

# Swindon Borough Council

## Scrutiny Committee

**Monday, 8 March 2021**

Microsoft Teams Meeting for Members, Livestream for the 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)

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## **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 March 2021](#).

This link will only work from 6.00pm on 8<sup>th</sup> March 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 - 12)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

**4. Public Question Time**

See explanatory note on the agenda frontsheet. 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 days before the meeting.

**5. Consideration of Cabinet Decisions** (Pages 13 - 14)

**6. Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session - Cabinet Member for Adults and Health** (Pages 15 - 38)

**7. Task Group - Oasis closure (update)** (Verbal Report)

**8. Work Programme 2020/2021** (Pages 39 - 52)

**9. Status of Requests for Action and / or Information** (Pages 53 - 58)

**Date of Despatch:** 26 February 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 4<sup>th</sup> March 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, 8 FEBRUARY 2021**

PRESENT:- Councillors James Robbins (Chair), Steve Weisinger (Vice-Chair), Junab Ali, Matthew Courtliff, Jim Grant, Jane Milner-Barry, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Kevin Small, 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), Robert Jandy (Cabinet Member for Operational Excellence), Mary Martin (Cabinet Member for Children's 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), Oliver Donachie, Jenny Jefferies and Vinay Manro.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emma Bushell.

### **48. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. Councillor Kevin Parry made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of agenda item 6 (Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges) as he is employed by Honda.

### **49. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **50. Public Question Time**

Mr Roy Worman, Haydon Wick resident, had submitted a question prior to the meeting relating to the closure of the Oasis being reviewed by two different Committees and a Cabinet Member Advisory Group (CMAG), and which queried the openness of information, the roadmap and the timescales involved amongst the three.

The Chair responded to the question at the meeting.

Mr Worman asked a number of supplementary questions at the meeting regarding:

- Minutes of the CMAG meetings not being publically available due to the confidential nature of the discussions held.
- Whether any of the £5m amendment to the Capital Programme as referred to at the last Cabinet meeting (which is being made available for leisure) will be spent on the Oasis.

Councillor David Renard, Leader of the Council, and Councillor Russell Holland (Deputy Leader of the Council, Vice-Chair of Cabinet, and Cabinet Member for Commercialisation, Education and Skills), responded at the meeting.

## **51. Consideration of Cabinet Decisions**

The Committee considered a report introducing decisions arising from the Cabinet meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

### *Item Number 44. Budget Management Update (February)/Draft Budget 2021/22*

Councillors Renard and Holland responded to questions put by Councillors Oliver Donachie and Kevin Small on the following matters:

- The wording of the Minute for Confirmation from Cabinet to Council regarding the Budget and the perceived lack of opportunity this presents to members to discuss any details in depth, though the option for members to pass amendments or proposals to the budget will still be available in the usual manner.
- Whether non-specific savings identified in the report will be achieved and the £1.5m contingency fund will therefore not be used.
- The expected funding gap between what is being used as one-off money to support ongoing expenditure in 2021/2022 that will have to be found again as new in 2022/2023, the details of which will be circulated subsequent to the meeting.
- Whether all political parties represented on the Council had been consulted on the budget proposals.

Resolved – (1) That Minute 44 of the Cabinet be noted.

(2) That information requested by members during the course of the Committee's consideration of this item be forwarded to them via the Committee Clerk.

### *Item Number 45. Capital Programme to 2025/26*

Councillors Renard, Holland and Dale Heenan (Cabinet Member for the Town Centre, Culture and Heritage) responded to questions put by Councillors Oliver Donachie, Jim Grant, Vinay Manro and Kevin Small on the following matters:

- The Council Motion which tasked the Leader to ensure that the lease holder protects the Oasis building from criminal activity and is properly maintained, and the reports that the building is not being maintained and how likely that is to prejudice a future business case.
- The anticipated resolution on the Oasis between GLL and Seven Capital and the options available to the Council should that not prove possible.
- The likelihood of the Oasis continuing to be run as a not for profit amenity within any future business case, and of other GLL-run sites across Swindon not re-opening following the pandemic.
- The option of publically subsidising the Oasis as a budget proposal.
- Which facilities that GLL operate on behalf of the Council are subsidised, the details of which will be circulated subsequent to the meeting.
- The interest repayments on the £5m approved borrowing for leisure facility, expected to be in the region of between £250k and £300k, and how these will be funded either by development or potential revenue.

- How the original plans for Oasis and North Star pre-supposed that development would take place as part of the wider commercial arrangements, with the administration being open-minded to the variation of the original proposals for the North Star site.
- The purpose behind the amendment to the capital programme being to see if the parameters of what is possible can be stretched, and to open up avenues of discussion and focus that may not have been available otherwise. The Committee noted that the amendment does not specifically mention the Oasis because it is anticipated that GLL and Seven Capital will resolve any issues.
- That the figure of £5m has been based on the knowledge of operating costs from when Oasis was under the Council's control, but it is speculation.

Resolved – (1) That Minute 45 of the Cabinet be noted.

(2) That information requested by members during the course of the Committee's consideration of this item be forwarded to them via the Committee Clerk.

*Item Number 46. Treasury management strategy statement 2021/22*

Resolved – That Minute 46 of the Cabinet be noted.

*Item Number 47. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) - Rents and Charges 2021/22*

Councillor Cathy Martyn (Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety) gave a brief update on the timetable for the options appraisal process on Milverton and Torrington as follows:

- Consultation with Ward Members on possible options should take place in June or July 2021.
- Design work to support public consultations should be carried out in August and September 2021.
- Public consultations and consultations with residents (subject to any pandemic restrictions) should take place in September and October 2021.
- Scheme proposals should be put forward as part of the HRA budget for 2022/23 from November 2021 onwards.
- The initial options report focussed on the refurbishment of the existing scheme and layout, with preliminary sketches of what new build options could offer. In the light of various recommendations post-Grenfell, it is become increasingly important to revisit that initial work to make sure the best solution for tenants is delivered.

Resolved – That Minute 47 of the Cabinet be noted.

*Item Number 48. Pay Policy Statement: April 2021 (Minute for Confirmation)*

Resolved – That Minute 48 of the Cabinet be noted.

*Item Number 49. Introduction of a Permit Scheme for Roadworks*

Resolved – That Minute 49 of the Cabinet be noted.

*Item Number 50. School Admission Arrangements and Home to School Transport Policies 2022-23*

Resolved – That Minute 50 of the Cabinet be noted.

*Item Number 51. Carbon Reduction Strategy*

Councillor Keith Williams (Cabinet Member for Climate Change) responded to a question put by Councillor Jane Milner-Barry on whether the target of a 68% reduction in emissions for the whole of the UK should still be included as a target in the Council's Strategy, even though its achievement will be subject to receiving funding from Government.

Resolved – That Minute 51 of the Cabinet be noted.

*Item Number 52. Apprenticeships*

Councillor Holland wished to record his thanks for the work done by Councillors Barbara Parry and Kevin Parry in their roles as Chairs of the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Growing the Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee respectively.

Councillor Barbara Parry asked the Cabinet Member to note that she had attended an apprenticeship session that day led by the Borough Council, and it had become apparent that some apprentices felt they would have benefited from more support in terms of a transition from school to a workplace. Councillor Parry suggested that workshops could be introduced to better prepare them.

The Chair thanked officers for the support given to care leavers entering apprenticeships.

Resolved – That Minute 52 of the Cabinet be noted.

*Item Number 53. Proposed Transfer of land for Residential Development Proposal*

Councillor Holland responded to a question put by Councillor Jim Grant on the number of affordable houses included in the development of the former Stratton Education Centre site by The Swindon Housing Development Company Ltd, which has been limited due to the intention to preserve the school building.

Resolved – That Minute 53 of the Cabinet be noted.

**52. Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges**

Councillor Renard presented to the Committee a report which provided details of the progress being made towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges.

Councillor Renard introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- The Vision, Priorities and Pledges were first approved by Council in 2015, and took a view on what the Council should achieve by 2030 in terms of day-to-day services, improving standards, and improving the performance of the Council.



- The Vision, Priorities and Pledges have been through one revision around two years ago, and it is proposed that they be refreshed again in summer / autumn 2021 to review if they need refocussing.

Councillors Renard, Heenan, Holland, Mary Martin (Cabinet Member for Children's Services), Gary Sumner (Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning) and Williams responded to questions put by Councillors Junab Ali, Oliver Donachie, Jim Grant, Jenny Jefferies, Jane Milner-Barry, Kevin Small and the Chair on the following matters:

- That the link in the report to the Council Plan on the website shows an out-of-date document, which officers are aware of and plan to update shortly.
- How the rollout of the second tranche of the Emergency Active Travel Fund from Central Government will improve the walking and cycling routes in central Swindon.
- The upgrade works being done with CityFibre and OpenReach to deliver ultrafast broadband in Swindon, and other work being undertaken to cover the 'notspots' in Swindon.
- Plans that are progressing in terms of assuring the future of the Honda site.
- The Government's Honda Task Force, which is still meeting regularly, and the work being done by the five sub-groups under it.
- The detrimental impact of Covid-19 on the leisure industry, and the perceived lack of private sector appetite for investing in leisure destinations at this time.
- The future of the Oasis being a matter for Seven Capital, which has a development agreement and planning approval in place, and it being up to them to come forward with relevant funding as and when the market allows them to do so.
- How GLL currently has the lease for the Oasis and has a responsibility for maintaining it, but that if and when the lease goes back to Seven Capital, Seven will then take on that responsibility.
- The current education outcomes in Swindon (as published by the Department for Education) and the work being done to improve the education and attainment of children within the Borough.
- The report which had incorrectly identified Swindon as having one of the most unhealthy town centres in the country.
- The projects currently being delivered upon such as the housing development in Wichelstowe, the Zurich building being built, and the £400m warehouse distribution centre at Symmetry Park.
- The loss of senior officers at the Council and how this will affect the functioning of the Council going forward, particularly given the ongoing concerns over the impact of Covid-19 on services and staff.
- The recent Ofsted inspection in Children's Services, which focussed specifically on the Council's response to Covid-19 over the last twelve months, and had praised what the Council has done.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be noted.

### **53. Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session - Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services**

Councillor Maureen Penny (Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services) was in attendance and presented to the Committee a report summarising progress and performance in respect of the key objectives of her role, which are to:

- Provide the strategic direction for the Council's StreetSmart, rubbish collection, and recycling services.
- Set the priorities for the maintenance of the highways network.
- To provide overall political leadership for the Demand Management within the portfolio.
- 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: Delivering improvements to the strategic town centre transport network.
- Pledge 5: Enhance Wellington Street as a prime thoroughfare for the town.
- Pledge 13: Find new ways to engage communities and neighbourhoods to increase the cleanliness of their local areas.

The Cabinet Member also has delegated responsibility for:

- Strategic Highways & Maintenance Works.
- Car Parks and Bus Gates.
- Building community capacity.
- Public Transport (including Concessionary Fares, Specialist Transport, Council Transport and Fleet Management).
- Political oversight of Waterside Depot, including Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- Recycling and Refuse Collection – Domestic & Trade.
- Waste Disposal / Waste Minimisation.
- Street Lighting [maintenance and strategic].
- Street Cleaning including removal of graffiti and abandoned vehicles.
- StreetSmart.
- Public Toilets.
- Ground & Tree Maintenance and open spaces.
- Parks (StreetSmart services only).
- Playgrounds, including those that are not presently utilised.
- Maintenance of Roundabouts and non-HRA verges.
- Building Services, cleaning, catering & security services.
- Gullies and drainage, minor road repairs, potholes.
- Repair and Improvements to Council Housing Stock.
- Enforcement.

Councillor Penny introduced her report and highlighted the following points:

- That the portfolio had been recalibrated in May 2020 following the dismantling of the former Communities and Housing Directorate and the introduction of a specific operations function.
- The recalibration separated out the strategic element of the former Communities and Housing Directorate and put responsibility for strategy, operations and performance in different portfolios.
- The Cabinet Member for Organisational Excellence has responsibility for parking charges policy. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change has responsibility for waste strategy. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety has responsibility for policy and strategy relating to housing matters. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services now presides over the operational elements of housing, highways, parking and waste.

Councillor Penny responded to questions put by Councillors Matthew Courtliff, Oliver Donachie, Jane Milner-Barry, Kevin Small, Timothy Swinyard, Steve Weisinger and the Chair on the following matters:

- The focus for the new Director of Operations on improving the facilities and working conditions at Waterside, which will include around £150k investment.
- The reasons behind the improvements in performance in highways maintenance, recycling and refuse collections, and repairs and improvements to housing stock, which included:
  - There is more structure around the management of operations.
  - Performance is reviewed on a daily basis.
  - Managers are held to account for their actions, failures are reviewed, lessons are learnt and corrective action is taken.
  - Greater focus on the customer by paying attention to complaints and driving up efficiency.
- The AA report which had incorrectly identified Swindon as one of the worst performing Councils in the country on pothole repairs due to the following matters:
  - The report was about the length of road works that needs to happen in any particular area and the data considered only a snapshot of a couple of years.
  - Investment in the highway network needs to be looked at over a much longer timeframe to get an accurate picture.
  - The data considered were for carriageway major maintenance only and so gave a limited picture of the highways assets that the Council maintains.
  - Over the last few years, the Council has consistently invested more on capital maintenance of highway assets than the capital grant available from Central Government and has prioritised this spend annually through its Local Transport Implementation Plan.
- Confirmation on the percentage rate of pothole repairs within the Borough, the details of which will be circulated subsequent to the meeting.
- The delays to the Mead Way roadworks, which had mainly been caused by the inability of utility companies to go on site due to Covid-19, and the new expected completion date of June 2021.
- An update on the rollout of food waste collection across the Borough which included:
  - That an end to end waste review has been completed.
  - The objective is to fund food waste within current costs incurred.
  - There are two available options that may allow this by collections being done in a different way.
  - The two options will be reviewed, sign off will be sought, and then officers will look to purchase vehicles during the first quarter of 2022.
- That contractors are scheduled to erect new signage at the Mannington roundabout on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- The projected savings required to fund the rollout of food waste collections across the Borough which includes £300k already identified in the 2021/22 budget, as well as a further £800k to £1m that will be found through:
  - A review of the end to end food waste trial.
  - A change to the way some of the recyclates are collected.
  - Public Power Solutions are looking at efficiencies to help in the reduction of costs for waste collection.

- The waste collection review has identified that waste could be collected using less vehicles and people, with efficiencies to be found in kerbside collections.
- A reduction in back office costs.
- A reduction in the costs of some contracts.
- The reasons behind the non-delivery of £222k savings from the waste collection service for 2020/21 due to the way staff had to be organised because of Covid-19 measures, and the twenty to thirty smaller projects that were not delivered also as a result of Covid-19.
- Confirmation on when Whitehill Way in west Swindon is due for resurface and repair work, the details of which will be circulated subsequent to the meeting.
- A portion of the new highway asset management system has gone live following funding being received from the Local Enterprise Partnership. The new system will significantly improve the management of highways data, highway inspections, works ordering and workforce operations.
- The impact of the closure of the local tarmac plant in Swindon on the ability of the Council to repair potholes.
- How the rollout of the food waste collection across the Borough should improve the Council's recycling rate by up to at least 50%, with the remaining 10% being found through changes to what the public can recycle, with the expected 60% target being hit by 2030.
- The reasons for Akcess dial-a-ride vehicles being parked on the public highway, the details of which will be circulated subsequent to the meeting.

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

(2) That information requested by members during the course of the Committee's consideration of this item be forwarded to them via the Committee Clerk.

#### **54. Work Programme 2020/2021**

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

The Chair referred to the scope for a Task Group on the Oasis closure and potential reopening that was included at Appendix 1 to the report, and requested that members consider its addition to the Work Programme for the current Municipal Year. Following a vote, the Task Group was added to the Work Programme for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

#### **55. 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.

## Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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Author: Scrutiny Officer

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

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### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To allow the Scrutiny Committee to consider the decisions arising from the meeting of the Cabinet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 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.

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

# Consideration of Cabinet Decisions

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 (to follow).

## Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session – Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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Author: Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

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### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to question the Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care on his portfolio responsibilities and performance.
- 1.2 A key purpose of the Scrutiny function is to hold the Cabinet to account and ensure that Council and Health partners' priorities and performance are being delivered. In particular, Members are invited to measure progress towards achieving the Council's Vision, Priorities, and Pledges.
- 1.3 Members of the Committee are reminded that all Members of the Cabinet are required to come before the Scrutiny Committee to take part in a Question and Answer session that will focus on the full remit of their portfolio. Scrutiny Committee is therefore encouraged to focus Question and Answer sessions with Cabinet Members on specific topics and/or services in order to avoid duplication.

### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Take note of the report by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health.
- 2.2 Put appropriate questions to the Cabinet Member.
- 2.3 Decide if any further action is required

### 3. Detail

Portfolio Details

- 3.1 The key objectives assigned to the Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care are to:
  - 3.1.1 Provide strategic and political leadership for the provision of Adult Social Care;
  - 3.1.2 To work with other Cabinet Members to Manage Demand within the portfolio;

# Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session – Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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- 3.1.3 Ensure the strategic framework is in place to deliver: Adults' safeguarding; services for people with learning difficulties; joint working with health; and public health services;
- 3.1.4 Ensure that the Council's agreed priorities within the portfolio are delivered.
- 3.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care is responsible to secure the following Vision Pledgers:
  - 3.2.1 Work with partners to promote healthy lifestyles for the population of Swindon (Pledge 12)
  - 3.2.2 Deliver a borough-wide approach to increase the impact of volunteering, enabling more people to be active in supporting vulnerable people (Pledge 18)
  - 3.2.3 Ensure that more people and their carers are supported to live as independently as possible and reduce the length of time people need to spend in residential care (pledge 19)
  - 3.2.4 Ensure that Swindon's vulnerable adults are safeguarded and protected (pledge 23)
  - 3.2.5 Increasing the number of organisations in Swindon working to achieve 'Dementia Friendly' Town Status for Swindon and ensure annual accreditation (Pledge 24)
- 3.3 This report highlights key challenges and achievements for Adult Health and Social Care. Details regarding the Cabinet Member's delegated responsibilities are provided in Appendix 1, with a glossary provided in Appendix 2.

## The challenges being faced

### *Managing demand and financial pressures*

- 3.4 Adult Social Care is currently projecting a year-end overspend of £1.028m against the 20/21 budget of £66.838m. Additional cost pressures relate to COVID and demand for care packages in physical and sensory support and mental health but these pressures are partially offset by reductions in care packages in Learning Disabilities Memory and Cognition. To end of December 2020, the service has delivered £2.694m savings against a target of £4.033m. The 20/21 Public Health grant is £10.171m and the service is projecting an under-spend at year end of £258k due to staff vacancies within child health programmes. Additional Government funding has been provided to support Public Health in regards to Coronavirus. Up to the end of December £2.817m had been received.



# Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session – Cabinet Member for Adults and Health

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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- 3.5 Adult services is applying strengths based practice and having ‘good conversations’ to address ongoing challenges of rising demand and budget pressures. National Development Team for inclusion (NDTi) is assisting Swindon to adopt a Community Led Support (CLS) approach to health and social care support which focuses on promoting, maintaining and enhancing people’s independence in their communities, so that they are healthier, stronger, more resilient and less reliant on formal care services.

## *Managing the impact of Covid*

- 3.6 The impact of Covid continues to be felt in Swindon with rates following the trajectory of the national picture. The peak in Swindon was on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, with a case rate of 642.2 per 100,000 (approximately 1400 cases per week) but decreasing throughout January and February. As at 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021, there have been 10,141 cases of covid-19 in Swindon with 249 deaths within 28 days of a positive test. The case rate (at 17/2/21) is 98.1 per 100,000 population compared to an England average of 136.5. Approximately 48k first dose vaccines have been delivered in Swindon with approximately 93% of priority cohort 1-4 receiving and 7,500 health and social care staff having received a first dose. All Swindon care homes have been visited.
- 3.7 The Public Health Team continue to offer support, guidance and advice to Council colleagues, education settings, health & care settings, businesses and the community in response to Covid and have been fundamental to the prevention, management and containment of numerous outbreaks in Swindon.
- 3.8 The pandemic has had a significant impact on mental health and wellbeing due to concern about contracting the virus, social isolation, bereavement, economic and financial implications including job loss, uncertainty about the future as well as reduced access to support services. It has also highlighted obesity increases the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. During the initial lockdown, physical activity and weight management services provided and commissioned by the council were suspended. Online activities and virtual activities were developed nationally and locally, and links were made available from the Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and SBC Local offer websites. Between lockdowns, some activities were available face-to-face following national coronavirus protocols but online offers have been maintained.
- 3.9 With the risk of flu and COVID-19, flu immunisation is essential to protect vulnerable people and support the resilience of the health and care system. Uptake of flu vaccination by council staff and Swindon residents has improved this year with 216 (45.3%) of council employees vaccinated to date, of which 191 (42.6%) were frontline Health and Care staff. 83% of over 65s have been vaccinated in Swindon: 56.7% of these were people at risk due to Long Term Conditions, and 52.9% were carers.

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- 3.10 Public health and SBC communications team have led the way in regard to two campaigns relating to Covid-19, the first campaign 'Swindon: it's up to all of us' launched last summer and the follow up 'Let's do it for our GWH' in the Autumn. SBC Officers are currently working with NHS partners to promote vaccination uptake, particularly in our BAME communities.

## *Learning disability Services*

- 3.11 The service continues to align spend on learning disability services with spend in similar authorities through service re-design and strength based assessments and reviews. Swindon's LD service faces ongoing recruitment challenges and staff retention remains a priority. Staffing issues alongside Covid have impacted on the work of the service. The preparation for Adulthood Transition and Young Persons Roadshows as well as Planning Live Events have had to be cancelled. The service continues to strive to provide timely reviews for service users. Performance has improved compared to last year and management continue to maintain a focus on the quality, throughput and accurate recording of reviews. At the end of December 2020, 32.9% (258 of 784) of LD clients had received an annual review against a target of 56.3% but this figure will be revised following data validation.

## *Adult Safeguarding*

- 3.12 The Safeguarding Annual Report for 2019/20 has been published and the identified improvements for the adult safeguarding system are being addressed. Two Safeguarding Adult Reviews have been undertaken and the learning shared with partners. Priorities for the coming year are to improve the quality and timeliness of safeguarding practices and embed the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal to improve outcomes for adults with care and support needs at risk.

## *Timely assessments and reviews for carers*

- 3.13 Performance is below target for carer assessments with 584 (35.3%) completed between April and December 2020 compared to expected target of 52.5%. The ongoing restriction due to Covid have impacted on performance but timely assessments and review remain a priority as carers provide regular and substantial support for service users. To date, 126 carers have received a direct payment to give them a break from their caring responsibilities. There continues to be ongoing management focus on the provision of timely reviews and assessments over the coming months supported by the Swindon Carers Centre.

## *Mental Capacity & Deprivation of Liberty*

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phillipa Lamb, 07818 510484, PLamb@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.14 Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty (MCA/DoLS) remains a concern due to the number of cases awaiting assessment and preparing with health for the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) in April 2022 when the duty expands to people living in the community and NHS Trusts and CCGs become responsible for managing all health funded referrals.

## What has gone well

### *Live Well Swindon Community Resilience*

- 3.15 Live Well Swindon has focussed on Community Resilience to manage the impact of COVID on local residents. The hub has signposted residents to information and support services, facilitated welfare calls and wellbeing visits, managed the delivery of 1466 food boxes, collected and delivered 3873 prescriptions as well as helped residents access online shopping. A home from hospital offer has also been developed to support timely discharge of patients from hospital. The hub has strengthened relationships with the voluntary and community sector to support people experiencing financial hardship. The volunteer offer has been expanded with Voluntary Action Swindon, SBC and the volunteer centre coming together to create Compassionate Swindon.
- 3.16 Swindon successfully launched a local contact tracing service in August 2020 which was showcased by LGA and local media as good practice. The local community engagement initiative 'Feet on the Street' has also been instrumental in effectively managing the local Covid outbreaks.
- 3.17 The public health team have led on the coordination and delivery of the of the community testing symptom-free testing programme which was launched on 15/2. The Live Well hub members have been involved in the delivery of this testing programme and also coordinating volunteer support for the vaccination programme at STEAM. Officers across the live well hub and wider public health directorate have also continued efforts to engage with those from BAME communities via the Community Connect group (BAME community leaders), faith groups and also the newly established BAME Task Group.

### *Reablement*

- 3.18 The reablement service continues to support people to live independently. 422 episodes have been completed between April and December 2020. The average number of days to re-able an individual is 19 days. 65.4% of people (276) have not needed ongoing care following their episode of reablement.

### *Permanent admissions to Residential Care and Nursing Homes*

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phillipa Lamb, 07818 510484, PLamb@swindon.gov.uk.

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- 3.19 As at December 2020, admissions to residential and nursing care are below target (lower is better) for older adults (65+ years) and in line with the target for adults aged 18-64. When it is necessary for people to be placed in a Care Home or Extra Care Housing, the service endeavours to use homes owned by Swindon Borough Council to enable residents to continue to live near family and friends as well as reduce financial pressures.

## *Quality of Care Homes*

- 3.20 Swindon Borough Council continues to work closely with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to support, challenge and market manage Swindon's providers of regulated services. The ongoing focus to drive quality improvements across the care homes in Swindon has led to 89% of services being rated as outstanding or good compared to the national average of 84%. The Adult Commissioning Team have continued to dedicate time and resources to support providers (both regulated and unregulated) through the challenge of covid-19.

## *Technology Enabled Care Services (TECS)*

- 3.21 In the past 12 months, Adult Social Care has been exploring the use of technology that goes beyond traditional telecare devices. This primarily has focused on remote monitoring technologies with AI-based platforms that highlight subtle changes in behaviour that may indicate a decline in condition.
- 3.22 Preliminary analysis has indicated that this type of technology could be an enabler for supporting alternative solutions to formal packages of care. Work has begun to explore how every-day devices can be used within care (e.g., smart devices, Amazon Alexa's) and how technology can support an individual's care journey.
- 3.23 We are working with the lead provider of domiciliary care to use assistive technology to deliver the most appropriate response for the individual at that time. The aims are to increase or maintain a person's independence for as long as possible; generate additional capacity in the system through TECS; and link the health and social care system together through technology.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 The Committee can choose not to operate a Cabinet Portfolio Question and Answer session system.

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## 5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct 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 2000 (as amended) 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 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 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 Appendix 1 - Detail on areas of delegated responsibilities.  
8.2 Appendix 2 - Glossary.

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Phillipa Lamb, 07818 510484, PLamb@swindon.gov.uk.

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## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

This appendix provides more detailed information on the Cabinet Members delegated responsibilities which include:

- Adult Services (older people, people with a learning disability, physical disabilities and mental health)
- Adult Voluntary Sector Contracts
- Implementation of Care Act 2014
- Adult Local Safeguarding Board
- Public Health – including health promotion and health and wellbeing services
- Supported Housing
- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Maintaining links between the Council and partner organisations in the Health Services
- Oversight of Better Care Fund and integration with ASC and CCG Funding
- Mental Health Champion - The Local Authority Mental Health Challenge

### Residential and nursing Care (BCF measure)

- 1.1 Between 1<sup>st</sup> April & 31st December 2020, admissions to residential and nursing care are below target for older adults (aged 65 and over 67 older people have been admitted to permanent care: 8 to a nursing home placement and 59 to residential care. Permanent Residential and Nursing Admissions for 65+ years per 100,000 of the population is 185.29 as at 31<sup>st</sup> December compared to the target 361.06 (lower is better).
- 1.2 Permanent Residential and Nursing Admissions for 18-64 year olds per 100,000 of the Population is 7.37 (10 people) at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020. This matches the target for December 2020. Where possible, people are placed in Care Homes and Extra Care Housing owned by Swindon Borough Council to support them to live near family and friends and to reduce financial pressures.
- 1.3 It is important to note there have been a number of additional admissions to residential and nursing placements that are not currently recorded in the admission figure above as they are a direct result of the COVID pandemic and therefore not funded by social care.

### Quality of Regulated Providers

- 1.4 Swindon Borough Council works closely with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to support, challenge and market manage Swindon's providers of regulated services. The close working relationship with the CQC, wider partners and providers, both improves the quality of services and promotes sufficiency and sustainability of the market in Swindon. Swindon Borough Council aims for all regulated social care services to achieve a CQC rating of Outstanding or Good. There are 85 social care services in Swindon regulated by the CQC, of which 75 have been rated to date. Of these, 8 providers are rated Outstanding, 59 are rated Good and 8 are rated Requires Improvement. There are no services rated Inadequate. The percentage of Outstanding or Good services in Swindon 89% compared to the national average of 84%. These services are broken down as 50 residential or nursing homes and 35 homecare services. The Adult Commissioning Team provide focused support to those providers whose services are

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

rated Requires improvement in order to improve their rating, as well as to those with upcoming inspections or quality concerns to either maintain or improve their rating.

- 1.5 The Adult Commissioning Team have dedicated time and resources to support providers (both regulated and unregulated) through the challenge of Covid-19. A number of residential and nursing homes in Swindon have had to support vulnerable people despite having to protect staff through isolation as a result of Covid-19. There has been collaborative working between a number of teams across Swindon Borough Council, the BSW Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health England to ensure that Government guidance and has been implemented in a timely manner. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was made available to providers to ensure their supplies have been maintained but this is now provided through a Government portal. The Adult Commissioning Team have administered a number of Government funding streams to help cover the costs of paying staff when off sick or self-isolating and other costs related to the pandemic. The Adult Commissioning Team have actively worked with all providers throughout the Covid-19 period to ensure that they have been supported through regular email updates, forums and weekly provider calls along with Public Health, CQC and wider partners.

### Learning Disability (LD) Services

- 1.6 In LD and Transitions Team maintains a strong ethos of progression, using a strengths based approach. Budget management and achievement of savings targeted is robust and savings for 2020/2021 have been realised which puts the services in a strong position for 2021/2022. The service faces recruitment challenges and recruitment and retention of staff remains a key priority and COVID has significantly impacted on the work of the service. Staff have supported the “wellbeing” checks for service user/carer population whilst managing the challenges of working remotely. The service operates a busy dedicated LD Duty Service but the restrictions placed on the LD community alongside recruitment issues has resulted in higher number of cases being managed via the Duty Service. The preparation for Adulthood Transition and Young Persons Roadshows planned for March and June 2020 were cancelled and the Planning Live Events were not able to go ahead due to restrictions on face to face events. However, two Transitions presentations, with Q&A sessions for parents, carers and professionals, were delivered as part of the Local Offer Big Day as online events in October 2020. This included the launch of the Transitions Strategy and revised Transitions Protocol. The scope of the Transitions Service broadening to provide support for all service users with a learning disability up to 25 years regardless of their individual circumstance.
- 1.7 The service continues to strive to provide timely reviews for service users. Performance has improved compared to last year and management continue to maintain a focus on the quality, throughput and accurate recording of reviews. At the end of December 2020, 32.9% (258 of 784) of LD clients had received an annual review against a target of 56.3% but this figure will be revised following data validation. The LD and Transitions Services has reorganised the Social Work teams (although the impact of this reorganisation is limited due to the level of social work vacancies) to support the delivery of more timely reviews going forward.



## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

- 1.8 There is ongoing work with both learning disability residential care providers and social care colleagues to manage the demand, flow and spend in residential care as spend is high in this area. Cases are jointly reviewed to identify the appropriate support for the individual and costs benchmarked to ensure an appropriate fee structure is in place. Swindon is involved in the development of a South West ADASS residential care home framework which will provide generic terms and conditions, performance indicators and single contract quality assurance to help stabilise the market.
- 1.9 The Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB) continues to ensure that the voice of adults with a learning disability (LD) is heard, promoting choice and control within their daily lives. In March 2020 the Board facilitated a forum led by Great Western Hospital about "Going to Hospital". Thirty-three people attended the Forum including 13 adults with a learning disability. The key messages have led to a pilot project with 3 GP Practices to look at the annual health check process including the hospital passport, easy read information about attending appointments and information about how to give feedback. The LDPB is overseeing the development and implementation of the action plan to address the recommendations following the publication of the Learning Disability Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

### Supported Housing

- 1.10 Supported Housing provides Accommodation Based Support for people who cannot yet sustain independent living but who, with support, could live independently in the future; and Floating Support, which is a service that provides support to people in their own homes to either sustain independent living or move to more appropriate housing in a sustained way. There are 18 Accommodation Based Support schemes in Swindon providing 426 units of accommodation and a further 167 people supporting via Floating Support services. These services contribute to the delivery of our statutory housing duties.
- 1.11 In 2019/20, we provided accommodation and support to 625 single people and/or families compared to 611 in 2018/19. During the year, 232 single people and/or families were supported to independent or semi-independent housing compared to 190 single people and/or families in 2018/19; 619 people (99%) were supported to Register with a GP; 482 people (77%) were supported to Register with a Dentist; and 264 people (42%) were supported in education, employment or training.
- 1.12 The project to remodel Culvery Court, a Supported Housing scheme for homeless adults, was completed by Sanctuary in 2020. This project modernised the existing building through increasing the size of the rooms, improving the communal spaces and office space and redecoration throughout.
- 1.13 The project to remodel the Swindon Foyer has been delayed due to Covid-19 but the feasibility work is continuing with plans to undertake site visits in March and April, if possible. Once the feasibility work has been completed, a proposal will be sent to the

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

Board of Stonewater for a decision. Should this be agreed, Stonewater hope to be able to begin works to the building in 2022

### Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty (MCA DoLS)

- 1.14 MCA/DoLS relates to people who are placed in care homes or hospitals for their care or treatment and who lack mental capacity to consent to this. The Safeguards protect their rights and make sure that any care that deprives a person of their liberty is appropriate, proportionate and in their best interests
- 1.15 Currently MCA/DoLS remains a key issue for local authorities both in relation to the level of current unassessed cases and the anticipated introduction of the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS). The new date for the introduction of LPS is currently April 2022, postponed due to the Covid- 19 pandemic from October 2020. A substantial amount of implementation work is needed across the health and social care sector within the next year to support this. Under the LPS framework local authorities will remain responsible for the authorisation of deprivations of liberty where people meet the criteria and live in care homes or in local private hospitals, but the duty under LPS will expand to those living in the community, with NHS Trusts and CCG's taking on the management of all health funded referrals
- 1.16 Compared with the previous year's referrals (2018/19) of 1049, there was a slight increase, of 35, in DoLS referrals in 2019/20 to 1084; 551 from hospitals and 533 from care homes. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the annual referral rate for 2020/21 is not fully known yet, however it is anticipated that this will be consistent with previous years. The figures from December 2020 indicate that the team had approximately 375 unassessed cases in care homes. This is a reduction of 66 from the 2018/19 figures, which is partly due to a review of processes and practice in the team. The team was under significant pressure during the Covid- 19 pandemic, with independent assessors not being available; otherwise there would be an even more significant reduction
- 1.17 This last year, despite the Covid- 19 pandemic, has seen continued applications to the Court of Protection for cases where service users and their representatives challenge their DoLS Authorisation. Some of these cases proceed to Welfare applications and SBC teams are then required to present detailed evidence to assist the Court in making their decisions. The MCA/DoLS team supports practitioners with this work
- 1.18 Since September 2020 three additional social workers from Adult Social Care have completed an online university course to become Best interest Assessors (BIA's). Under the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) the BIA role will change to: Approved Mental Capacity Professionals (AMCP) with a few changed responsibilities under the LPS legal framework. Some of the MCA/DoLS Team were temporarily positioned in hospital teams during the initial stages of the Covid- 19 pandemic, to ensure safe discharges from hospital. The MCA/DoLS Team have had to adjust to remote ways of working during the Covid- 19 pandemic; completing DoLS assessments using alternative means to face to face contacts whilst ensuring they are lawful. The team have also written several

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

guidance notes for colleagues in regards to the application of the MCA & DoLS legal frameworks during the pandemic to assist in lawful practice

### Adult Safeguarding

- 1.19 The Safeguarding Annual Report for 2019/20 and two safeguarding adult reviews have been published and the identified improvements for the safeguarding system are being addressed. Swindon Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) has oversight of safeguarding activity across Swindon. SSP monitors the impact of safeguarding practices in keeping people and supports the learning from serious safeguarding incidents and multi-agency audits to ensure practice and processes are responsive and effective. The revision of policies and the implementation of the new multi-agency adult safeguarding E-referral form and interactive Threshold E-Guidance is providing clearer identification of safeguarding concerns. The safeguarding screening hub is being successfully rolled out and a police officer has been designated to Swindon's Adult Safeguarding Team.
- 1.20 The From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31st December 2020, 1,563 concerns were received by the adult safeguarding team of which 60.3% (942/1563 ) related to females and 38.6% (603) related to males. Clients aged between 18 & 64 years accounted for 50.2% of the concerns with 48.7% of clients aged over 65. The remaining 1.1% of concerns relate to organisations such as care homes. 308 concerns were received from the emergency services, 34.4% from hospital/health related agencies and 28% (439) raised by Care Providers. Reporting is based on the incidents of abuse as some individuals experience multiple abuse types. During the COVID pandemic, & through lockdown, there were 169 incidents of domestic abuse recorded.

Concerns Raised by Abuse Type			
		2019-20 YTD	2020-21 YTD
Discriminatory		2	7
Domestic		53	169
Financial & Material		221	246
Modern Slavery		4	8
Neglect & Acts of Omission		421	464
Organisational		26	23
Physical		285	295
Psychological		158	221
Self-neglect		264	423
Sexual abuse		66	64
Sexual exploitation		10	24
Total		1510	1944

- 1.21 From April to December 2020, 349 concerns progressed to either a Section 42, or other enquiry. Interventions to address risk have included social work actions such the reviews of care plans, Quality Assurance actions such as focused visits from the Contracts team, as well as joint work with SAIT (Wiltshire Police's Safeguarding team) and other agencies

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

in the Swindon Safeguarding Partnership (SSP). Open enquiries are regularly monitored by the safeguarding management team to ensure they are progressing appropriately.

### Voluntary Sector Commissioning

- 1.22 SBC voluntary sector providers make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of people in Swindon. All our services are jointly commissioned with the Clinical Commissioning Group and continue to perform well. There are no significant concerns regarding performance. Quarter three data, from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, shows that 24% of providers have exceeded Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets, 38% have met over 75% of their KPIs, 29% have met 50-74% and 9% are on track. It should be noted that some KPIs are annual measures and therefore we will see an increase in performance rates in Q4. No contracts are considered to be underperforming
- 1.23 During the Covid -19 pandemic all services have managed to adapt and flex to provide a service to Swindon residents. This has been a blend of face-to-face, telephone and online support, several services have also delivered bespoke packs/gardening kits to individuals to ensure they remain engaged.
- 1.24 During Quarter three, (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020) across the adult's voluntary sector commissioned providers, volunteers have provided 11,090.25 hours of volunteer time. This equates to a value of £96,706.98 based on minimum wage (£8.72). The total value provided by volunteers of commissioned services for 20/21 so far is £240,292.86. This is a low estimate as many volunteers offer specialist advice and support worth much more than the minimum wage multiplier used.
- 1.25 The following voluntary sector contracts are currently being re tendered: the Healthwatch contract is out to advert with a closing date for submission in January 2021; Information and Specialist Advice, currently provided by Citizens Advice Swindon, this will be advertised in February 2021; Nature Based Wellbeing Service, currently provided by TWIGs, this will be advertised in February 2021; Calming Café, known as The Junction, currently provider by Swindon & Gloucestershire MIND, this will be advertised in February 2021. In addition, the contract held by Headway for people with a Brain Injury has been extended for a further 9 months up to December.

### Complaints

- 1.26 Although overall satisfaction with services remains reasonable high, we recognise we are always going to receive complaints. We endeavour to resolve complaints at an early stage and use them positively to change processes or practice where appropriate. Our complaints policy is Care Act Compliant
- 1.27 From April to December 2020 the majority of the complaints were resolved locally with 34 complaints being escalated for more formal investigation (at Stage 1) which is a reduction from the 58 registered Stage 1 complaints reported end of December 2019. 12

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

of the 34 registered Stage 1 complaints were upheld by the Service Area and related to delayed contact, finance issues, unfair treatment, poor service delivery & staff not following safeguarding protocols appropriately. No complaints have been referred to the Local Government Ombudsman for investigation

### Public Health

#### Live Well Swindon Community Resilience Hub

- 1.28 Following the start of the pandemic in March 2020, The Public Health Live Well Swindon Service has focussed on Community Resilience to manage the impact of COVID on local residents. During the first lockdown, the hub called 5148 clinically extremely vulnerable residents and maintained ongoing contact with over 800 of them. We signposted residents to information and support services, facilitated welfare calls and wellbeing visits, managed the delivery of 649 free food boxes and 822 paid food boxes, collected and delivered 3873 prescriptions and helped residents access online shopping. Since March, the hub has received 6130 calls. The Health Promotion and Intervention officers continue to provide ongoing support to 63 clients via telephone contact, Walk and Talk sessions and zoom/team consultations. The Live Well Hub also provides a home from hospital offer for patients being discharged from hospital. This includes moving furniture to make room for a hospital bed or equipment, ensuring patients return to a warm home with food/provisions, and acquiring any necessary household goods e.g. microwaves or single beds. The hub has also completed over 1000 tasks for individuals awaiting a Care Act Assessment. Tasks include collecting postal test kits, processing paperwork for residents or changing light bulbs for vulnerable residents to prevent falls. The implementation of the new client management system, Podio, has enabled the hub to provide a more holistic and person-centred approach to supporting local residents.
- 1.29 The hub has strengthened relationships with the voluntary and community sector, in particular Gateway furniture project, for families on a low budget. It provides support to people experiencing financial hardship and works closely with Swindon Emergency Assistance Fund, Citizens Advice and local food projects to ensure help is available for people experiencing food poverty. The hub manages Swindon's DEFRA fund for food and essential items (including utilities/fuel) to support local residents who have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, 28 recipients have received just over £1000.
- 1.30 Swindon launched the local contact tracing service in late August 2020 run by public health and the Live Well Swindon Community Resilience Hub and to date has managed 445 positive cases on behalf of the national team. The service was featured on Points West and BBC Wiltshire radio as it achieved a higher level of success than the National programme. The Swindon team have shared their model with other local authorities and the Local Government Association have showcased Swindon as an example of good practice. The Test and Trace leads have also assisted with the £500 self-isolation payment process. The service also made over 800 calls during November and December 2020 to check and offer support to those individuals who were self-isolating following a positive result.

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

- 1.31 In August, the Covid cases rose in Swindon due to some work based outbreaks and the community transmission which resulted in Swindon being an outlier in the South West. An initiative was launched to address the rise and Swindon residents were kept informed by officers maintaining a presence in local areas and sharing the message that “It’s up to all of us” to prevent Covid spreading. Swindon’s engagement initiative “feet on the street” provided insight into the understanding of Covid rules and guidelines by the residents. This informed the local COVID communications plan and strengthened links with representatives from Swindon’s diverse communities to support the BAME population to access appropriate information and resources. Covid protection activity was escalated towards Christmas to ensure shoppers maintained social distancing and had access to masks and hand sanitiser. Hundreds of Covid care packs and car share packs were also distributed to homes and business to support infection control. Local schools were also supported through the sharing of key public health messages with parents at school gates. Throughout the pandemic, it has been vital to ensure the reach has extended as far and wide as possible, both in terms of messaging and gathering insight. Reference Groups have been set up, including a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Reference Group and an interfaith Reference Group, to work alongside communities to create a better understanding of the pandemic.
- 1.32 The team continue to support our Clinically Vulnerable residents and since the second lockdown have had conversations with and offered support to over 180 individuals. Support includes signposting to other support, access to food delivery and assistance with basic needs (food and prescriptions) where the individual has no other options
- 1.33 We have worked closely with the CCG and the Primary care Networks to co-ordinate and deploy volunteers to support the vaccination programme at the STEAM Museum, we have over 260 local people working with us in support of our programmes of activity. We have been planning and executing the setup of Community Testing Hubs for asymptomatic testing which were launched in February 2021.
- 1.34 The response to Covid-19 is supported by testing for both those with and without symptoms. Three test sites for those with Covid-19 symptoms are available and this include the regional test site at Wroughton, the local test site ant Broadgreen and the mobile test site at Civic Annex. As of 15/02 symptom-free community testing has been made available from two sites in Swindon (County Ground and Waterside) with planned expansion of up to seven sites across the town.
- 1.35 The public health team, under the Local Outbreak Management Plan, have been highly engaged in the prevention, management and containment of many outbreaks throughout the pandemic including educational settings, businesses and health and social care settings. At the peak during January 2021, nearly 60 outbreaks per week were being managed by the team. As of 22/02 the previous week reported only five outbreaks across a range of settings.

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

- 1.36 To complement the 'Swindon: it's up to all of us' campaign launched in August 2020, in November 2021, the Great Western Hospital 'Let's do it for our GWH' campaign was launched to support the local hospital at the time it had declared a major critical incident. The campaign achieved some very positive media attention reminding residents of the pressures our NHS was facing as a result of Covid-19 and both the direct and indirect consequences of Covid-19 of the health and social care system.

### Volunteering (BCF Scheme)

- 1.37 Swindon Circles volunteers continue to provide friendship and support to their Circles friend. At the start of the year, 100 volunteers were matched with a Swindon Circles client. With the first lockdown in March 2020, volunteers maintained contact with Circles friends through phone calls and letters as well as baking cakes and biscuits to leave on client doorsteps. A volunteer shopping has also been established and five volunteers shop regularly for residents who have no family or friends to support them. With COVID 19, the volunteer offer was expanded by Voluntary Action Swindon, SBC and the volunteer centre working together to create Compassionate Swindon to provide additional support for shopping, prescription collection, food deliveries, welfare and wellbeing telephone calls (85-90 calls a week to lonely and isolated residents) as well as marshalling in car parks for Covid testing and potentially Covid vaccinations.
- 1.38 The business community have generously supported the local community over the festive period. The Finance and Efficiency Team at Nationwide donated 70 hamper/gift boxes to Swindon Circle clients. Intel paid for the printing of Christmas activity packs for vulnerable and isolated clients. Nationwide donated hampers which were divided up into 61 smaller gift bags and these were delivered on Christmas Day with the lunches by the Community Meals Service. 75 gifts were donated to the Foyer, Wiltshire House and Radnor Lodge from WHSmith, Wilco and SBC staff with face masks made by some volunteers.

### Community Navigators and Community Researchers (BCF Scheme)

- 1.39 The Community Navigators offer coaching and support to people who have one or more long term health condition(s). From January 2020, Practice teams across Swindon made over 350 referrals to the CCG funded Community Navigators. Adult Social Care, who fund one full time Community Navigator made over 50 referrals to the service. Although the service has been restricted during Covid, support is still offered to individuals via telephone or where possible video call and patients are encouraged to adopt positive health and wellbeing habits (focussing on the 5 ways to wellbeing). The community navigators also assist with social issues. The Community Researchers offer support by linking people to social activity to provide stepping stones to participation. They have been engaged with wellbeing calls to residents who are shielding as well as supporting the Covid community engagement work including distributing free face masks and hand sanitiser.

### Mental health and wellbeing

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

- 1.40 The past year has had a significant impact on mental health and wellbeing in relation to Coronavirus due to concern about contracting the virus, social isolation, bereavement, economic and financial implications including job loss, uncertainty about the future, reduced access to support services.
- 1.41 There has been a great deal of focus on support for schools and Children and Young People. This has come from a wide range of providers including the Educational Psychology Service, Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS), Swindon Mind, Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Swindon Trailblazers and Public Health amongst others. Personal Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) support to help pupils develop the knowledge, skills, attributes they need to keep themselves health safe and prepared for life and work has been provided through Jigsaw and Chameleon and the PSHE support Association for all key stages. The Educational Psychology Service in conjunction with Public Health and other stakeholders held webinars for schools on returning to school and online training. Resources and support for teaching staff was also made available on the Swindon Healthy Schools website. A Children Looked After Mental Health Group was also established to ensure the needs of this vulnerable group are being met.
- 1.42 A Covid Bereavement Support Review Group was established to review what current provision and information on bereavement was available, scope potential demand for services and gaps in provision. Actions undertaken included:
- Development of a resource pack for children, young people and families.
  - Wiltshire Tree House provided training webinars for care home staff and schools.
  - The Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSA) programme rolled out over the last few years includes information on bereavement and grief.
  - Information for support services on bereavement and training on bereavement support.
  - Identification of local and national support services available including specific groups such as faith groups, BAME communities and men.
  - Projected demand capacity analysis.
- 1.43 Support has been offered to employers and businesses over this very challenging period. Mindful Employer, commissioned by SBC and provided by Swindon and Gloucester Mind have hosted 2 events targeting support around redundancy. They have also provided monthly newsletters offering employers support and advice about mental health. They have created blogs and wellbeing podcasts for local employers/ employees and relaunched the network adapting to virtual events. Support has also been provided to SBC staff with regard to mental health particularly during the pandemic. SBC now has 60 Mental Health Champions who have run webinars, engagement activities, and virtual groups and provided one to one support for staff and managers. The offer has been well received and take up high. Public Health have also: supported the grant scheme run by our business and economies team in terms of signposting to appropriate support; supported Honda HR teams around closure and impact on the mental health of their staff; and run an event for local residents around the support available to Swindon and



## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

Wiltshire residence- clarifying the different levels of intervention- run alongside Citizens Advice Swindon and LIFT Psychology Services.

- 1.44 During the pandemic we have run a communications campaign and provided mental health advice and guidance on the Councils webpages. We have put out regular posts on social media, had articles in Your Swindon newsletter which reaches 30,000 plus people and addressed mental health in our Facebook live Q&A sessions. We have also run three Time to Change campaigns since April raising the profile of local support during lockdown 1, support for employees and World Mental Health Day. Time to change involves 15 local providers working together alongside national Time to Change.
- 1.45 The latest suicide rates in Swindon published in September 2020 show that Swindon rates are statistically lower than the England average. However, we have been concerned the rates may rise due to the impact of the pandemic. We have therefore set up a real time surveillance system, whereby British Transport Police and Wiltshire Police inform us on a weekly basis of suspected suicides in Swindon. Real time surveillance will enable us to monitor more closely and react to any trends or concerns as previously we have had to wait for the coroner's inquest which can take up a year for us to be informed of a death. Current indications are that the rate may have slightly increased but within our normal parameters. During 2020 there were 24 reported suspected suicides.

### Achieving a Healthy Weight and Health Improvement through physical activity

- 1.46 The COVID pandemic has highlighted how being obese increases the risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. Obesity is a complex problem with multiple causes and significant implications for health and social care as well as having a negative impact on the local economy. We do not have any data yet on changes in overweight and obesity for adults or children during the period of the coronavirus pandemic for England or Swindon. The most recent statistics from Public Health England for adults with excess weight show that in 2018/19 Swindon's prevalence (65.1%) was statistically similar to that for England (62.3%). Trends for the last 4 years show a reduction of 4.1% in adult obesity with Swindon going from having a statistically significantly greater prevalence of adult obesity to now being similar to England. National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data for Swindon for 2019/20 showed that the prevalence of overweight and obese children in reception year was worse in Swindon than in England 24.7% of children were overweight or obese, compared to 23% in England. In year 6, 36% were overweight or obese, compared to 35.2% for England. Overweight and obesity prevalence in year 6 is not statistically different to that for England. Large inequalities are seen between affluent and deprived areas in Swindon.
- 1.47 New Sport England data for physically active adults for 2018/19 showed that Swindon adults were less active (61.7%) than the English average (67.2%). Trends over the previous 4 years show that this is the first time that the Swindon average has been worse than the England average. The groups most likely to have done less activity are those who are older and/or have a medical condition or illness and/or from a black and ethnic minority group, and/or live alone and/or are female. During the pandemic initial

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

lockdown, physical activity and weight management services were suspended. Online activities and virtual activities have been developed nationally and locally, with links available from the Swindon Borough Council (SBC) and SBC Local Offer websites. Since then some activities have been available face-to-face following national coronavirus protocols e.g. Football Fans in Training weight management programme, and Slimming World but this will be impacted by the latest lockdown. There are also online offers available.

- 1.48 Out of lockdown, the public health community physical activity service has adapted sessions to make them COVID safe and socially distanced. The introduction of 'Be Active this winter' virtual offer has been well received. The offer involves four phone calls with a coach to provide advice and discuss goals, free online resources, free cycle and walking maps, home exercise booklets as well as access to a free 'digital behaviour change' programme and regular healthy lifestyle emails. To date, 136 of the 250 referrals for the offer have been contacted and are keen to engage with the programme.
- 1.49 The planned Senior Games went ahead virtually and six care homes took up the challenge. The event was a success and was covered by both the Daily Mail and Daily Express.

### Diabetes

- 1.50 The National Diabetics Prevention Programme (NDPP) continues to be rolled out in Swindon. In 2018/2019 7.6% of people (aged 17+ years) in Swindon were registered with Swindon CCG practices as having diabetes, increasing to 15.4% of those over 65.
- 1.51 During Covid NDPP sessions are being held via Telephone Conference facility, Microsoft Teams or digitally until face to face return. The provider ICS Health and Wellbeing responded very quickly and sessions are being received well. Sessions are currently available in the following languages Punjabi, Polish and Urdu, Bengali, Polish and hopefully Hindi from April. These are supported with leaflets in these languages. People can also now self-refer as well as be referred to the service via a health professional. Although initially numbers dropped during the pandemic in recent months a significant improvement has been seen.

### Smoking

- 1.52 Swindon has an adult smoking prevalence rate of 13.1% which is statistically similar to the England rate of 13.9% and an improvement in recent years. Smoking cessation support in Swindon is delivered mainly through GPs and Pharmacies with free support and advice offered at over 50 locations across Swindon. Although Covid has put pressure on services, some GPs and Pharmacies have continued to offer stop smoking support throughout the pandemic. We also have an in-house part time smoking advisor focusing on inequalities and those unable to access GP and Pharmacies services.
- 1.53 12.7% of Swindon mums currently smoke at time of delivery compared to 13.3% in the south west (2019/20 data). The smoking in pregnancy service continues to be delivered

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

by Great Western Hospital Maternity Service. They have switched to offering telephone and online support during the Coronavirus pandemic and have been posting out nicotine replacement therapy. An evaluation of the service has been very positive and we are looking at ways to ensure it continues.

- 1.54 Data for the first two quarters of 2020/21 shows that 273 people across Swindon set a quit date between April 2020 and October 2020 and 78 people quit. This gives a quit rate of 28%. This is low but has been impacted by the pandemic. Stop smoking support continues to be effective in reaching disadvantaged smokers however as a high proportion are eligible for free prescriptions.

### Dementia

- 1.55 Developing Swindon as a dementia friendly community continues to be a priority and we continue to work in partnership through the dementia steering group and Dementia Action Alliance. Prior to lockdown in March, 18 people attended the first dementia friendly walk at Lydiard park and over fifty sporting fans attended the second Sporting Memories Event at Swindon Town Football Club. A new 'Forget me Not Highworth Memory Café' was launched on Thursday 5th February 2021.
- 1.56 Despite the impact of Covid support for people living with dementia and carers has continued by phone and via online events. These have included a virtual Christmas Forget Me Not Café and Singing for the Brain sessions. The SBC Dementia Friendly Co-ordinator has sent out newsletters every month this year to promote events, give insight into what different organisations are doing to support people, and provide links to resources and activities that may be of interest.
- 1.57 Planning is ongoing to ensure that when it is safe to do so events such as walks, sporting memories, the Memory cinema and memory cafes can restart. Swindon was also reaccredited as a dementia friendly town by the Alzheimer's Society. It was also very positive to see staff at the Wyvern Theatre Group awarded the Pride of Swindon Award 2020 for their work supporting people living with dementia and carers.

### NHS Checks

- 1.58 The NHS Health Check programme was suspended for most of the lockdown period and understandably has not been a top priority for primary care. However, some practices have managed to deliver a few health checks. For quarter one and two 2020/21, 987 invitations were sent and 466 checks delivered. We are planning some refresher training for early 2021 as some practitioners will not have delivered a check for over 6 months. The plan is to let GPs and Pharmacies deliver more checks in 2021/22 and 2022/23 to ensure that people due a health check this year are not disadvantaged.

### Sexual and Reproductive Health

- 1.59 In 2019 1,556 new sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were diagnosed in residents of Swindon, a rate of 700.0 per 100,000 residents (compared to 816.0 per 100,000

## Additional information for delegated portfolio responsibilities

in England). A sustained public health response is required to reduce the transmission of STIs; based around early detection, successful treatment and partner notification, alongside promotion of condom use and health-care seeking. Prevention is our key priority through working with partners to provide consistent sexual health education, information and advice for Swindon's population.

- 1.60 Reducing late diagnosis of HIV is a key priority for Swindon. People with HIV are living longer with HIV and the number of new diagnoses remains stable. Swindon's HIV testing covering rate is stable at 64.6% in 2019 and is better than the regional South West rate of 62.5% and in line with the England rate of 64.8%. In 2019 (latest data from Public Health England) there were 16 new diagnosis of HIV at a rate of 8.9 per 100,000 people aged 15 and over, this is similar to both regional rate of 5.1 and England rate of 8.1. Late diagnoses of HIV in Swindon continues to decline and is the lowest in the South West with 36.1% (13) of diagnoses between 2017-2019. For Swindon residents diagnosed with HIV between 2017-2019, 92.1% initiated treatment within 91 days compared to 80.5% in England.
- 1.61 Managing the growing demand for sexual health services remains an ongoing challenge and focus of our strategic work. The Council, in partnership with the Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust are continuing to work together to explore new digital technologies to improve access and efficiency for Swindon residents. During the Covid-19 pandemic the online Sexual Health testing service (chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis & HIV) for asymptomatic residents over 18 was key to maintaining access for Swindon's population.
- 1.62 Improving access to Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) in Primary Care is a key area of focus post-Covid-19. We are working with Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) and the Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to develop inter-practice referrals and Women's Reproductive Health Hubs to increase community capacity for timely contraceptive services for women. A pilot with the Wyvern Health Partnership (Primary Care Network) is currently being developed as part of the Covid-19 recovery work.

## Glossary

ADASS	Association of Directors of Adult Social Services
AMHP	Approved Mental Health Professionals
ASC	Adult Social Care
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic
BCF	Better Care Fund
BIA	Best Interest Assessors
CAS	Citizen's Advice Swindon
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CLS	Community Led Support
CQC	Care Quality Commission
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DoLS	Deprivation of Liberty Service
ELSA	Emotional Literacy Support Assistants
GP	General Practitioner
GWH	Great Western Hospital
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Analysis
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LARC	Long Acting Reversible Contraception
LD	Learning Disability
LDPB	Learning Disability Partnership Board
LGA	Local Government Association
LPS	Liberty Protection Safeguards
MHA	Mental Health Assessment
MIND	Mental Health Charity
MCA	Mental Capacity Act
NDPP	National Diabetics Prevention Programme
NDTi	National Development Team for inclusion
PCN	Primary Care Network
PHSE	Personal Social, Health and Economic
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
Q&A	Question and Answer
NHS	National Health Service
SBC	Swindon Borough Council
SSP	Swindon Safeguarding Partnership
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TECS	Technology Enabled Care Services
TaMHS	Educational Psychology Service, Targeted Mental Health in Schools
TWIGS	Therapeutic Work in Gardening in Swindon

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## Work Programme 2020/2021

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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Author: Scrutiny Officer

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

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### 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 (Committee Officer), 07980 752043, [vyull@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:vyull@swindon.gov.uk).

# Work Programme 2020/2021

## Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 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.

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



# Work Programme 2020/2021

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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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.

## 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.

### 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.

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

## Work Programme 2020/2021

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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**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.

## **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](mailto:vyull@swindon.gov.uk)

Tel: 07980 752043

<b>7<sup>th</sup> July 2020</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
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

<b>10<sup>th</sup> August 2020</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
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

<b>14<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
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

<b>26<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
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

<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>

<b>9<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>		
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

<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
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

<b>11<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
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

<b>8<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
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

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

<b>8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (moved from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021)</b>		
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
Task Group – Oasis closure and potential reopening	To receive a report from the Task Group.	Councillor James Robbins

<b>26<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Cancelled due to pre-election period</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>

<b>Other issues for Scrutiny Committee to consider</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Witnesses</b>
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 review 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
Task Group – Oasis closure and potential reopening	To 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 it's reopening after lockdown.	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](mailto:CommitteeServices@Swindon.gov.uk)

## Cabinet Member Delegated Decisions February 2021

Subject	Portfolio Holder / Cabinet Member	Lead Director
Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP)	Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety	Director of Housing Nick Kemmett

## 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,	Corporate Director of Finance and Assets Corporate Director of

	Education and Skills	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

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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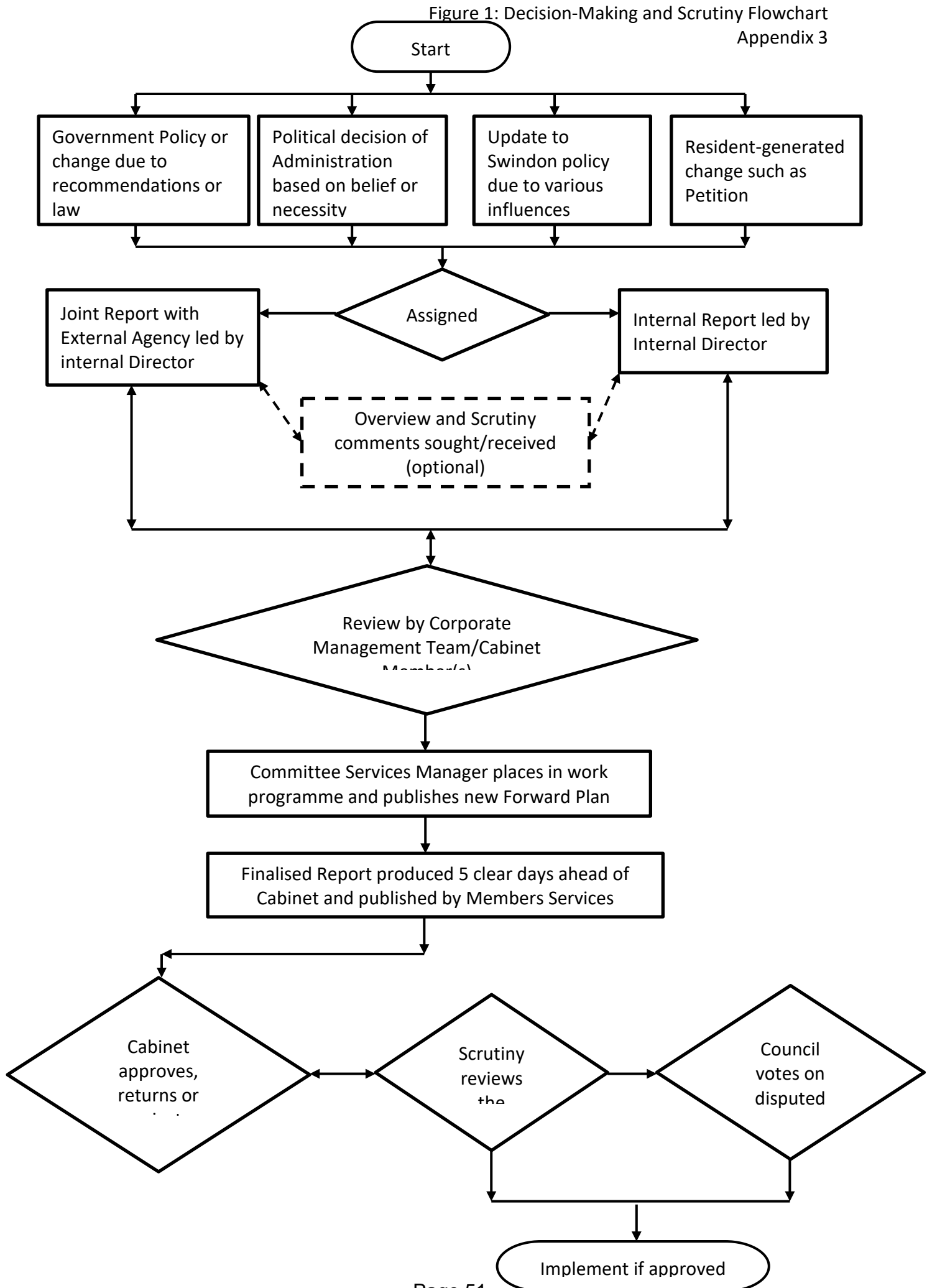
Cabinet Meeting Date: 13th October 2021 (TBC)



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

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Figure 1: Decision-Making and Scrutiny Flowchart  
Appendix 3



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## Status of requests for action and / or information

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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Author: Scrutiny Officer

Wards: All Wards

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

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

## Status of requests for action and / or information

Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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### 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 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2021																																											
Minute No. 44	Budget Setting Process 2021-22		Outcome																																								
To circulate the Local Grant settlement figures	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>2021/21</th><th>2021/22</th><th>Change</th></tr> <tr> <th></th><th>£m</th><th>£m</th><th>£m</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Revenue Support Grant</td><td>4.337</td><td>4.361</td><td>0.024</td></tr> <tr> <td>New Homes Bonus</td><td>5.230</td><td>3.580</td><td>-1.650</td></tr> <tr> <td>Improved Better Care Fund</td><td>5.237</td><td>5.237</td><td>0.000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Social Care Grant</td><td>4.039</td><td>4.231</td><td>0.192</td></tr> <tr> <td>Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier</td><td>1.294</td><td>1.682</td><td>0.388</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lower Tier Services Grant</td><td>0.000</td><td>0.281</td><td>0.281</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Grants within Core Spending Power</b></td><td><b>20.136</b></td><td><b>19.372</b></td><td><b>-0.764</b></td></tr> </tbody> </table>			2021/21	2021/22	Change		£m	£m	£m	Revenue Support Grant	4.337	4.361	0.024	New Homes Bonus	5.230	3.580	-1.650	Improved Better Care Fund	5.237	5.237	0.000	Social Care Grant	4.039	4.231	0.192	Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier	1.294	1.682	0.388	Lower Tier Services Grant	0.000	0.281	0.281					<b>Total Grants within Core Spending Power</b>	<b>20.136</b>	<b>19.372</b>	<b>-0.764</b>	Completed
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To circulate Schools Forum minutes of the 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 meeting	The Minutes can be found <a href="#">here</a> .		Completed																																								

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2021			
Minute No. 51	Consideration of Cabinet Decisions		Outcome
To provide detail on the funding gap between 2021/22 and 2022/23, specifically the funding gap between what is being used as one-off money to support ongoing expenditure in 2021/22 that will have to be found again as new in 2022/23.	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>The budget for 2021/22 includes the following one-off funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lower Tier Services Grant of £281k</li> <li>- Application of funding set aside from the budget risk contingency in 2020/21 of £761k</li> </ul> <p>This forms part of the pressures set out in the medium term financial strategy reported to Council in February.</p>		Completed
To provide details of the subsidies given to GLL for the leisure facilities it runs on behalf of SBC.	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>This is set out in the report to Resources and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March: <a href="#">link to report</a>.</p>		Completed

<p align="center"><b>SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b></p>		
<b>Minute No. 53</b>	<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A – Cabinet Member for Highways, Maintenance and Waste Services</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
To provide confirmation on the percentage rate of pothole repairs within the Borough.	<p>In the past 12 months we have received 5896 pothole enquiries and we have, to date repaired 5105. This is 87%.</p> <p>In relation to the recent AA report we can make the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The data considered is a snap-shot of a couple of years, investment in the highway network needs to be looked at over a longer timeframe to give an accurate picture.</li> <li>• The data considered is for carriageway major maintenance only and therefore gives a limited picture of the highway assets that the LA maintains.</li> <li>• On the point above, in recent years Swindon has consistently invested more on capital maintenance of highway assets than the capital grant available from central government and prioritises this spend annually through its Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan.</li> <li>• The condition of the highway benefits significantly from other highway improvement grants that the LA is successful in obtaining.</li> <li>• In addition to the above, Swindon has successfully bid for additional maintenance grant from the government's Challenge Fund initiative totalling some £4.8m that will be spent on Swindon's network in the next 2 years, with a further £2m awarded to us from the same fund to be spent in the same period.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, please see below some more specific observations relating to this data:</p> <p>For context you need to compare the length of roads <i>actually</i> repaired per authority with the amount of roads that <i>needed</i> to be repaired per authority.</p> <p>The authorities who have invested heavily over the years to get their networks in the best condition need to do the least amount of resurfacing to maintain them in safe and usable condition. It may be that authorities who do the least resurfacing actually have the best networks to start</p>	<b>Complete</b>



**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE  
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

with and those that do the most maintenance each year are the authorities with the network in the worst condition.

To understand the balance, the DfT publish other key indicators which show the amount of roads that are *in need* of repair per authority - RDC0120 for A-Roads and RDC0130 for Unclassified Roads. The information is presented slightly differently in the different documents but we have summarised them in the table below.

	% where maintenance should be considered 18/19	Ranking of Swindon compared to other authorities 18/19 (1 <sup>st</sup> is the authority with the network in the best condition)	% of roads which were treated in 18/19	Ranking of Swindon compared to other authorities (1 <sup>st</sup> is the authority carrying out the most maintenance)
A-Roads	2%	= 17 <sup>th</sup> out of 155	0.7%	129 <sup>th</sup> out of 152
Non-Principal Roads (B,C)	4%	= 65 <sup>th</sup> out of 155	N/A	N/A
Unclassified Roads	10%	= 32 <sup>nd</sup> out of 155	N/A	N/A
Minor Roads (B,C,U)	N/A	N/A	1.1%	= 126 <sup>th</sup> out of 152

The condition of Swindon's roads is around the top quartile of the country on most measures and it in this context it's not surprising that the amount of roads that we treated in 2018/19 is around the bottom quartile.

We know from our deterioration modelling work that the level of routinely allocated funding and treatment lengths we carry out is less than we need to maintain our high ranking for much longer though. Having said that, the amount of treatment we are undertaking this year and next year is likely to be considerably more given the additional grant funded mentioned earlier.

To confirm when repairs to Whitehill Way are in

The response is as follows:

Highway Inspectors have been asked to undertake a further site inspection to confirm the current condition of the road. An update on the programme of any works required

**Completed**

<b>SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021</b>		
the programme.	will be available once this inspection has been completed.	
To confirm that Akcess vehicles should be parked off-street (where the Akcess Contract replaced that provided by Swindon Dial a Ride).	<p>The response is as follows:</p> <p>Akcess the contractor who operates the 'Steps for you' service contract which replaced the previous Dial a Ride contract operated by Swindon Dial a Ride, have been contacted concerning minibuses being parked on the highway. They have replied that all vehicles used on the replacement dial a ride contract are parked at their base/depot as per the contract. The drivers pick up and return the vehicles each day to the depot.</p> <p>However regarding other vehicles, Akcess have encouraged drivers to work from home which means they start work from home, to avoid drivers mixing too much in the depot area. They do not plan to change this arrangement until the current Covid19 situation is more stable. To date, before the Scrutiny Committee Meeting, we have not been made aware of Akcess vehicles causing highway issues in the last year. If Councillors contact us with specific issues, we will raise them with Akcess and see what can be done to limit the impact on other road users.</p>	<b>Completed</b>