to "park the land" until what they deemed 'the right financial climate to build houses.'
- The myriad approaches used to engage with local business, landowners and commercial agents to promote town centre regeneration by utilising achievable solutions that will lead to a wider sustainable regeneration.
- How the Town Centre Master Plan, which was originally drafted in 2009, was continuously updated to include a) recommendations made by local businesses and b) take into consideration on-going concerns arising over time, such as the latest Covid-19 pandemic.
- How an on-line interactive tool was being developed, as part of the revamped Town Centre Master Plan, enabling the public to stay abreast of the latest developments on the town centre regeneration.
- Planning tools and drivers put in place to encourage stronger engagement with absent landlords of town centre properties.
- How delays in the completion of infrastructure schemes being undertaken at Meads Way and the Moonraker Junction was due to essential work being undertaken by utilities and the adverse effect the pandemic has had on manpower.
- An explanation of the challenges being met by the Strategic Development Department including financial elements and how its restructuring has resulted in efficiencies and savings.
- The range of topics raised in the department's response to the White Paper included developers concerns regarding planning permissions and community engagement and that this information had been circulated to members in an all members briefing note.
- The robust discussions held by the Climate Change working group included understanding factors that best promote sustainable construction practices and energy efficiencies that are being used within the modern construction industry.

- How through partnership working, developers ensured building projects were financially viable and that the local authority ensured good quality developments are built, which encompassed a number of affordable housing within each development.
- That a mechanism was in place allowing for the recoupment of infrastructure costs invested as part of joint ventures between the local authority and developers and confirmation that these costs are being recouped over the period of the project.
- The successful construction of electric car charging points at Wichelstowe.

Resolved – (1) That Councillor Sumner be thanked for attending the meeting to present his performance report and for his full and open responses to members' questions and observations on the issues raised.

(2) That the Strategic Planning Policy Manager be requested to circulate information regarding:

a) The number of houses completed since the current Local Plan was adopted and whether the Council is on target to complete the anticipated 22 thousand houses within the plan.

b) The scheduled end date for the infrastructure schemes being undertaken at Meads Way and the Moonraker Junction.

3) That the Head of Finance, Economy, Regeneration and Skills, be requested to circulate information regarding the timescale to recoup infrastructure costs from the developers at Wichelstowe.

46. Work Programme 2020/2021

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Legal Officer setting out the topics for inclusion in the 2020/2021 Scrutiny Work Programme, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 7th July 2020, and updated during the course of the Municipal Year.

47. Status of Requests for Action and / or Information

The Committee received an updated report advising on the status of outstanding issues and member requests for information.

Resolved – That the report on the status of outstanding issues and member requests for information be noted.

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Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Author: Chief Legal Officer

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To allow the Scrutiny Committee to consider the decisions arising from the meeting of the Cabinet on the 3rd February 2021.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference include the review of the Cabinet decision making process and the way in which Cabinet decisions are made. As part of the Scrutiny function the Scrutiny Committee is able:
 - 1.2.1 To refer decisions back to Cabinet for reconsideration. It may do this once for any individual decision, after which, if there is no agreement, the decision will be referred to the full Council for determination.
 - 1.2.2 To refer Cabinet decisions to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Review the process of Cabinet decision-making and the decisions made.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to review the decisions of the Cabinet to be held on the 3rd February 2021. The minutes of the meeting will be forwarded to Members as soon as they become available.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 This report has no financial or procurement implications. Such implications are set out in the original reports previously circulated to all Councillors with the Cabinet Agenda.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull (Committee Officer), 07980 752043, vyull@swindon.gov.uk.

Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been fully taken into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 None.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the Work Programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 None.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft minutes of the meeting of Cabinet to be held on 3rd February 2021 (to follow).

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Author: Leader of the Council

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report gives details of the progress being made towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges.
- 1.2 A link to the Council's Plan can be found [here](#).
- 1.3 A link to the Vision, Priorities and Pledges can be found [here](#).

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1 The Council Plan, sets out the vision for Swindon and the priorities it aims to achieve for residents. In order to deliver the Council's vision, the Council has identified four priorities and 26 pledges.
- 3.2 Progress against the Council's pledges is updated monthly. Performance regarding the pledges is also published on the Corporate Scorecards which are available for Members and Senior Officers.
- 3.3 Pledges have a set of specific deliverables which outline how each pledge will be achieved. The pledges are also supported by a range of performance measures.
- 3.4 Due to the ongoing impact of the coronavirus pandemic, a review was completed. The review concluded that some of the deliverables associated with the pledges would need to be amended. These largely involved amending dates to more realistic timescales as a result of delays due to Covid-19. For example, delays to capital projects during the first lockdown. In July 2020, refreshed deliverables were compiled up to the end of March 2021 to ensure that realistic timescales were set and a course of action to progress pledges up to the end of the financial year. There were no pledges identified which could not be completed without minor changes to timescales and changes to delivery to take into account of social distancing and local restrictions.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Martin Bell, 07824 081201, MBell2@swindon.gov.uk.

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Priority One – Improve infrastructure and housing to support a growing, low-carbon economy

- 3.5 Pledges in Priority One cover aspects of infrastructure including digital innovation, sustainability, regeneration of the town centre, promoting inward investment, supporting businesses and the delivery of housing and transport projects. Good infrastructure is vital to ensure that Swindon attracts inward investment and businesses, meets the needs of our growing town and safeguards our environment for Swindon residents.
- 3.6 For Priority One, a number of capital projects are underway and the general fund has an existing capital programme of £309m of which £162.4m is funded through capital grants that the Council have been successful in securing.
- 3.7 **Digital Innovation:** Good progress is being made to deliver improved fibre and 5G and Swindon ranks 37 out of 63 for ultrafast broadband in the Centre for Cities list. Plans for digital signage have had to be put on hold during Covid-19. The Growth and Economy team are working with Digital and IT leads to develop Smart City objectives. A virtual TechSwindon event was held in November over the course of a week with more than 20 unique sessions. TechSwindon acts as an information hub across the region to celebrate innovation and to connect and inform those working in the tech sector.
- 3.8 **Sustainable Energy:** The MHCLG has confirmed that PPS has been successful in its application for £2.4m from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the Waterside Innovation Hub project. The Council is working with Imperial College London to assess Swindon's route to net zero carbon and the study findings were presented to council officers in October. The Council is currently formulating a response to the study and how the findings can assist with the development of the electric vehicle strategy. Cabinet approved the draft Climate Change Strategy which is currently out for public consultation.
- 3.9 **Kimmerfields:** The Council acquired the parcel of land owned by Homes England on the Kimmerfields site in March 2020 and this has changed the milestones to reflect the council-only route to delivery. Zurich were let the contract in July and construction work for the Zurich offices is well underway. Cabinet approved plans for the Cultural Quarter to move to Kimmerfields. The Council is awaiting the outcome of the Town Funds bid and this is expected in February.
- 3.10 **Bus Boulevard:** On track for delivery. On 26th December 2020, the Council received confirmation of £25m in funding from the Future High Streets Fund. The current focus on is the design work.
- 3.11 **Town Centre Transport Network:** As a result of Covid-19, walking and cycling improvements have been delivered through the Emergency Active Travel Fund. Capital
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Martin Bell, 07824 081201, MBell2@swindon.gov.uk.

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

bids have been submitted to seek Cabinet approval for more significant investment in the Town Centre highway network. In November, the council received £730,000 from the Government's Active Travel Fund to support walking and cycling provision.

- 3.12 **Carriage Works:** The main contractor remained on site throughout Covid-19 restrictions but progress was affected due to working practices, supply chain and subcontractors. However, completion is still on track with revised timescales. Unit 11 is planned for completion with the Royal Agricultural University as a tenant. Design work for units 7 and 9 is now in contract and is planned to be attractive to the market. This may involve making space more flexible for future working conditions. The Council is awaiting the outcome of the Town Funds bid expected in February.
- 3.13 **Aspen House:** Planning consent was obtained in May for the delivery of a hotel and restaurant. Covid-19 has affected some of the timescales, which have been revised. A review of the food and beverage offer has also been undertaken as a result of post-Covid trading conditions.
- 3.14 **North Star:** There are ongoing discussions with SevenCapital recognising the great challenge faced by the leisure sector due to the impact of Covid-19. An Oasis CMAG has been set up to oversee the future of the Oasis Leisure Centre.
- 3.15 **Reputation and Investment:** Due to Covid-19, the focus has been on identifying companies at risk, providing support and Covid-19 safe tourism. Plans will focus on delivery of European Structural and Investment Funds to promote investment, reflect the current climate and promote Swindon's infrastructure through an A420 connectivity study.
- 3.16 **Business Growth:** The Business Retention and Expansion service is working with companies to support them with challenges and encourage growth in tech sectors. The team support a number of start-ups and SME's as well as the Honda Recovery programme. As a result of Covid-19, the team worked to identify companies at risk and support them, this included distributing cash grants. The plan for the coming year includes supporting the future of the Honda site and a Growth & Innovation Plan.
- 3.17 **New Eastern Villages:** Good progress has been made with the major highway projects associated with the New Eastern Villages and the construction of first village at Redlands starts this month. Covid-19 affected the timeline for delivery due to contractor and site-related delays. Revised timescales have been put in place with a focus on the road network and infrastructure required to deliver the New Eastern Villages. This includes £79m of highway schemes under construction including Junction 15 and the Southern Connector Road. The £400m Symmetry Park building will deliver 2,000 jobs.
- 3.18 **Wichelstowe:** The secondary school and pub/restaurant were opened and house sales have progressed well. Covid-19 affected house building for a period of time, however,

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Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

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this re-started with enhanced safety procedures and good progress has been made. The first occupations of the Canalside properties were achieved in August. The next stages will focus on older people's accommodation and the primary school.

- 3.19 **Wichelstowe Southern Access:** Due to Covid-19 timescales were amended, however, work to construct the underpass began in July. There have been some additional works and archaeological issues that have affected the Reserved Matters planning conditions. This is expected to be resolved soon. Construction is expected to start on the pumping station to the south of the M4 in early 2021.
- 3.20 **Local Plan:** Additional evidence was required to support the Local Plan, this was partly held up by Covid-19 restrictions as the travel survey could not be completed. This has meant that the submission of the Local Plan has been delayed. However, the revised Local Development Scheme was confirmed at Cabinet in September and a consultation of the revised draft Local Plan is scheduled for summer 2021.
- 3.21 **Tadpole Garden Village:** Housing completions remain on track although building work was suspended for a period of time during Covid-19. Plans for the coming year focus on the GP surgery and green infrastructure.
- 3.22 **Housing Options:** Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the regeneration of Queens Drive is making good progress, with phase 1A due to be completed in November 2021. The coming year will see additional affordable housing schemes as well as Swindon Housing Company projects.
- 3.23 **Oakfield:** The site was sold to Nationwide in February 2020. The site is now under construction by Nationwide's contractors with good progress being made and includes low carbon homes.
- 3.24 **Badbury Park:** Housing completions remain on track although building work was suspended for a period of time during Covid-19. The primary school opened in autumn 2020. Plans for the coming year will focus on school and community facilities.

Priority Two – Offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and right jobs in the right places

- 3.25 Pledges in Priority Two address improving education, attainment and employment. High quality education and good levels of skills are vital components of the Council's vision to be one of the UK's most successful economies. A good education is fundamental to support children and young people to reach their potential. Skills are an important aspect of achieving a productive economy. The Council also aims to improve access to higher education within Swindon.
- 3.26 **School Provision:** 95% of parents received their first preference for primary and secondary school offers. A School Place Planning strategy has been developed. Plans

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Martin Bell, 07824 081201, MBell2@swindon.gov.uk.

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

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are in place to deliver new schools in Swindon alongside SEND provision. Admission Arrangements for 2022-23 and Transport Policy are currently out for consultation.

- 3.27 **Educational Attainment:** The Summer Reading Challenge was launched in a digital format. As a result of Covid-19, primary assessments were cancelled and the Council has worked with schools to assess the impact on pupils as a result of being out of school to identify any support required. GCSE and A-level results showed improvements in the outcomes of pupils in Swindon. The focus has been on supporting children to return to schools and managing Covid-19 arrangements in schools. In the coming year a School Improvement Policy and an Education Strategy will be delivered.
- 3.28 **Apprenticeships:** Apprenticeship positions were affected by Covid-19 due to positions being furloughed. The focus has therefore been on promotion and awareness campaigns, virtual job fairs, monitoring apprenticeship starts and the delivery of JobFest. The 2019/20 annual apprenticeship figures show that Swindon hit 73% of target starts compared to a national figure of 70%.
- 3.29 **Higher Education:** Swindon College and New College merged in August. The Council is working with the merged colleges to deliver the Institute of Technology. The plans for the coming year focus on a Study Higher Programme, a T level plan and support for vulnerable groups for entry into Higher Education. Annual figures for 2019-20 show that Key Stage 5 destinations to Higher Education are increasing.
- 3.30 **Workforce Skills:** The Adult Learning provision received a Good Ofsted rating. Plans for the coming year focus on adult learners, care leavers, adults with learning disabilities and supporting young people into Education, Employment or Training.

Priority Three – Ensure clean and safe streets and improve public spaces and local culture

- 3.31 Pledges in Priority Three focus on ensuring that public spaces are well maintained and safe as well as developing the cultural and leisure offer within the Borough. This supports residents to keep physically active, feel a sense of wellbeing and to feel safe. Developing Swindon's cultural, leisure and retail offer promotes the town to visitors and inward investors.
- 3.32 **Healthy Lifestyles:** Smoking prevalence in Swindon is below the England average. The new Sevenfields Parkrun was established. A number of activities were affected by Covid-19 restrictions including face-to-face work for weight management and physical activities. Over 50 participants in care homes took part in a Virtual Senior Games. The focus will be on the sustainability of the Beat the Streets programme, smoking prevalence and physical activity programmes.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Martin Bell, 07824 081201, MBell2@swindon.gov.uk.

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

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- 3.33 **Cleanliness of Local Areas:** The Council meets its target for removing fly-tipping with the service level agreement. An education programme was also delivered to pupils and the service is currently working on remote learning. The focus will be on continuing to remove flytipping, continue the education programme to pupils and identifying new ways to engage communities.
- 3.34 **Waste and Recycling:** The Food Waste trial was successfully completed and will now form part of standard service. The service is preparing Waste Strategy Reviews and Action plans. Data is tracked on levels of waste collected and recycling rates with the aim to reach a 50% recycling rate by recovering non-recycled waste, reducing non-recycled waste and increasing recycled waste. The Household Waste Recycling Centre was temporarily closed during Covid-19 and now runs on an appointment-based system, which has been strongly welcomed by residents.
- 3.35 **Heritage Assets:** Improvement works at Lydiard Park are proceeding after temporarily being suspended during Covid-19. The Council is awaiting a final report and findings from the Hazardous Materials Survey of the Mechanics Institute. Stakeholder meetings have taken place following the Cabinet decision to develop the Cultural Quarter on the Kimmerfields development site. The Council is awaiting the outcome of the Town Funds bid expected in February.
- 3.36 **Museum and Art Gallery visits:** Covid-19 restrictions meant that virtual tours and activities were created which have been welcomed by both residents and virtual visitors beyond the Borough. The focus is on engagement through outreach programmes, Art on Tour and marketing. STEAM was awarded 4th best virtual tour in the recent 2020 Travellers' Choice award. The Art on Tour was extended to "Trails in our Parks" during the pandemic and most recently the "Museum without walls" was launched.
- 3.37 **Town Centre:** An Enforcement Pilot was evaluated and a Town Centre first approach was agreed. The Public Space Protection Order continues to be enforced. Covid-19 affected local businesses and relevant signage was put in place to inform visitors to the town centre of restrictions and allow safe visits to businesses. The Council worked with businesses to reopen the High Street and develop a town centre recovery plan. The outputs of the plan will form the focus of multi-agency tasking groups to ensure the town centre is safe.

Priority Four – Help people to help themselves while always protecting our most vulnerable children and adults

- 3.38 Pledges in Priority Four focus on ensuring that adults and children are safe from harm and are supported to live independent lives. The Council is committed to ensuring that residents live a healthy, safe, fulfilling and independent life and is supported by thriving communities.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Martin Bell, 07824 081201, MBell2@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.39 **Debt and Financial Inclusion:** Delivered Social Enterprise forums and Financial Inclusion seminars. As a result of Covid-19, many households were in need of support. Advice was offered, however, no face-to-face meetings were available therefore the Citizens Advice Bureau delivered services virtually. Council Tax Support claims were granted a hardship reduction. DEFRA food grants have been distributed to local voluntary organisations. Test & Trace support payments have been made to low income households having to isolate. Plans for the coming year focus on reinstating the Social Enterprise meetings and working with Citizens Advice and Emergency Assistance to ensure that those in need can access the support available to them.
- 3.40 **Volunteering:** Over 200 new volunteers were recruited as part of Compassionate Swindon and they supported with wellbeing calls, collecting/delivering food and medication or helping with hospital discharge. Forty-five volunteers have been retained and have become Local Heroes that are currently supporting our Covid response. A volunteer celebration event was held in December to recognise the efforts of volunteers and give thanks.
- 3.41 **Independent Lives:** A strength-based working group has been established with the CCG and GWH alongside Public Health, Housing, Children's, Commissioning and Voluntary Services. A Community Hub has been established to support hospital discharges. The focus for the coming year will be on supporting the National Development Team of Inclusion innovation to deliver our strength-based approach to hospital discharges to prevent readmission.
- 3.42 **Children Looked After:** Improvements have been made with the percentage of children living within 20 miles of Swindon. The proportion of CLA placed more than 20 miles from their home address has gradually decreased, down from a high of 35% (123 young people) in December 2018 to 27.60% (85) as of November 2020. From April to November 2020 79 children came into our care, of the 70 who remain in care 20 live 20 miles or more from their home. Of these, only seven are out of area due to not being able to find the provision locally, the others are, for example, in adoptive placements or placed with family. During Covid-19, the focus was on prioritising the placement of children locally or in appropriate placements. Additional foster carers have been approved. The focus for the coming year is on the development of a recruitment and retention strategy for fostering, targeting new approved carers. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Board has developed new ways to listen to the 'voice of the child' and delivered training to members and officers on being a corporate parent.
- 3.43 **Early Prevention:** The Neighbourhood Whole Family Working (NFWF) project has been developed with a terms of reference and plan. The Council was successful in a bid for Early Years Outcomes and delivered activities against the Innovation Fund Programme. Partnership working has developed with the production of a 'plan on a page' for early intervention and prevention through the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership. During

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Covid-19, services continued virtually. The focus for the coming year is on delivery of the NFWF plan, a Parenting Hub, School Attendance and Troubled Families.

- 3.44 **Safeguarding of Children:** In the last year, new accommodation for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has been delivered, the Social Work and Children's Leadership Academy has been launched and a post Ofsted Improvement Action Plan has been submitted. During Covid-19, services to protect children and support families have continued to be delivered in person and virtually. The Everleigh Centre has reopened and there is no waiting list for Family Group Conference services. Audits of child protection cases have shown very strong practice in terms of working with partners. The focus for the coming year is on implementing a new system, auditing to demonstrate improvement to children protection practice, Family Group Conferences and delivery of the Family Safeguarding Model.
- 3.45 **Safeguarding of Adults:** In the last year the Council has commissioned an independent review of safeguarding and findings have been shared with the Safeguarding Quality Assurance Group. A quarterly safeguarding report is discussed at Scrutiny and Swindon Safeguarding Partnership. During the Covid-19 pandemic the Council has worked on a proof of concept for an electronic Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub. A Safeguarding Improvement Plan was presented to the Adult Quality and Performance Group. Plans for the coming year focus on a Service Improvement Plan, Safeguarding referral and MASH improvements and a new policy to be signed off.
- 3.46 **Dementia Friendly Town:** In the last year, Highworth was accredited as a dementia-friendly community and there are now over 10,000 Dementia Friends in Swindon. During Covid-19 a newsletter with resources was launched and sent to over 600 individuals. Over 470 council staff have also attended a Dementia Friends Session. Dementia Friendly-status accreditation has been achieved for 20/21. The plan for the coming year is on engagement with GPs to improve diagnosis rates, Dementia Friendly Support Networks and holding virtual events with people living with dementia and their carers.
- 3.47 **Excess Weight in Children:** In the last year there has been engagement with primary schools on Beat the Streets, delivered a Childhood Obesity Conference and the first Healthy Families Programme. At the start of Covid-19, the Council was unable to measure child weight via the National Child Measurement Programme and also unable to deliver some programmes face to face. However, following the re-opening of schools, data has been submitted and Swindon figures are not statistically different to England. The focus for the coming year will be on restarting programmes post-Covid, a Breastfeeding strategy, Get Swindon Active Strategy, a Baby friendly initiative accreditation and Swindon Healthy Schools.

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3.48 **Homelessness:** In the last year we have met: the target to start a reduction in the number of households in bed and breakfast accommodation, the target for households prevented from becoming homeless and the target for successful housing first tenancies (enables people to sustain their tenancies with more intensive support). During the Covid-19 pandemic, the homelessness service area has continued to provide full prevention functions and all rough sleepers were successfully accommodated. Due to Covid-19, the household prevention figures are much higher than would normally be expected but the service was able to work with those individuals and families throughout the year to prevent as many as possible from becoming homeless. The focus for the coming year is on increasing Housing First tenancies with the purchase of more one-bedroom flats as a result of successfully attracting more capital funding and revenue grant funding for additional staff support, maintaining the current level of private sector-leased temporary accommodation and continuing to prevent households from becoming homeless.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 None. This report is for information.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The cost of delivering the Pledges and Priorities is covered within existing budgets.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 Legal and Human Rights implications were taken into account when preparing this report. It is considered that the report's recommendations are compatible with Convention Rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 There are no other implications at this time.

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) was undertaken as this report will not lead to any service changes. However, all actions to achieve the Pledges follow an appropriate DIA in accordance with the Council's agreed DIA framework.

Risk Management

5.5 Risk management assessments take place on actions to achieve the Pledges in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Framework.

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6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Corporate Director of Finance and Assets (s151 officer) and Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.

Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session – Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Author:	Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services
Wards:	All Wards
Parishes Affected:	All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the portfolio for the Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services.
- 1.2 A key purpose of the Scrutiny Committee function is to hold the Cabinet to account and ensure that Council priorities and performance are being delivered. The Scrutiny Committee partly fulfils this requirement through the use of question and answer sessions with the relevant Cabinet Member.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Question and Answer session is to ensure that the Cabinet Member provides the Scrutiny Committee with performance information that relates to their portfolio responsibilities. It also requires the Cabinet Member to provide budget information for their portfolio responsibilities and provides an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to ask questions on the portfolio responsibilities.
- 1.4 The remit of the Committee includes the review, scrutiny, and development of policy recommendations and the monitoring of performance of corporate priorities.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Take note of the report by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services.
- 2.2 Put appropriate questions to the Cabinet Member.
- 2.3 Decide if any further action is required.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1 The Portfolio's delegated responsibilities for this Cabinet position are as follows:
 - 3.1.1 Strategic Highways & Maintenance Works.
 - 3.1.2 Street Lighting (maintenance and strategic).

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull, 07980 752043, vyull@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.1.3 Gullies and drainage, minor road repairs, potholes.
 - 3.1.4 Car Parks and Bus Gates.
 - 3.1.5 Building community capacity.
 - 3.1.6 Public Transport (including Concessionary Fares, Specialist Transport, Council Transport and Fleet Management).
 - 3.1.7 Building Services, cleaning, catering & security services.
 - 3.1.8 Repair and Improvements to Council Housing Stock.
 - 3.1.9 Political oversight of Waterside Depot, including Household Waste Recycling Centre.
 - 3.1.10 Recycling and Refuse Collection – Domestic & Trade.
 - 3.1.11 Waste Disposal / Waste Minimisation Street Cleaning including removal of graffiti and abandoned vehicles.
 - 3.1.12 Public Toilets.
 - 3.1.13 Ground & Tree Maintenance and open spaces.
 - 3.1.14 Parks (StreetSmart services only).
 - 3.1.15 Playgrounds, including those that are not presently utilised.
 - 3.1.16 Maintenance of Roundabouts and non-HRA verges.
 - 3.1.17 Enforcement.
 - 3.2 The Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services is Councillor Maureen Penny, who is accountable for the following Pledges from the Council's Vision.
 - 3.2.1 **Pledge three** (in part) – refresh and implement the Masterplan for Swindon Town Centre, support our vision that Swindon is a vibrant, modern place. We will do this through delivery of the bus boulevard and delivering improvements to the strategic town centre network.
 - 3.2.2 **Pledge five** - enhance Wellington Street as a prime thoroughfare for the town.
 - 3.2.3 **Pledge thirteen** – actively seek and specify each new way to harness community and neighbourhood group efforts to increase the cleanliness of their local areas. The measures are as follows:
-

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- 3.2.4 Remove fly-tipping within 5 working days (Target – 75%).
- 3.2.5 Deliver an education programme to 900 pupils in the 2020-21 academic year (Target – 660 Year to Date).
- 3.2.6 To undertake 30 visits to schools to deliver sessions/programmes in the 2020-21 academic year.
- 3.2.7 To actively seek and specify each new way to harness community and neighbourhood group efforts to increase the cleanliness of their local areas (no metrics).
- 3.2.8 To provide the opportunity of 15 work experience placements per year (Target – 15).
- 3.2.9 **Pledge Fourteen** – encourage Swindon residents to increase recycling and reduce their waste in line with the Council's Waste Strategy; Swindon Borough Council to reduce the use of single use plastics with the intention to stop using such plastics by 2019/20 and encourage local businesses to do the same.

Update on Pledges

- 3.3 **Pledge three** (in part) relates to the proposals for a new central public transport interchange at Fleming Way, now commonly referred to as the Bus Boulevard. The full preliminary design for the scheme has been subject to consultation with key stakeholders and is now complete. Advance utility diversions commenced in April 2019 and detailed design is progressing well. Further stakeholder consultation is programmed for March 2020. The submission of the Expression of Interest to the Future High Streets Fund was successful and good progress is being made on the next stages in partnership with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 3.4 **Pledge five** relates to Wellington Street which is the main route for pedestrians and cyclists between the Railway Station and the Town Centre. The improvement scheme was completed in June 2019. It includes:
 - 3.4.1 New, separate paths for cyclists and pedestrians.
 - 3.4.2 A new, raised road with contrasting surfacing and sharper road markings.
 - 3.4.3 A safer junction where Wellington Street meets Milford Street and Manchester Road, with ramps to slow down vehicles and bikes, an tactile paving around the kerb line.
- 3.5 **Pledge thirteen** metrics:

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Metric	Current Performance	Comments
Remove fly tips within 5 working days (target 75%)	75.5	Teams continue to work hard to remove fly tipping and are maintaining a high level of performance in removing fly tipping well within the 5 day Service Level Agreement.
Undertake 30 visits to schools to deliver sessions/programmes in the 2020-21 academic year		The Waste Enforcement and Education Team have been unable to progress this programme due to Covid-related restrictions
Within these visits to schools, deliver an education programme to 900 pupils in the 2020-21 academic year (Target – 900)		The Waste Enforcement and Education Team have been unable to progress this programme due to Covid-related restrictions
To actively seek and specify each new way to harness community and neighbourhood group efforts to increase the cleanliness of their local areas		
Provide the opportunity of 15 work experience placements per year (Target – 15)	15	Placements in 2019 have been fully occupied; the first intake of 2020 will commence in March 2020

3.6 Pledge fourteen metrics:

Metric	Current Performance	Comments
Reduce kg per household per annum of household waste from 451kg per annum (2018-19 figure)	Cumulative to date = 321kg Average = 36kg per month	Based on this projection kg per household for 2019/20 will be 430kg
Increase kg per household per annum of recycling from 139 kg per annum (2018-19 figure)	Cumulative to date = 93kg Average = 10kg per month	Based on this projection kg per household for 2019/20 will be 123kg
Achieve a 50% recycling rate by the end of 2020	Current rate = 40.5%	
Recover a minimum of 90% of non-recycled waste	Current rate = 95.87%	
Landfill less than 5% of all waste collected	Current rate = 2.5%	

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Overview

- 3.7 This year has, as with a number of other services, been overshadowed by the Covid pandemic and our ability to provide services set against the challenges that created. The approach and performance in dealing with the challenges brought about by the Covid have been covered in the recent scrutiny committee paper covering this issue.
- 3.8 Set against the need to improve the service, a realignment of the Communities and Housing functions took place to enable the appropriate focus to be applied on the delivery of service and the reduction of cost.
- 3.9 In September 2020 SBC filled the position of Director of Operations. This was seen as a key appointment to lead these changes and to ensure that the Operations Department moved to a position whereby it delivered excellent service for the customers, residents and tenants of Swindon whilst also ensuring this was done efficiently, and in turn provided value for money for SBC.
- 3.10 The Improvement plan that was formulated to deliver the required changes sets out 4 key stages to ensure both Operational performance and efficiency are delivered and are embedded into the Department, therefore ensuring improvements are sustainable moving forward. The 4 key stages are:
- 3.10.1 Delivering the basics.
 - 3.10.2 Organisational design.
 - 3.10.3 Process redesign.
 - 3.10.4 Culture and behaviour.

Delivering the Basics

- 3.11 During the early part of the year, the performance delivered by the Operations Directorate failed to meet customer expectations and was in need of improvement.
- 3.12 The numbers of complaints received regarding levels of service was high. The priority given to resolving Customer complaints was reflected in the average time it took to answer Customer's complaints (August 2020 - 39 days). In high performing Customer focused organisations the operational performance is reviewed in detail on a daily basis. This enables organisations to focus on delivering for the customer, areas where failure occurs and actions to prevent failure thus providing improvements. It is through this in depth review that organisations can learn and improve.

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3.13 In October 2020 the first part of the operational Improvement plan to “deliver the basics” was put in place with the introduction of a Daily Operational Call. The call was designed to provide oversight of the previous day’s performance and the set up for the “on the day operation”. The call focused on the following key elements

3.13.1 Customer performance.

3.13.2 Customer complaints.

3.13.3 Efficiency.

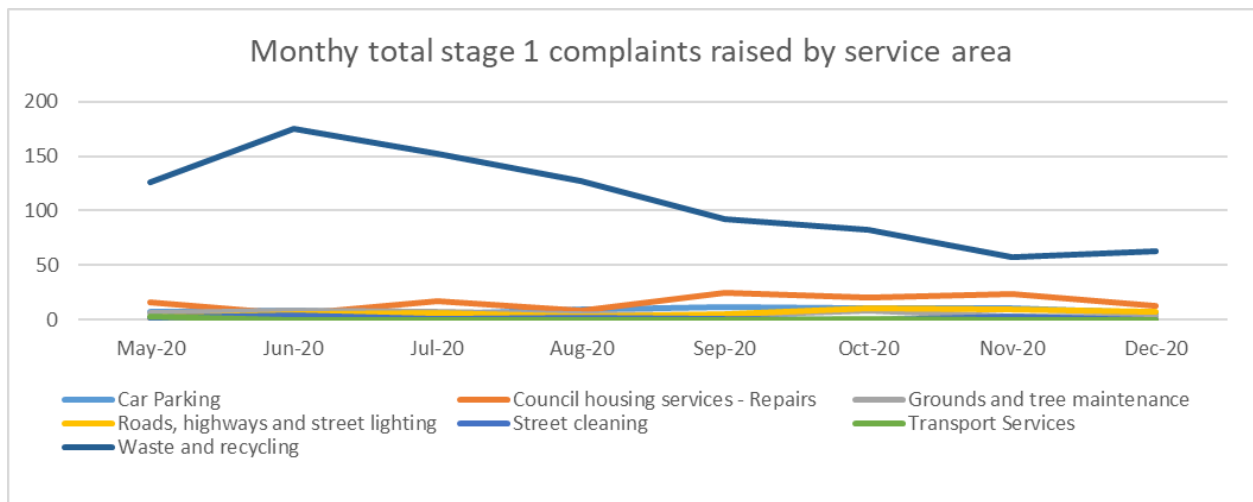
3.13.4 Productivity.

3.13.5 Resource availability.

3.13.6 Today’s plan.

3.13.7 Applied learnings.

3.14 By December 2020 clear Improvements were visible across all areas with overall Customer complaints falling across the areas of Housing Repairs, Highways Operations and Waste collections falling, along with the average days to respond to a complaint, falling to 2 days from the 39 days in August. This improvement has been sustained and can be seen below.

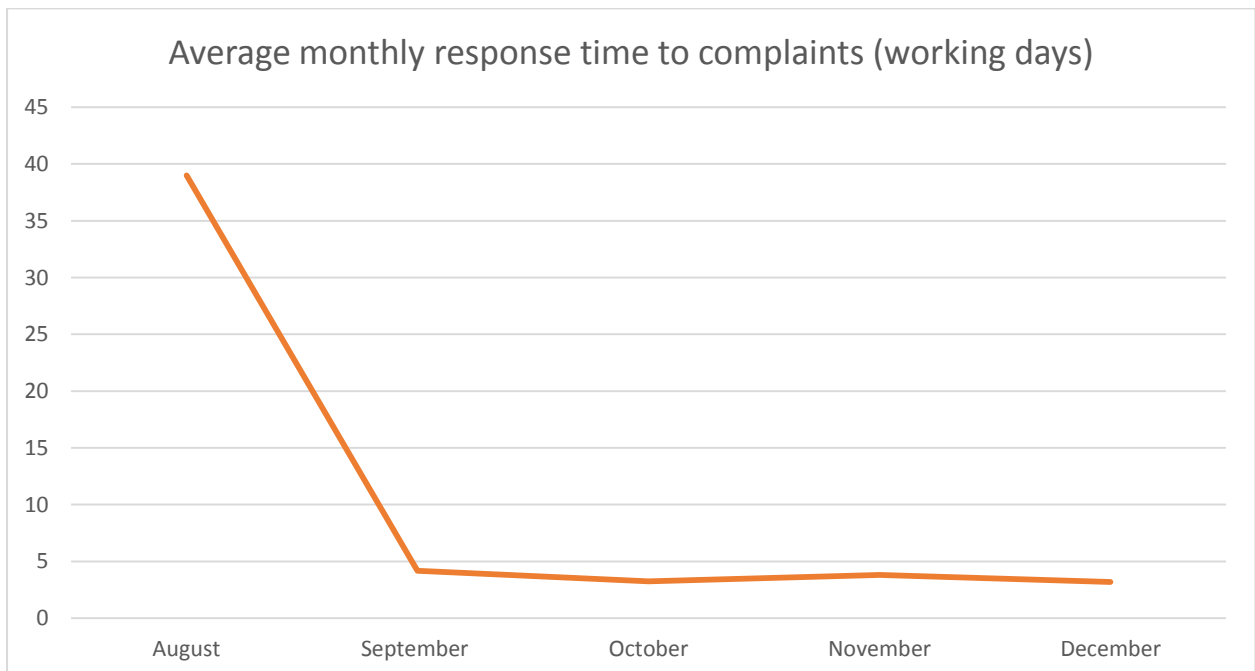
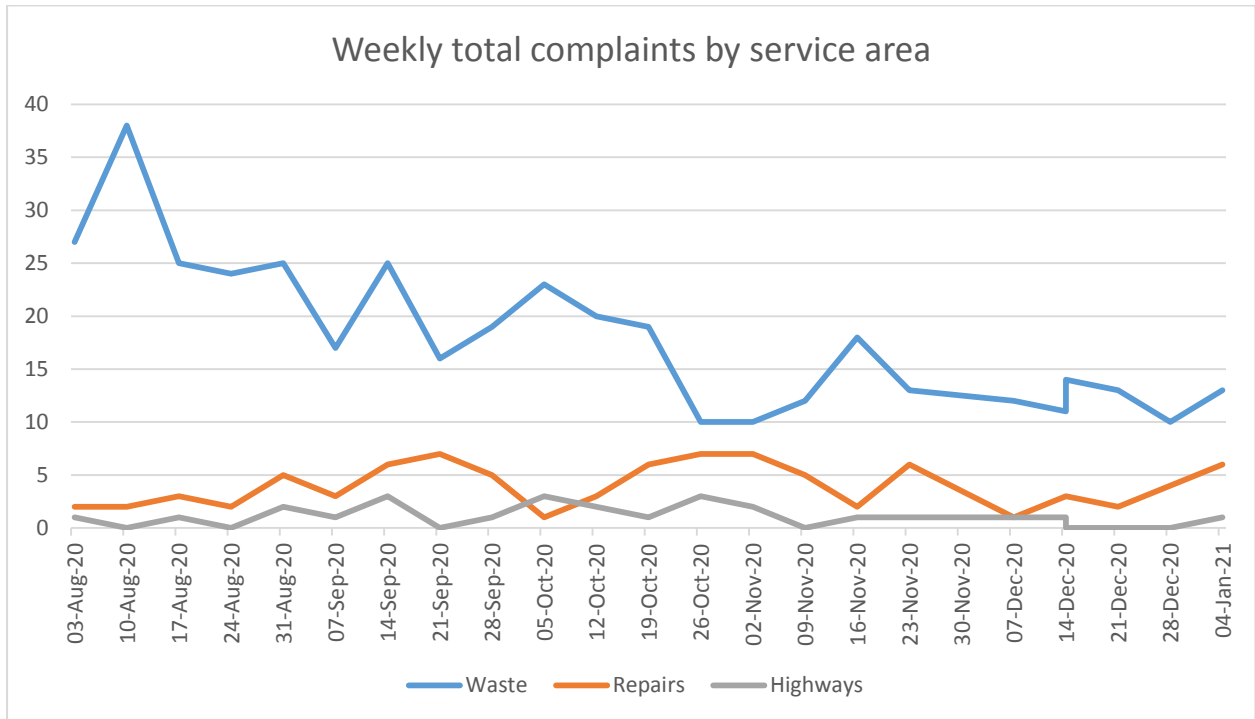


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Organisational Design

- 3.15 To ensure that the Department could provide the right Leadership and focus, to not only deliver the required improvements, but to also ensure these were embedded, an

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organisational review took place concluding with a proposal which was shared with the Unions in November 2020.

- 3.16 The new first level proposed structure, that focused on Contracts and Asset Management, Planning Resourcing and Scheduling along with a role responsible for the “on the day” delivery of performance for the Customer, Resident and Tenant, was then consulted on in November 2020, with this structure now being recruited into through a standard recruitment and selection process.
- 3.17 Moving forward into the next financial year we will implement a second and third phase of the restructuring, to ensure that the Department is aligned to the overall objective of delivering a high quality service at the right cost.

Process Redesign

- 3.18 As part of the overall change programme we will start to review all processes covering the Department. A number of processes are not working productively, efficiently or effectively, and are the cause of failure for the Customer, whilst also driving up additional cost for SBC. The work started in January 2021 with the initial focus being on Housing repairs. The process redesign work will look to drive productivity, reduce costs and improve the customer experience, reducing waste as well as eliminating potential areas of failure, which will reduce customer complaints.

Culture and Behaviour

- 3.19 Scheduled to start in the new financial year, we will be embarking on delivering a culture and behavioural change programme, aligned to the corporate programme of ‘At our Best’. This will focus on ensuring that the Customer, Resident and Tenant are at the heart of what we do, and the driver for how we operate.

Portfolio Overview - Highways

Strategic Highways & Maintenance Works

- 3.20 The Council remains committed to maintaining its highway assets to the highest possible standard within the available budgets, based on the asset management principles set out in the Code of Practice (CoP) ‘Well Managed Highway Infrastructure’, that sets out the framework the management of highway infrastructure assets through longer term planning and well defined standards.
- 3.21 In recent years’ the Council has consistently invested in capital maintenance in excess of the base maintenance grant and will continue to do so in 2021/22. The Council retained its DfT Incentive Fund Level 3 (highest rating) in 2020 to secure the maximum additional grant associated with this initiative.

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- 3.22 The self-assessment process that determines the banding status for 2021/22 is due to be received in December/January. DfT has suggested the process may change to reinforce the importance of maintaining a resilient highway network. Officers will be reviewing and updating the Council's highway asset management policy, strategy and supporting plans in 2021/22 to reflect any change of emphasis in the CoP.
- 3.23 Following the Council's success in securing additional major maintenance funding from the DfT's Challenge Fund bid process in 2019/20 and 2020/21, works programmes are in train covering programmes of carriageway re-surfacing, traffic signal upgrades, bridge structure maintenance and a number of subway closures and replacements with at-grade crossings across the Borough. The first phase of resurfacing in North Swindon was completed in early December and work will continue on the various work programmes through to March 2022. Strategic highway improvements fall within the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport and Planning.
- 3.24 In response to Covid19, the Government introduced the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) to enable Local Authorities to introduce priority walking and cycling schemes on a temporary basis during the first Lockdown. The Council received a 'Tranche 1' grant of £214,515 to be used to introduce at pace temporary and experimental active travel measures that could be made permanent if successful, to lock in the potential active travel benefits (shift to active travel by the public) as result of the pandemic.
- 3.25 As part of Tranche 1, the Council implemented a range of interventions, including (but not limited to) improvements to walking and cycling routes, new permanent cycle lanes, and pop-up cycle lanes, the latter on a trial basis. Cycle Lanes were set up on Station Road and Commercial Road. Monitoring of the Station Road scheme indicated that there was value in undertaking additional work to prepare for a potential permanent solution. The feedback on the Commercial Road scheme indicated that in its temporary form it did not work for traders and so was discontinued. The lessons learned from the development and implementation of EATF Tranche 1 schemes is being used to improve the implementation of Tranche 2 schemes.
- 3.26 Ahead of the Tranche 2 award announcements, the fund was re-named the Active Travel Fund, to reflect that its aim is to deliver longer term projects rather than those of a temporary nature. Swindon Borough Council was awarded £731,500 for Tranche 2, which requires schemes to be 'committed' by the end of March 2021. Work is currently underway to development feasibility proposals for potential schemes under Tranche 2, in order to agree a final package of schemes following stakeholder and public engagement.

Moonrakers and Mead Way

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- 3.27 At his Scrutiny last month, the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport and Planning provided a strategic update on significant highway schemes at Moonrakers and Mead Way. The schemes involve improvements to the public highway to ease traffic flows, whilst also providing resilience to our physical assets in the future. Progress on both schemes slowed due to issues arising from Covid, notably amongst the co-ordination of contractors and utility companies, whose activities need to be completed prior to the structural highway works being concluded. Both schemes are now moving apace and it is anticipated that Moonrakers will be completed in April 2021 and Mead Way (both phases) by June. These schemes are subject to robust programme management and weekly reviews to ensure that momentum is maintained and any issues are swiftly resolved. Once completed, the benefits to the road user will be clear with the expectation that traffic will be able to flow more freely, that journey times will be reduced and that air quality improves.

UTMC (Urban Traffic Management and Control)

- 3.28 The UTMC (urban traffic management and control) scheme involves the installation of new traffic monitoring sensors, new VMS (Variable Message Signs), upgrades to the operation of existing traffic signals and a new central control system (UTMC common data). Once fully operational SBC will have much better visibility of the Swindon Highway network with flows, journey times and congestion being recorded in real time. This data can then be used via the common database to automate changes to traffic signals or amend VMS to better manage the SBC road network. The scheme is future proofed to allow new junctions to be added as they are delivered. The UTMC scheme will cost £1.25 million, and is funded from LEP Local Growth Fund as part of the overall Quality Bus Corridor project.
- 3.29 There is likely to be some ongoing strategy testing for the following year to fully optimise the system subject to traffic levels returning to normal. Work on the LEP funded scheme began in summer 2020 and is currently on programme to be completed by the end of March 2021. To date a new UTMC common database has been procured from IDOX and the 5 new VMS have been installed on Oxford Road, Great Western Way, Marlborough Road and Cirencester Way. The upgrade and the connection of the traffic signals to the common database is ongoing and new traffic sensor installation is due to begin shortly.

Other Local Highway Issues

- 3.30 It is in all of our interests that the public highway operates as effectively and efficiently as possible. Working with both the Mannington and Western Ward Councillors to improve accessibility around Bruce Street Bridges and Rodbourne, reviewing traffic

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movements, testing potential interventions and proposing workable solutions where they are possible, affordable and justified.

Street lighting maintenance and Strategic replacement roll out

- 3.31 The Council is responsible for the maintenance of over 28,439 street lights and columns. Whilst the pace of the role of replacement street lighting was impacted by the Covid Pandemic, the Council's street lighting LED programme continues to gain momentum with the 5000th lantern replaced in November in Grange Drive. The programme to replace circa 28,000 lanterns will continue through to Spring 2022, and include the replacement of in excess of 2000 lamp columns which are towards the end of their life. The completed programme will reduce the consumption of energy by in excess of 50% and make a significant contribution to the reduction of the Council's carbon footprint. Savings to date amount to between £75k and £85k.
- 3.32 The overall public satisfaction score for Street lighting scored 66% compared with the NHT average of 64% (NHT high 73%, low 51%).

Gullies and drainage, minor road repairs and potholes

- 3.33 The implementation of a new highway asset management system is in the commissioning phase and is due to go live in April 2020. The new system will significantly improve the management of highways data, highway inspections, works ordering and workforce operations.
- 3.34 The overall public satisfaction score for highway maintenance obtained from the National Highway and Transport (NHT) Public Satisfaction Survey in 2020 is 50%, broadly consistent with the NHT average for participating authorities (NHT high 61%, low 42%).
- 3.35 Despite being a difficult year, all 'priority one' cases were completed in time, despite the closure of the local tarmac plant. Moving into next year the key focus is to introduce the Highway Asset Management system to enable all staff to operate via mobile working. The benefits to this roll out will see improvements to both efficiency and productivity, and therefore makes this work stream a high priority.
- 3.36 The strategic highway asset management and highway operations teams continue to work together to develop a risk based approach to the routine maintenance of key assets to ensure that resources are targeted efficiently and effectively. For example the recently implemented risk based gully cleaning programme now focuses on the resilient network and other known flooding hotspots in terms of more frequent cleansing visits based on reports from the public, highway inspections and more significantly recorded silt deposit data.

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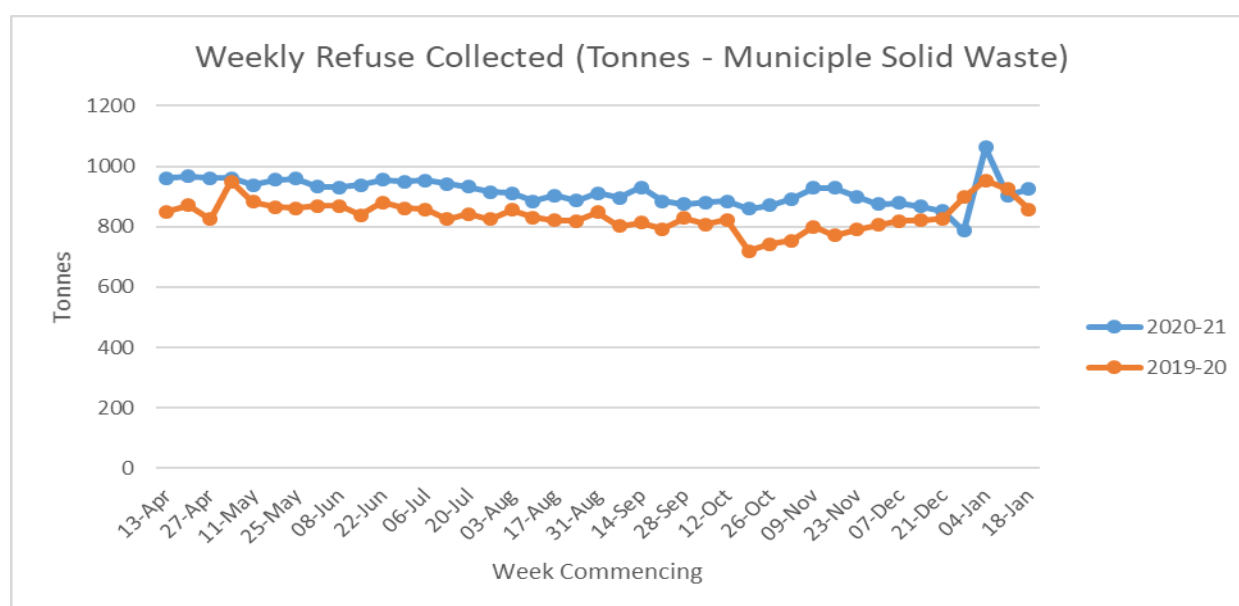
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- 3.37 Inevitably, there is a list of outstanding work to the highway infrastructure network which has existed for a number of years. However as a key performance improvement, a plan is being developed to reduce the outstanding works through the use of both in house resource and external providers. The Plan will be completed by late February and will ensure that we support reducing the risk to both residents and the Council.
- 3.38 In order to maintain resilience in our operational delivery model, for small to medium size major maintenance and improvements schemes, the term maintenance contract with Ringway Infrastructure Services has recently been extended by a period of 2 years commencing April 2021.

Waste Services

- 3.39 The global pandemic has delayed the start of the proposal to reshape the collections service which includes the Borough wide extension of the food waste collections and the changes to recycling collections format. Covid also resulted in more waste and recycling being presented at the kerbside, and less tonnage going through the HWRC. There was a 25% increase in kerbside collected recycling tonnages compared to the same period last year (c. 18,400 tonnes April to December 2020 compared to c. 14,700 tonnes in 2019). There was also a 13% increase in kerbside collected refuse tonnages compared to the same period last year (c. 36,000 tonnes April to December 2020 compared to c.31,800 tonnes in 2019). There has however been a c. 30% decrease in recycling tonnage at the HWRC (c. 7,200 tonnes April to December 2020, compared to 10,300 tonnes in 2019).
- 3.40 Graphs below show the variation year on year of waste by waste type:

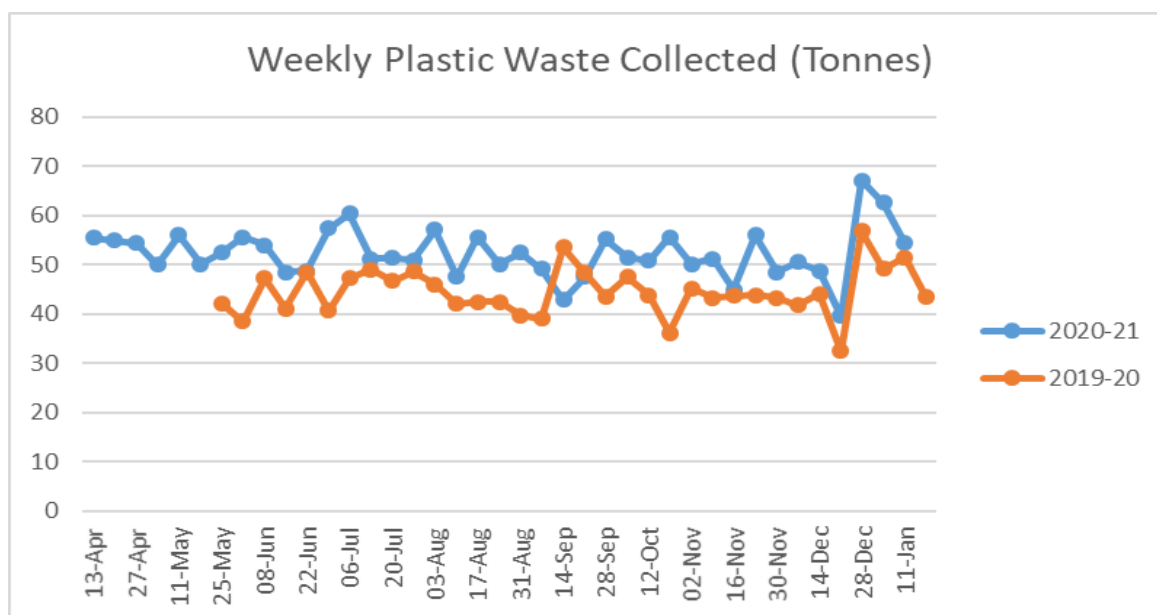
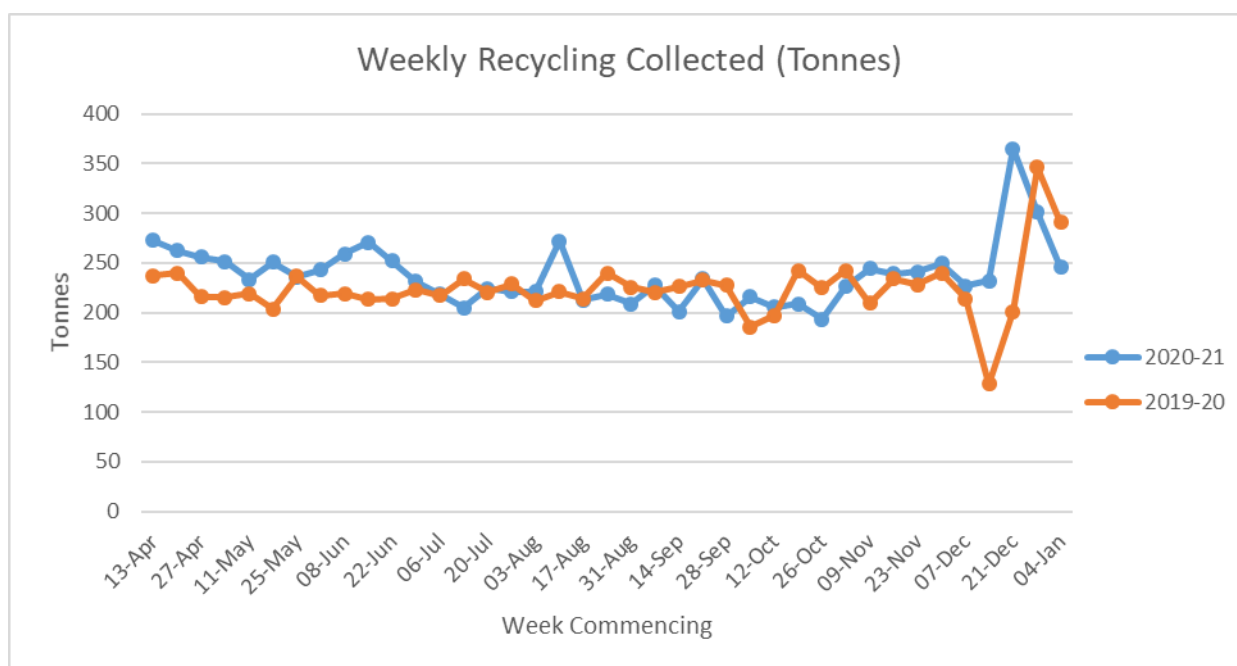


Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull, 07980 752043, vyull@swindon.gov.uk.

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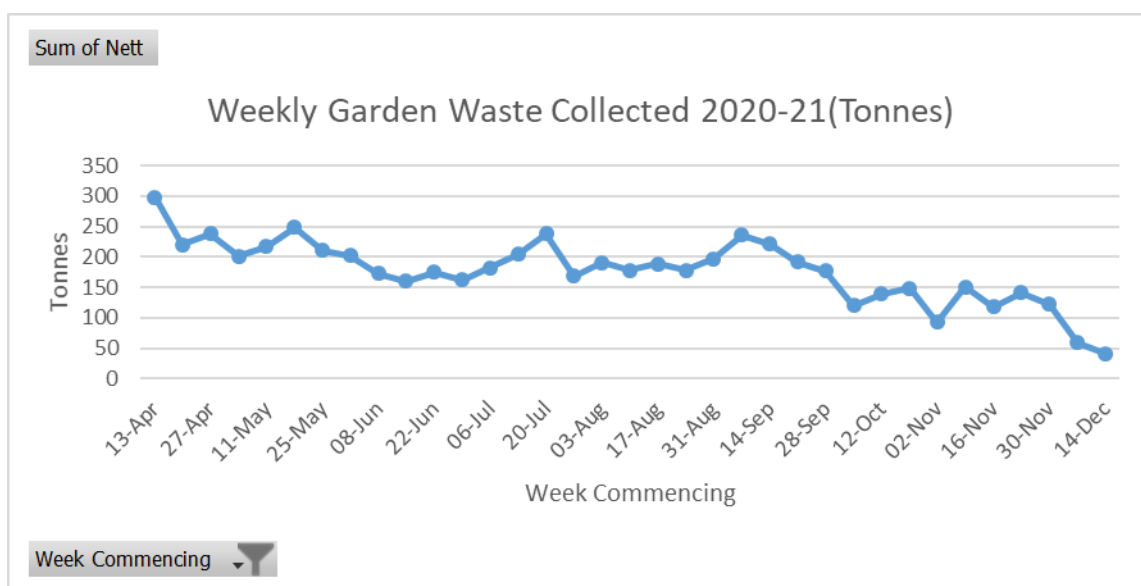
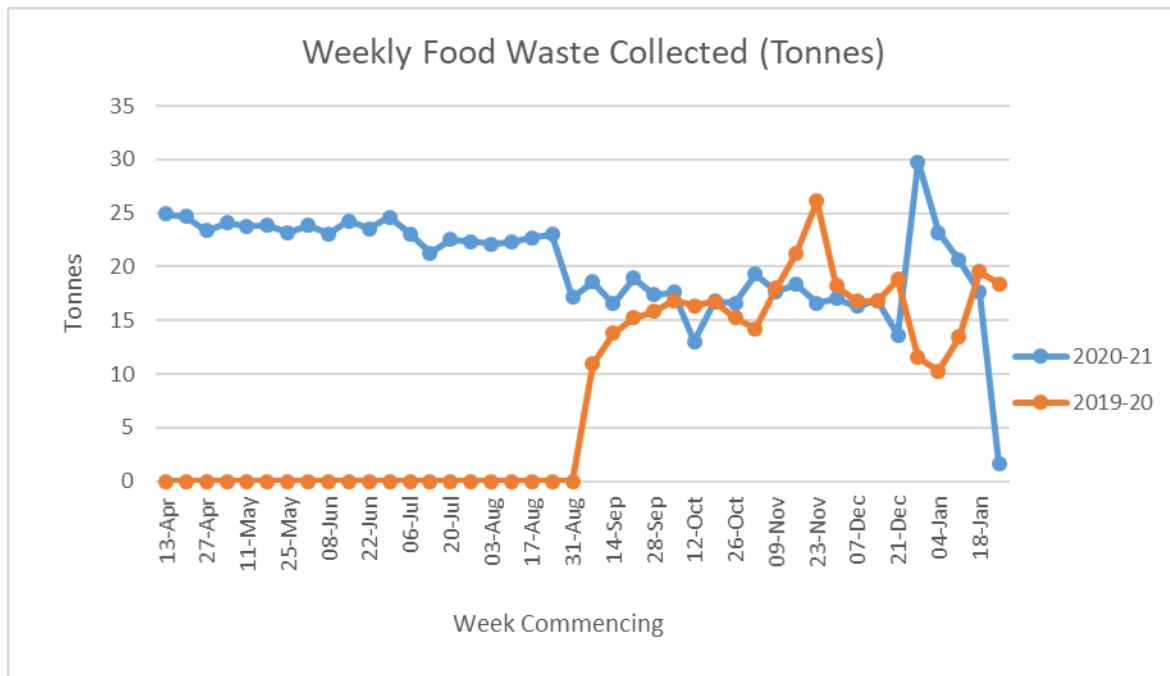


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- 3.41 The collections team maintained a good level of service delivery despite the Covid situation and despite having to radically alter the collection methodology due to limits on the numbers of crew members allowed in the collection vehicles at any one time. Crew members were transferred to their rounds by separate follow on vehicles and had to maintain social distancing during collections. This was the case for Refuse, Recycling, Garden Waste, Plastics, Clinical and Bulky Household Waste and resulted in additional cost pressures to the collections budget, projected at c. £500k for this financial year.

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- 3.42 Since returning to the normal collections method, the ongoing issues of Class 2 driver availability has been greatly alleviated by the direct employment of staff, rather than employing through a combination of council employed and agency staff.
- 3.43 *Waste and Recycling Collections:* The service continues to make the requisite improvements in terms of regular completion of daily work allocations, reduction in numbers of missed collections and reduction in numbers of complaints. This is of particular importance with the Garden Waste Service which has grown in popularity where there are now c. 23,000 subscribers compared c. 20,000 for the same period last year.
- 3.44 The team will be working through the Waste Resources and Actions Programme (WRAP) findings along with the overall end to end waste review to determine the optimal solution for waste and recycling collections and disposal to deliver the best economic and environmental service for the Borough. This will determine issues such as vehicle configuration, fleet alignment, container types, collection frequency, disposal outlets, productivity, crew numbers etc. It will also help to inform of the methodology and start date for Borough-wide food waste collections.
- 3.45 *Waste Disposal and Waste Management:* There will be a resumption of greater emphasis on compulsory recycling, with improved information exchanged between collection crews and Waste Wardens when discovering the presence of recyclable materials in household residual waste receptacles (black bins). The target to achieve a 50% recycling rate by the end of 2020 has not been achieved, and as such, efforts to meet this target will resume. Proposed service changes should assist with this with the current recycling rate running at c. 40%. A 10% reduction of household residual waste equates to c. 4,800 tonne per annum reduction of waste presented in black wheelie bins, or 400 tonnes per month reduction. This would save in the region of over £600,000 per annum in the cost of disposal.
- 3.46 The procurement of a new In-Cab collections operating system will be completed in 2021. This will cost in the region of £300k over 5 years and will help to improve the flow of information from the kerbside to the operations hub, improving the collection performance and the experience for the customer. This will also assist in efforts to reduce waste and improve recycling by recording and reporting kerbside presentation data.
- 3.47 *Waste Disposal / Waste Minimisation Street Cleaning including removal of graffiti and abandoned vehicle:* SBC continued to operate street cleansing services (along with grounds maintenance services), on behalf of the four new Parish Council's, until summer of 2020, as there was a delay to the transfer of these services to the respective Parish
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Councils as a result of Covid, following which the transfer of these services to the Parish Councils has been completed.

- 3.48 The retained street cleansing service now operates in the town centre, the BID area that is not part of Parish area. Here for example there is currently a deep-cleanse programme being undertaken for the town centre car parks.

Housing Repairs

Repair and Improvements to Council Housing Stock

- 3.49 Emergency and urgent repairs continued throughout the first lockdown period. A staged approach took place to keep everyone safe and a full repairs service was operational in August 2020. Improvements to the online portal enhanced access to enable tenants to book their own repairs and change appointments.
- 3.50 The repairs service transferred from Housing to Operational Services in September 2020. The new daily operations meeting started to give focus on ensuring fixes were successful on the first planned visit. In the Morning operations meeting we also looked to set out the reasons for not being able to achieve this, to establish how we could improve.
- 3.51 Initiatives recently implemented to improve right first time performance are listed as follows:
- 3.51.1 Individual daily reports by supervisors – celebrating successes and focusing on right first time.
 - 3.51.2 Making sure that tenants know, at the time of the visit, when repair work is planned to be carried out, if it can't be fixed at the first visit.
 - 3.51.3 Confirmation of gas servicing appointments at least 2 days before the actual due date.
 - 3.51.4 Trades making sure that they attend on the appointed time, such as school runs, and seeing if a tenant missed appointment can be undertaken later during the day.
 - 3.51.5 Investigating complaints and Council Member enquiries on the same day that they were received with the aim to resolve them as quickly as possible.
- 3.52 Performance for first time fixes and safety checks has significantly improved during quarter 3 for 20/21 (see graph below) This focussed approach has also significantly

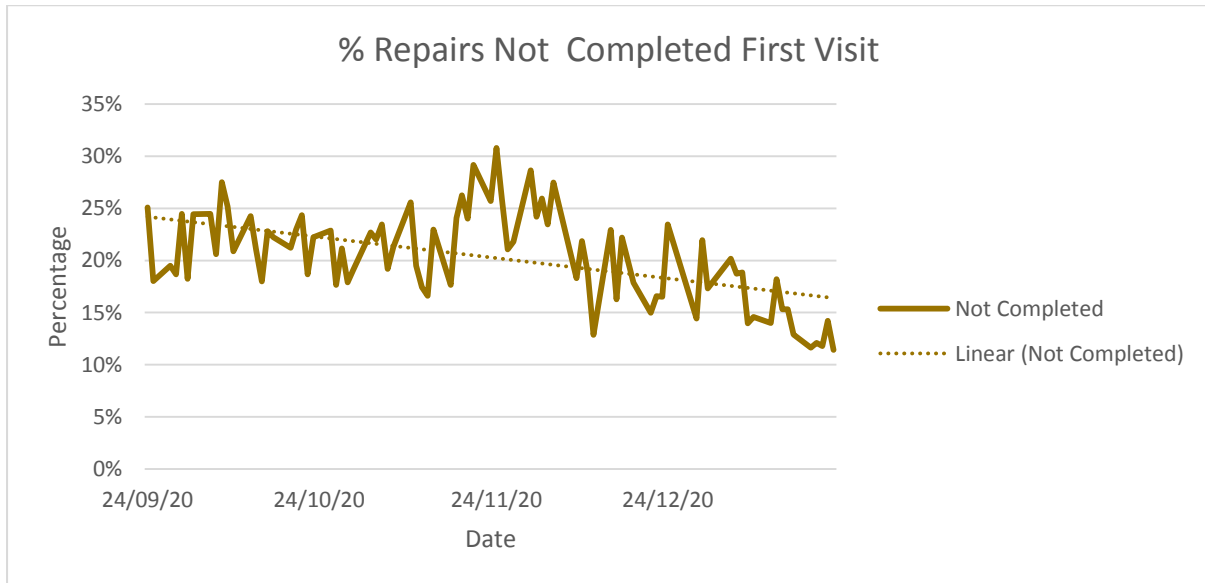
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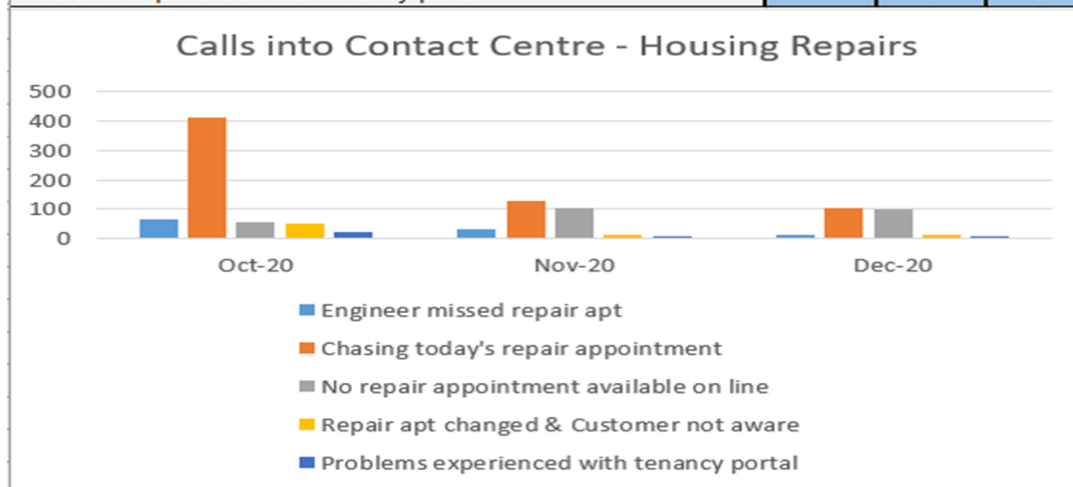
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reduced the number of complaints and time taken to investigate and respond with a resolution.



3.53 Communication has also improved by letting tenants know the next stage or date for any further visits, should a repair not be able to be completed on the first visit. This has resulted in a significant reduction in telephone enquiries, as per table below.

Customer Service Housing Repair Calls for failure demand			
Categorised	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20
Engineer missed repair apt	68	33	11
Chasing today's repair appointment	411	129	102
No repair appointment available on line	58	106	98
Repair apt changed & Customer not aware	50	15	12
Problems experienced with tenancy portal	21	7	8



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- 3.54 As part of the recovery from Covid-19 a new major repairs team was set-up to deliver larger type or repairs that are more complex. An in-house team mostly delivers larger type internal repairs and external contractors are utilised to deliver external repairs. There has been a delay with major external repairs and contractors are working on outstanding work. The majority of major repairs are to be complete within 10 working days by the end of this financial year, 2020/21.
- 3.55 New initiatives to improve repairs are listed as follows:
- 3.55.1 Further utilisation of video interaction.
 - 3.55.2 Enabling corporate and operational buildings to log repairs on line.
 - 3.55.3 Enabling urgent repairs to be reported on line.
 - 3.55.4 Enabling tenants to book multiple repairs for the same visit.
 - 3.55.5 Reviewing our working pattern for trades to improve efficiency and ease of appointments for the Tenant.
 - 3.55.6 Reviewing our diagnostic scripting to set expectations, for example, first visit to measure a double-glazed unit.
 - 3.55.7 Reviewing our gas safety programme and making contact for the first appointment to suit the customer.

Statutory Compliance

- 3.56 All statutory compliance work continued throughout the lockdown period. Where tenants were shielding, individual risk assessments established whether it was appropriate to postpone safety checks to prevent extremely clinically vulnerable tenants from unnecessary risk of contracting the Covid-19 virus. Approx. 300 properties had a gas safety check postponed during this period.
- 3.57 Gas safety is 99.8% compliant to date and approx. 1,200 gas safety checks are required to be complete by 31st March 2021. Approx. 96% of properties have an up to date electrical safety check and a risk assessment is to determine the future programme. Asbestos inspections are 100% complete for communal areas. Water hygiene risk assessments are 100% complete for complex buildings, such as sheltered schemes and corporate buildings. A risk assessment is to determine the extent and roll-out of this future programme across all homes. Fire Risk Assessments (FRA's) are 100% compliant in accordance with The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and all immediate or high priority actions arising for our FRA's have been completed.

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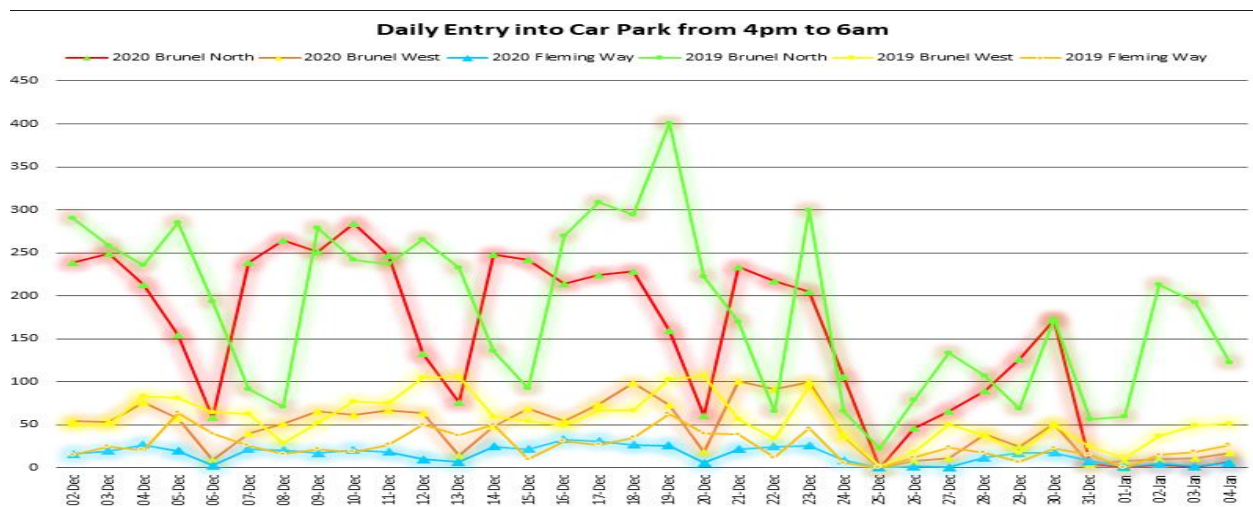
Capital Works

- 3.58 Capital works to the housing stock and corporate and operational buildings is delivered by external contractors and ceased at the start of the lockdown and has been returned in stages to ensure that all safety measures are in place. The outturn on spend of the HRA capital programme is forecast to be £9m against an available budget of £19.7m. Any underspend is to be carried forward and new framework agreements are being put in place with contractors to accelerate programmes of work during 21/22. The major programmes of work to corporate buildings is taking place and a framework is being putting in place for support with and delivery of capital works.

Other areas

Car Parks and Bus Gates

- 3.59 During the Covid pandemic, it has been important to us to provide help and support to NHS staff and other critical care workers. Therefore, we created a digital permit in line with the national government scheme as an exemption for NHS staff and critical care workers to use in pay on on-street parking places and council owned car parks without having to worry about cost or time restrictions. There are currently 357 critical care permits in circulation.
- 3.60 As part of the Council's ongoing response to Covid-19, it has been necessary to support the re-opening of non-essential retail following the initial lockdown period, and to manage queuing systems within the public realm particularly within the Town Centre. The council introduced a reduced parking fee in Brunel North, Brunel West and Fleming Way Car Parks for a temporary period between 2nd December 2020 and 4th January 2021, from 4.00pm until 6.00am, to charge a nominal fee of £1.00 per parking session, no matter how long a customer parks.



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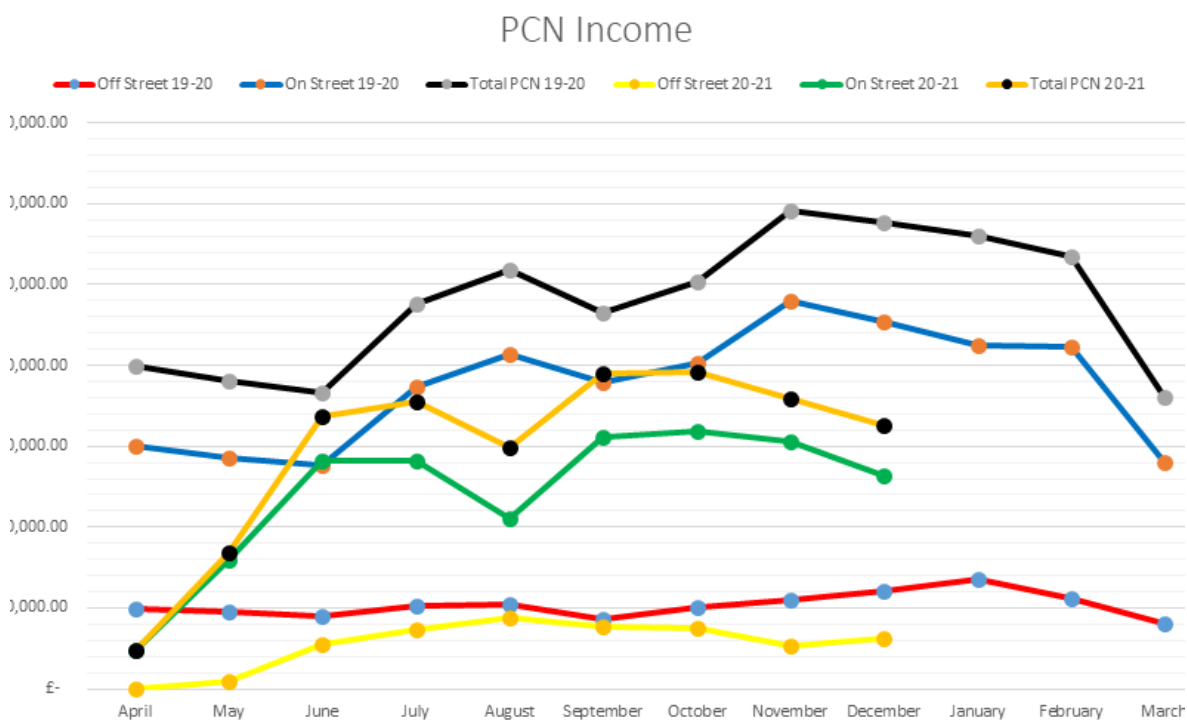
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Enforcement

- 3.61 Parking Enforcement of traffic regulations, on the highway network and in car parks across the borough, has continued throughout last year, despite the Covid Pandemic impacting how we do things. The effect of the numerous lockdowns has impacted the numbers of Penalty Charge Notices issued. Vehicles contravening bus lane parking offences has halved, due to less visitors and vehicles on the network. The enforcement of on and off street offences is also less, however with the changes to the management of the officers, it has shown an impact of 23% less issued than the same period as last year. Parking income from car parks and season tickets has indicated a 50% hit, which with further lockdowns will affect all of these numbers going forward. The impact on revenue can be seen in the graphs below.

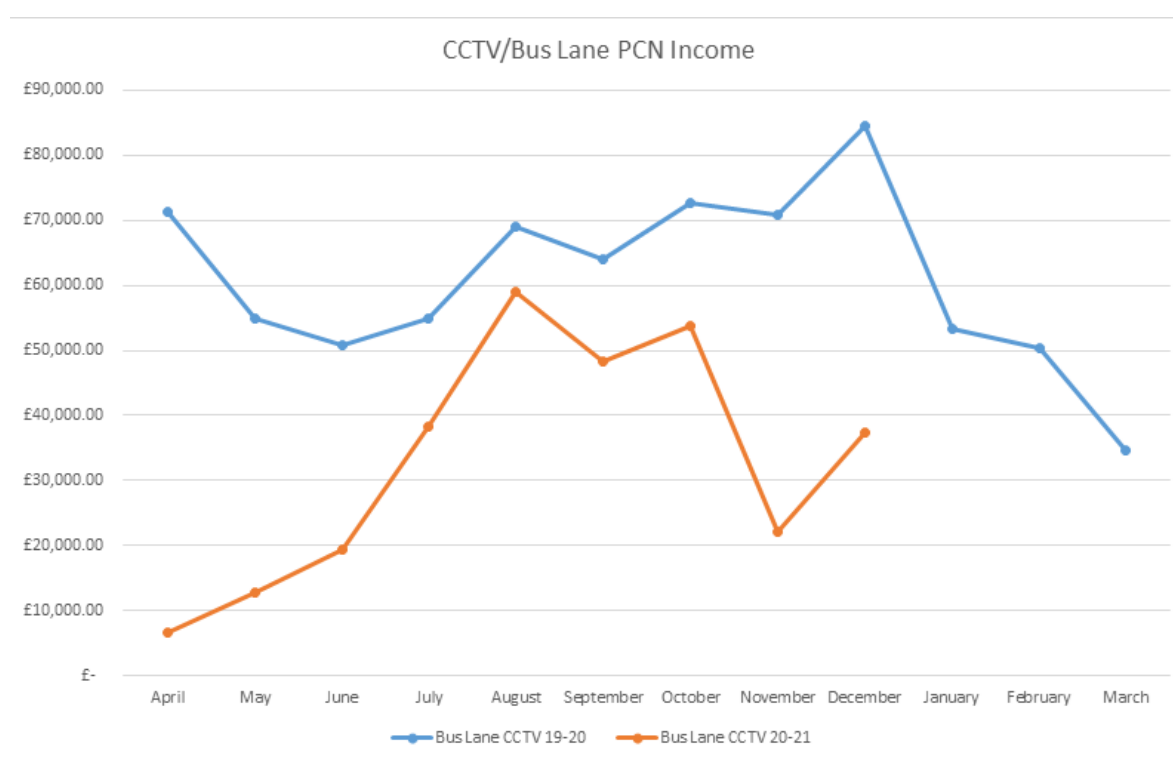


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- 3.62 The focus for parking in the next year, is digital permits, and equipment upgrades in the car parks, to be able to offer the user a better experience when visiting Swindon.

Building community capacity

- 3.63 In order to harness community resilience we will seek to work more closely with community groups and volunteers to help them increase the cleanliness of their local areas. We will for example look to build on the voluntary work already undertaken at Coate Country Park, the Housing Business Development Team's volunteer Street Representatives, the Probationary Service Payback Projects and other community organisations to facilitate and support their work in maintaining cleanliness.

Fleet Management

- 3.64 The fleet procurement and commissioning project was deferred, once again, due to Covid related factors. Therefore there has been a delay in the procurement and delivery of new vehicles, and included in this are the proposed electric vehicles (light commercial and supervisor's vehicles).
- 3.65 Moving into the next Financial year, whilst we will continue to drive cost savings in the proactive fleet maintenance and fleet management strategies, we are looking to

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commence the procurement of new vehicles as part of these processes and to expand the numbers of electric vehicles in the fleet.

- 3.66 The Fleet Commissioning and Fleet Management Strategies introduced in December 2019, with the aim of improving the procurement and management of vehicles and thereby delivering significant cost savings is ongoing, although Covid has delayed fleet procurement.

Public Transport (including Concessionary Fares, Specialist Transport, Council Transport and Fleet Management)

- 3.67 The functions of Passenger Transport have, like other parts of the Council faced a difficult year due to the impact of Covid 19.
- 3.68 The two bus companies Stagecoach West and Swindon's Bus Company who operate most bus services in town, have like their counterparts across the country, suffered from loss of patronage due to Covid 19 Lockdown restrictions and the need for social distancing.
- 3.69 The Council though, like for all its Passenger Transport Contractors, maintained contract payments to contractors and Concessionary Travel reimbursement payments to ensure the market would be in a secure place for when operations returned to normal. Central Government has provided funding to bus operators both directly and via grants to local authorities. This included a grant for additional capacity to allow bus services to be strengthened with duplicate buses where needed, to ensure all school children/post 16 students non entitled to free transport could get to school/college in September when schools and colleges reopened to everyone.
- 3.70 The Council also bid and was given its allocation for the Better Bus Fund £95k, of which £52k will improve Service 10, which operates between Freshbrook and Kingsdown, by increasing the evening service Monday to Saturday by three return journeys and the Sunday service by five return journeys. The remaining £43k will be used to maintain the existing bus network as and when needed, to keep bus services at a level pre Covid 19 and focused firstly on bus services within Swindon Borough operated by Swindon's Bus Company or secondly any other bus service in Swindon Borough.
- 3.71 The Community Transport Contract was won by Akcess, an established minibuss contractor for the Council and saw them take over this service from Swindon Dial a Ride. The service itself was named 'Steps for you' and passengers made a smooth transition from the long established Swindon Dial a Ride operation. Unfortunately the service was not able to progress initially due to the first Lockdown period in March, when the majority of potential passengers had to stay at home and shield.

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- 3.72 The Concessionary Travel Scheme was temporarily revised to allow pass holders to travel free before 0930 and this was to enable the elderly and people with disabilities to shop while sufficient goods was available on supermarket shelves. The scheme returned to 0930 from 1st September to ensure school children and workers had priority, with social distancing restrictions in place on buses.
- 3.73 Education transport saw some children, apart from those of key workers already travelling in Lockdown, return to school in June for three year groups. Then in September all education transport returned successfully. Although it has been a difficult period maintaining the numbers of passenger assistants due to sickness, only three school routes suffered cancellations for one day each due to staff sickness, for the period September to Mid - December.
- 3.74 A number of parents voiced their concern about the change of contractor at short notice on their child's transport route before the start of term in September. Certain school transport routes were subject to tender and due to some bidders not being able to proceed with the routes awarded to them, the award process was delayed. Parents felt they needed more time to enable their child to get used to a change of contractor. In addition some parents also found it difficult to get responses from the Council to the issues they had with changes to their education transport route.
- 3.75 Communication is an area that needs to be addressed, so parents are better informed and have access to a member of staff if they have an issue to discuss. This situation improved from October onwards, however the summer changes in 2021 will need to be communicated better. The effect of a change of contractor on individual children will need to be considered too, as not all children with special needs find coping with change easy.
- 3.76 The important focus for next year will be to help assist and ensure that the bus companies can recover and bring their service and profit levels back to the position they were in before March 2020. Swindon has benefited from a 95% commercial bus network for many years and it is therefore important and vital that we return to this position quickly.
- 3.77 At the same time we will be looking at how we change education transport arrangements and overall on how we can improve communication with parents and ensure we provide good customer service.

Waterside Depot, including Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)

- 3.78 The Household Waste Recycling Centre, following the initial closure, continued to operate during all lockdowns, as did all other parts of the depot including the fleet

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maintenance and management, the stores function and transport compliance, to allow the front line services (waste and recycling collections etc.) to continue to operate.

- 3.79 We plan to continue to work to fine tune the HWRC booking system to ensure the customer journey from booking to site visit is a positive one and as fully automated as possible. To this end the Emerging Technology team is working to install an automated barrier and reader at the HWRC site entrance, for managing visitor entry against their HWRC bookings.
- 3.80 At the wider Waterside Depot, we will continue to work closely with PPS and the EA to press for a greater emphasis on site management of waste and an improvement in the housekeeping of Waterside operations areas.
- 3.81 We plan to complete an improvement programme of the Waterside Depot in general by improving site security, CCTV, the reintroduction of the main gate and install badge access to the main buildings similarly to the Civic Campus. We are also keen to improve staff facilities at Waterside by enhancing drying facilities to ensure those colleagues working out in the inclement weather have the ability to dry off their work clothes on return to the site. We will also focus on improving work areas along with looking to provide a food offering for our 600 people who work from the site which will replace the previous on-site catering offer.
- 3.82 A one-year tool and plant pilot with a third party commenced in 2020 to improve the control and inventory of tool and plant to improve Health and Safety requirements, namely the timely inspection of plant and the control of HAVS (Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome). It is anticipated that if this is proved to be a successful delivery model, this approach will also deliver long term cost benefits.
- 3.83 The Transport Compliance Manager continues to drive improvements in transport compliance with a requirement to comply with the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Earned Recognition Scheme (ERS). The RAG rated Green Score demonstrates that SBC are correctly operating under the rules of the Operator's Licence (the O' Licence) granted to us by the Traffic Commissioner.

Stores

- 3.84 The management of stock within Stores continues to emphasise the reduction of expensive stock-holding and a shift to operating a *call-off* type system of stock control and distribution. The Stores function is 95% related to the delivery of the Housing Repairs service.
- 3.85 The future delivery of the Stores function is linked to a scoping exercise currently being undertaken to improve the Stores offering as part of a wider Waterside modernisation

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programme. A projects team is currently undertaking this study and it is anticipated to report on the recommendation for the future strategy for Stores by the new financial year.

Public Toilets

- 3.86 Town Centre toilets reopened in May 2020 following initial closure in April due to Covid. However, both the Bus Station & Wharf Green toilets have restricted opening hours (Monday - Friday 10am – 4pm) and both have attendants to ensure social distancing and good hygiene standards are met at all times.

Ground & Tree Maintenance and open spaces

- 3.87 As with street cleansing, SBC continued to operate grounds maintenance services on behalf of some of the Parish Councils until summer of 2020, as there was a slight delay to the transfer of these services to the respective Parish Councils as a result of Covid. Retained grounds and open spaces services are now focussed on non-Parish Council grass cutting, the soft landscaping of hedges and shrub beds, management of gateways, roundabouts and some verges plus the Swindon Council buildings and the Swindon housing estates.
- 3.88 Despite Covid, the tree service continued to operate, dealing with the ongoing reduction of the backlog of tree work. Emergency work has been treated as priority.
- 3.89 The appointment of an Operations Manager has ensured a greater focus on the productivity of the Grounds teams, with particular attention to the Ranger cohort employed to manage the Country Parks. There will also be a greater utilisation of work experience placements and apprenticeships to work alongside an aging workforce in order to grow our capability whilst also ensuring that skills, expertise, experience and knowledge is maintained. The latter is particularly important to be able to adhere to Swindon's Country Parks Strategic Improvement Plan, which will be subject to consultation in the spring. As part of this work, the development of further synergies between the Ranger teams at Coate and Lydiard Park will be explored.
- 3.90 Efforts will be targeted on achieving the best performance from the retained services in terms of customer care, quality work standards, improving productivity and putting into place a succession plan that will mean the retention of skills and knowledge.

Parks

- 3.91 Country Parks remained open for exercise during the Covid lockdown, however ancillary provisions such as golf, splash park, play area, BBQ's, bird hides and event hire, water

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sports, model railway and volunteer groups were suspended. The majority of these have not reopened as the season has now ended.

- 3.92 The Coate Water Country Park improvement programme is currently under way with upgrades for the walkways, signage and interpretation, the access road from Day House Lane, the provision of new children's play equipment and on mitigation of the general impact of the development on Coate. Coate's potential will be further explored through the Country Parks Strategic Improvement Plan.

Playgrounds, including those that are not presently utilised

- 3.93 All playground inspection and maintenance now falls within the remit of the respective Parish Councils. The exceptions to this are those at our strategic Country Parks, Lydiard Park and Coate Water.
- 3.94 However, SBC will retain overall responsibility for a significant number of playgrounds across the Borough, and therefore remedial actions may be required to ensure that these play areas remain in a safe condition – this will involve removing equipment if agreement cannot be reached with the appropriate Parish Council to fund / undertake works.

Enviro crime

- 3.95 As with the above services, Covid impacted the EnviroCrime team by limiting the investigations that could be carried out and forcing the cancellation of the schools education programme. The mobile team (Broad Green) was suspended in April 2020 but reintroduced in August 2020.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Scrutiny Committee could choose not to operate a Cabinet Member Question and Answer programme.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor, and improve performance.

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All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising from this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by it.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage

Risk Management

- 5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Overview Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Corporate Director of Finance and Assets (s151 officer) and Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 None.

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Work Programme 2020/2021

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Author: Scrutiny Officer

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the topics for the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2020/2021, as agreed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 7th July 2020 and revised at subsequent meetings throughout the year.
- 1.2 The Work Programme details the various topics and issues that each Committee intends to look into during the coming year with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies / bodies to consider.
- 1.3 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to have a Work Programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the approved Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committee for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 Discuss the potential addition of a Task Group to review the Oasis closure and potential reopening as set out in Appendix 4.

3. Detail

The Work Programme

- 3.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to have a Work Programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the Municipal Year.
 - 3.2 Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to agree a Work Programme at the start of the Municipal Year outlining their priorities and likely outcomes of considering these issues. This task was completed by this Committee at its first meeting on 7th July 2020.
 - 3.3 The Work Programme is developed taking into account:
 - 3.3.1 Corporate priorities and objectives, including the Cabinet Forward Plan.
 - 3.3.2 Partnership strategic priorities and objectives.
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull, 07980 752043, vyull@swindon.gov.uk.

Work Programme 2020/2021

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

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- 3.3.3 The interests and concerns of Members, Council officers, members of the public, and other stakeholders such as community and voluntary groups and local businesses.
 - 3.4 Committees are encouraged to review the Work Programme on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to prioritise the workload of the Committee.
 - 3.5 Members are reminded that the Work Programme must also take into account:
 - 3.5.1 The workload of the Committee and of individual members.
 - 3.5.2 The capacity of officers to support a review.
 - 3.5.3 The resource implications of carrying out a review.
 - 3.5.4 The timescales for a review.
 - 3.5.5 The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review.

Developing the Work Programme – The Executive

- 3.6 It is important that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Council and its partner agencies, and produces tangible outcomes for local people that result in real service improvements. Selecting the right topics is crucial to ensure that scrutiny will be effective.
- 3.7 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are encouraged to work with Cabinet in the best interests of the Borough and to take into account the priorities and suggestions of Cabinet as detailed in the Cabinet Work Programme and Forward plan, attached at Appendix 2, when considering the contents for the Work Programme.
- 3.8 In addition, Members attention is drawn to the Scrutiny Process Flowchart, attached at Appendix 3, which is aimed at assisting Members in identifying how they could influence policy development.

Standard Work Programme Items

- 3.9 In addition to selecting various topics and issues for inclusion in the Work Programme, the Scrutiny Committee has a number of additional items that it has incorporated into its Work Programme, such as:
 - 3.9.1 Cabinet Member Question and Answer Sessions. Each Cabinet Member will be expected to appear before the Scrutiny Committee to answer questions relating to their portfolio responsibilities, performance and future plans.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull, 07980 752043, vyull@swindon.gov.uk.

Work Programme 2020/2021

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

3.9.2 Review of Cabinet Decisions. The Scrutiny Committee will be required to review the decisions taken by Cabinet.

3.9.3 Leader's Report. The Scrutiny Committee will receive an annual presentation and a six monthly update from the Leader of the Council on the administrations priorities for the year and performance.

Oasis closure and potential reopening

3.10 The Chair is requesting Committee to consider the addition of a Task Group to its Work Programme to review the Oasis closure and potential reopening, the details of which are set out in Appendix 4.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 The Committee can choose not to have a detailed Work Programme although it is recommended that it is best practice to do so.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's Work Programme will be met by the Overview and Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the Work Programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Work Programme 2020/2021

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Risk Management

- 5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 None.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/2021.
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Current Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan.
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Process Flowchart.
- 8.4 Appendix 4 – Oasis closure and potential reopening Task Group.

Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme 2020-2021

Terms of Reference of the Committee

- To meet at regular intervals to review the policies, process and implications of Cabinet, Cabinet Member and Officer decision making, and the way in which Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions are made;
- To consider requests for “Call-in” as defined in the Council’s “Call-in” Procedure;
- To refer decisions back to Cabinet (or the decision maker) for reconsideration. It may do this once for any individual decision, after which if there is no agreement the decision will be referred to the full Council for determination;
- To refer Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for investigation without delaying the implementation of the decision concerned;
- To receive a report by the Leader of the Council at its first meeting after each Annual Council Meeting (or at such a meeting as is agreed by the Chair of the Committee and the Leader of the Council) on the service issues for the year ahead, the Leader of the Council’s priorities for the coming year, and on the Council’s performance in the previous year;
- To oversee the arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny within the Council, including determining (i) where matters fall within the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee which of those Committees will assume responsibility for any particular issue, (ii) a system to ensure that referrals from Committees to the Cabinet, either by way of report or for reconsideration, are managed efficiently and do not exceed any limits set out in the Council’s Constitution, and (iii) in the event of reports to the Cabinet exceeding any limits in the Constitution, or if the volume of such reports creates difficulty for the management of Cabinet business or jeopardises the efficient running of Council business, at the request of the Cabinet to make decisions about the priority of referrals made;
- To carry out any investigation into the business and functions of the Council and to call in any Cabinet Member or senior officer of the Council so that they can offer advice, support or answer any question that will assist the Committee in carrying out its functions; and
- To carry out an external scrutiny function, particularly in relation to corporate issues and issues falling into the remit of a number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

To fulfil all the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee as they relate to –

- The review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations,
- The management of performance,
- The monitoring of progress towards delivering corporate priorities,
- The formulation of advice for the Cabinet, Council and other partners and stakeholders, and
- Strategies to reduce or prevent Crime and Disorder.

To have specific responsibility (but not limited to)

- Good governance.
- The Budget Scrutiny function.

Review of the Work Programme

The work programme will be reviewed at every meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to ensure that it remains relevant, to ensure that Members and Officers have sufficient capacity to deliver the work programme and to include any additional items on the work programme, if appropriate.

To assist members in developing the Committee's work programme, a copy of the current Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan is attached at Appendix 2 to the covering report.

Contact details

Committee Officer: Vicki Yull

Email: vyull@swindon.gov.uk

Tel: 07980 752043

7th July 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Leader of the Council update	To receive a half yearly update from the Leader of the Council on the performance of the Council, to receive details of any major issues or problem areas and to review progress against priorities set out in annual presentation.	Councillor David Renard
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Work Programme 2020/21	To discuss and agree a rolling work programme for the 2020/21 Municipal Year and review the Overview Task Groups	n/a

10th August 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills	To review the portfolio and performance of Commercialisation, Education and Skills.	Councillor Russell Holland

14th September 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety.	Councillor Cathy Martyn

26th October 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Children's Services	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.	Councillor Mary Martin

9th November 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses

9th November 2020		
Review of the 2019/20 Municipal Year	To receive the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report.	Chief Legal Officer
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Organisational Excellence	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Organisational Excellence.	Councillor Rob Jandy

7th December 2020		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Leader of the Council update	To receive a half yearly update from the Leader of the Council on the performance of the Council, to receive details of any major issues or problem areas and to review progress against priorities set out in annual presentation.	Councillor David Renard
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Air Quality	To receive a report on the air quality across Swindon, to include: existing Kings Hill issues, an indication of how air quality looking across the whole town, and current issues in Rodbourne.	Councillor Keith Williams

11th January 2021		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Budget Scrutiny	To review the Budget proposals for 2021-2022.	Councillor Russell Holland
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning.	Councillor Gary Sumner

8th February 2021		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services.	Councillor Maureen Penny
Review of progress against the Council's Pledges	To review the progress towards achieving the ambitions of the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges	Councillor David Renard

8th March 2021 (moved from 29th March 2021)		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Review of Cabinet Decisions	To receive the decisions taken and the process taken in making those decisions of Cabinet.	Cabinet

8th March 2021 (moved from 29th March 2021)		
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Adults and Health	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health.	Councillor Brian Ford

26th April 2021		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage.	Councillor Dale Heenan
Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Climate Change	To review the portfolio and performance of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change	Councillor Keith Williams

Other issues for Scrutiny Committee to consider		
Item	Objectives	Witnesses
Averies Task Group Final Report	To receive the final report of the Task Group and make appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet and Council.	Task Group Members
Review of Scrutiny Process	To review the scrutiny procedures at Swindon Borough Council.	Task Group Members
Town Centre Task Group	To reviewing its social importance to the town as a whole, what is needed socially to increase footfall and open new businesses, and to define an overview of the Town Centre as a concept.	Task Group Members

CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Proposed AGENDA ITEMS/DELEGATED DECISIONS

If you wish to make your views known on any matter set out in this work-plan, please contact the relevant Cabinet Member or the officer identified.

Councillor:	Portfolio:
David Renard	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet
Russell Holland	Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice-Chair of Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education, and Skills
Brian Ford	Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
Dale Heenan	Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage
Robert Jandy	Cabinet Member for Organisational Excellence
Mary Martin	Cabinet Member for Children' Services
Cathy Martyn	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety
Maureen Penny	Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services
Gary Sumner	Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning
Keith Williams	Cabinet Member for Climate Change

Senior Committee Clerk: Douglas Campbell, CommitteeServices@Swindon.gov.uk

Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions January/February 2021

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
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Cabinet Meeting Date - 3rd February 2021

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
Budget Management Update (February)	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills	Corporate Director of Finance and Assets Corporate Director of Finance and Assets
New Capital Programme, including	Deputy Leader of the	Corporate Director of

capital management strategy	Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills	Finance and Assets Corporate Director of Finance and Assets
Treasury management strategy statement	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills	Corporate Director of Finance and Assets Corporate Director of Finance and Assets
Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - Rents and Charges	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety	Director of Housing Director of Housing
School Admission Arrangements 2022-23 and Mainstream Home to School Transport Policy	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills	Corporate Director of Children's Services Strategic School Admissions Manager
Streets Works Permit Scheme	Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services	Director of Strategic Development Service Manager – Transport Planning, Development & Street Works Management
Annual Pay Policy Statement (Minute for Confirmation)	Cabinet Member for Organisational Excellence	Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development Nicki Jackson
Carbon Reduction Strategy	Cabinet Member for Climate Change	Director of Economy, Growth and Place Rob Fulford
Apprenticeships	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation,	Corporate Director of Children's Services Head of Skills,

	Education and Skills	Employment & Lifelong Learning
Swindon Housing Company Residential Development Proposal	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills	Director of Housing Director of Housing

Cabinet Meeting Date - 3rd March 2021 (new date)

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
Budget Management Update (March)	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills	Corporate Director of Finance and Assets Corporate Director of Finance and Assets
Capital Monitoring Quarter 3 Update	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills	Corporate Director of Finance and Assets Corporate Director of Finance and Assets
Swindon Road Safety Strategy	Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services, Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning	Head of Highways and Transport Head of Highways and Transport
SEND Home to School Transport Policy 2021/22	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Corporate Director of Children's Services
Old Town, Corn Exchange	Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning, Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage	Chief Executive Head of Property Assets

Disposal of Town Centre site	Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet	Chief Executive Head of Property Assets
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Cabinet Meeting Date: 7th July 2021 (TBC)

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
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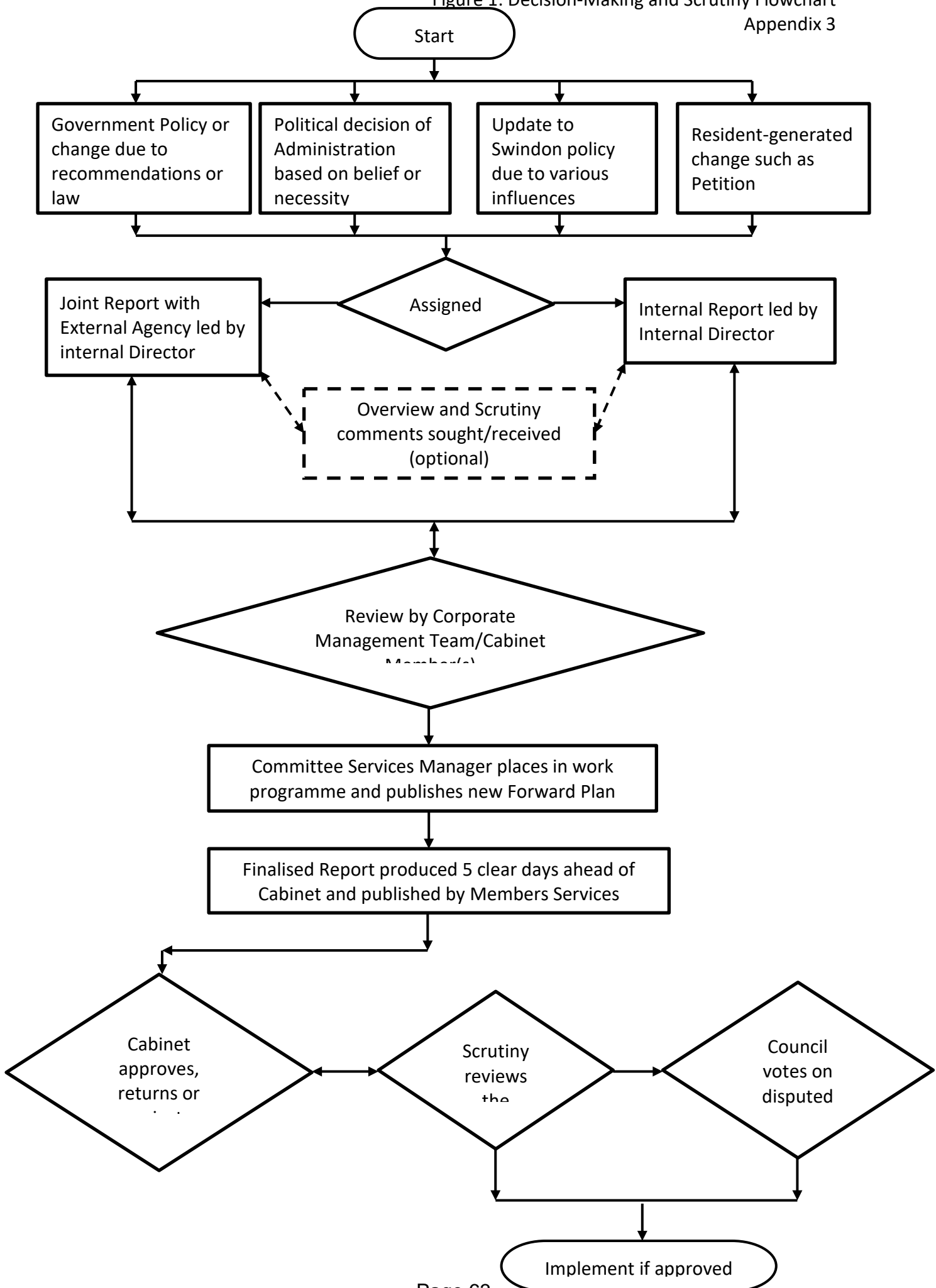
Cabinet Meeting Date: 8th September 2021 (TBC)

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
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Cabinet Meeting Date: 13th October 2021 (TBC)

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
Public Open Space and Parish Asset Transfers - Response to Council motion	Leader of the Council	Head of Property Assets Head of Property Assets

Figure 1: Decision-Making and Scrutiny Flowchart
Appendix 3



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Review title: Oasis closure and potential reopening

Purpose of the review	The Scrutiny Committee should undertake an investigation into the circumstances that led to the closure of the Oasis and the options that are open to the Council to ensure the reopening of the lockdown. The Committee should also investigate the £3m payment that was made from the Council to GLL, any obligations placed on GLL around this money, and whether the Council should seek to have any of the payment repaid. The Scrutiny Committee should also investigate the deal with Seven Capital which included the transfer of the land at the former Clare's Site, seeking to determine what obligations were put on Seven Capital to deliver the Snowdome and the protection of the Oasis Leisure Centre. The report should also contain what break clauses are open to the Council to return the land and the Oasis to Council Control.
Anticipated outcome(s)	To have a clear idea of the decisions that led to the closure of the Oasis, the relationships with Moirai, Seven Capital and GLL, and to set out the options that are open to the Council in order to ensure the swift reopening of the Oasis.
Background	GLL announced back in November that the Oasis would not reopen after the second Covid-19 lockdown. This has come as a shock to many Swindon residents, who saw the Oasis as the jewel in the crown of the town's leisure offering. At the recent Council meeting on January 21 st , there was a debate on the Oasis, and several Councillors suggested that the Scrutiny Committee should look into the issue.
Key questions	<p>What were the issues that led to the closure of the Oasis? Was Covid-19 the only reason, and why have GLL managed to reopen other sites in the town?</p> <p>What are the risks that other sites managed by GLL in Swindon will shut down as well?</p> <p>What are the precise terms of the deal agreed with GLL regarding handing back control of the Oasis and any other sites?</p> <p>Did decisions made by GLL, such as the membership schemes in operation and the decision to not use cash at the Leisure Centre contribute to the closure, and did the Council have any say over these decisions?</p> <p>With the closure of the Oasis, the borough loses a swimming pool with good access for disabled people, as it has the beach style pool entrance. Is there suitable alternative provision in the town?</p> <p>What terms were on the payments made by the Council to GLL, how much did these payments total, and what conditions were on the payments? Did any of the payments include funds spent on the Oasis?</p> <p>Has the Council made any other payments to other bodies in regards of the Oasis? If so to whom and what?</p> <p>How many alterations of the agreement made with GLL have taken</p>

	<p>place?</p> <p>In regards to allegations of asset stripping, what conversations have taken place with GLL on this subject? Has any proof been requested that items removed are owned by GLL? Is there an inventory of all equipment? What were the terms of the transfer in terms of equipment at the Oasis? Can the Council confirm that no items funded by the taxpayers of Swindon have been removed?</p> <p>What are the terms of the agreement with Seven Capital? What obligations were put on Seven Capital in regards of the delivery of the Snowdome and the continued operation of the Oasis?</p> <p>What break clauses are in the contract? What is the current status of the Snowdome project?</p> <p>What is the current state of the Oasis? Is the building safe and secure? Was any damage caused when the site was entered in early January? Are the interior facilities being properly maintained to ensure that the Oasis can be reopened?</p>
Links to the council's corporate plan	<p>Priority 1 Improve infrastructure and housing to support a growing low-carbon economy</p> <p>Priority 3 Ensure clean and safe streets and improve our public spaces, and local culture</p>
Methodology	<p>Possible options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Scrutiny Committee to set up a task force to call in key witnesses to give an explanation of the events leading up to the closure, and Scrutiny Committee to write a report following the meeting. · Ask officers to bring a report or briefing paper to illustrate the potential options open to the Council to enable the Oasis to reopen, and timescales and costs for all these options · Pre-decision scrutiny into Cabinet decisions on the Oasis to ensure that residents are fully aware of the situation and potential options · If a full review is required this can then be written up and submitted to the Committee, to overview Scrutiny and to Full Council if appropriate. · Look at other authorities to determine how their Leisure facilities are coping with the lockdown
Key background papers	To be Added from modgov
Evidence to be provided by	<p>Swindon Council Officers from appropriate directorate</p> <p>GLL</p> <p>Seven Capital</p> <p>Users of the Oasis</p> <p>Residents – all demographics</p> <p>Councillors and former councillors involved in decision making</p>

Timetable	<p>As the workplan is relatively full and purdah starts early in March, we could set up a task force to gather evidence on a date in February (provisionally 16th, as this would allow for the meeting to be broadcast to the public) before the Chair of Scrutiny drafts a report for the committee meeting to be held on the 8th March. We will also receive a report from officers on the options for re-opening the Oasis. Longer-term, the Scrutiny Committee will make the Oasis a standing agenda item to ensure that deadlines are being met.</p>
Reporting mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Scrutiny Committee to produce a report following the task force meeting to gain evidence on the Closure. · Officers to prepare a report detailing the potential options for reopening the Oasis. · Any pre-decision recommendations will need to go through Cabinet · Full Council

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Status of requests for action and / or information

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Author: Chief Legal Officer

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the status of requests for action to be taken or information to be provided.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Consider the responses provided by officers, and actions taken in relation to each issue, and determine if any further action is required.
- 2.3 Agree that, subject to the Committee's requests for further action to be taken, issues shown as being completed be removed from the status report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee has requested that a report be submitted to each meeting on the status of its earlier requests for action to be taken or information to be provided, allowing members to consider if any further action is required.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 This report has no financial or procurement implications.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been fully taken into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 None.
-

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Vicki Yull, 07980 752043, vyull@swindon.gov.uk.

Status of requests for action and / or information

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th February 2021

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) is required at this stage. Any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the Work Programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.5 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees


- 6.1 None.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Schedule of the status of requests for action to be taken or information to be provided.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 26th October 2020		
Minute No. 25	Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services	Outcome
To circulate the presentation regarding the services provided by the additional support professional to those families on the waiting list for diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder, ADHD and mental health services.	<p>The presentation is here:</p>  <p>OS Presentation 8th September 2020 v6 f</p>	Completed

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 7th December 2020		
Minute No. 35	Public Question Time	Outcome
<p>To provide a written response to the supplementary questions asked by Mr Roy Worman:</p> <p>1) Did the Council have an input in to the EEHs consultation / decision on decarbonisation and the road map for future investment?</p> <p>2) The mid-year treasury performance reports notes that a short term loan of £5m has been taken – when is this repayable?</p>	<p>The responses are as follows:</p> <p>1) The Council, as a partner of England’s Economic Heartland, has been central to the development of the EEH Transport Strategy with its component parts. As well as the overarching document, to which SBC has contributed, officers have been involved in the work to produce and review two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal – this, among other elements, contains the Environmental Impact Assessment and will ensure that all low carbon aspects are incorporated into the strategy • Pathways to Decarbonisation – based on commissioned study work this has developed advanced modelling to show how EEH could achieve a net zero transport system by 2050 <p>SBC continues its work within the</p>	Completed

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 7th December 2020		
	<p>partnership to develop and deliver the outcomes set out in the Transport Strategy</p> <p>2) The £5m of temporary borrowing as at 30th September was repaid on 1st October.</p>	

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 11th January 2021		
Minute No. 44	Budget Setting Process 2021-22	Outcome
To circulate the Local Grant settlement figures		Ongoing
To circulate Schools Forum minutes of the 19 th January 2021 meeting		Ongoing
<p>Page 29 of report – Under “Savings” - Managing OPPD demand through strength based conversations to support service users to be as independent as possible.</p> <p>Managing LD long term demand through strength based conversations to support service users to be as independent as possible.</p> <p>Managing Mental Health demand through strength based conversations to support service users to be as independent as possible.</p> <p>Questions regarding the</p>	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>a) Older people assessment and reviews would cover approx. 2,000. On average we modelled a reduction in care package cost of £20 per week for 800 of 2,000 service users. On Transition, we assess all young people who reach the age of 18 and this applies to approximately 60 young people. Each year we have been able to achieve savings of approx. 1.5m by supported living locally rather than relying on residential care. We also review approximately 500 – 600 people with a learning disability and savings are achieved by ensuring the right support at the right time. We anticipate saving of £40 per service user per week based on 200 service users. This is an average calculation</p>	Completed

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 11th January 2021		
<p>above:</p> <p>a) The number of services users referred to above.</p> <p>b) What will the average savings be? Will they be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the wellbeing of the individuals and their carers?</p>	<p>b) All service users have a review at 6 – 8 weeks and 12 months. In addition we review each service user if there is a change in need and circumstances.</p>	
<p>To circulate information regarding the methods to be used to ensure the Directorate aligned the programme of work to operate in a more modern, efficient and effective way.</p>	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>Productivity savings have been delivered with the In house Learning Disability provider and supporting People contracts (£206k) and are being developed in the Community Living Service and Homelessness service. The savings will be achieved through reshaping of services and deletion of vacant posts</p>	Completed
Minute No. 45	Cabinet Member Q&A – Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport and Planning	Outcome
<p>To circulate the number of houses completed since the current local plan was adopted and whether the Council is on target to complete the anticipated 22 thousand houses planned.</p>	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>As at 1/4/20, 8304 dwellings had been complete. It is highly unlikely that 22,000 homes will be built in the current plan period. This is recognised in the revised trajectory in the Local Plan Review and the lower housing target.</p>	Completed
<p>To circulate information regarding proposed end date for the infrastructure schemes being undertaken at Meads Way and the Moonraker Junction.</p>	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>End dates of schemes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moonrakers: April 2021 2. Meads Way: June 2021 	Completed
<p>To circulate information regarding the timescale to recoup infrastructure costs</p>	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>The Council invested £43m in</p>	Completed

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 11th January 2021		
from the developers at Wichelstowe.	<p>infrastructure before the creation of the Joint Venture (JV) between the Council and Barrett David Wilson for the delivery of the Wichelstowe development.</p> <p>There is a projected timeline for paying off this investment which is linked to commercial financial forecasting undertaken by the JV, which is subject to a number of variable factors such as house sales and sale prices, and progress against the timeline is monitored by officers. However any information produced by the JV's financial model is commercially sensitive and therefore is not available to include in this response.</p>	