

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
25th March 2019**

Minute No. 72	Cabinet Member Q&A Session – Cabinet Member for Finance	Outcome
<p>To provide more detailed information on what the expected organisation wide improvements in HR and Finance business processes will be from the procurement of the new HR and Finance system.</p>	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Director of Finance on 7th June 2019 as follows:</p> <p>The expected benefits are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transformation of the current reporting arrangements – more timely, less resource intensive - Improved ‘real time’ information for managers to enable them to more effectively manage people and budgets - Increased scope for managers to self-serve supported by improved system functionality - Key business processes managed through system workflow rather than the current manual arrangements – i.e. ordering, invoice payments, invoicing customers, payment collection, recruitment, performance management, absence management etc. - Reduced manual activity for managers, Finance and HR at year end - Improved ability to integrate systems facilitating full end to end process redesign, therefore enabling wider service redesign - Improved compliance and control around Financial Regs and Standing Orders - Reduced interface management and data handling - Reduced system management and support - Ensuring that the Council can continue to benefit from all system developments and improvements so that we maintain best practice whilst also ensuring the organisational risks around data/security are managed through regular system updates/patches 	Complete
To provide information on the net return, and the	Response received from the Cabinet Member for Finance and	Complete

period of the write down of the assets, of the four commercial properties which have been purchased at a cost of £17m.	<p>the Director of Finance on 7th June 2019 as follows:</p> <p>For 2019/20 the gross return for the 4 properties is £1.179m, which equates to 6.9% of the £17.1m purchase price. The purchases were financed through a mix of capital receipts (£4.6m) and borrowing (£12.5m). The write down period is 50 years. The net return after borrowing costs is £648k, or 3.8%.</p>	
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**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
10 June 2019**

Minute No. 4	Consideration of Cabinet Minutes	Outcome
Cllr Jim Grant queried the projected timescales for completing the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery project.	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for the Town Centre on 19th June 2019 as follows:</p> <p>A full review of the Capital Programme is taking place over the summer, led by Councillor Holland in his capacity as Finance Lead member. Cabinet wishes all items to be discussed in the round, instead of piecemeal, therefore the allocation for the Art Gallery and Museum remains unchanged.</p> <p>On the project itself:</p> <p>My expectation remains that concepts for the rebuilt Wyvern combined with Art Gallery and Museum will come forward during Q4 2019, followed by a full business case by December 2020. If the business case stacks up, and a positive decision to proceed is made, then it's up to Planning and construction which could</p>	Complete

	<p>be a further 3 to 4 years to complete.</p> <p>This timing aligns well with the lifespan of the Wyvern. The Theatre is now 50 years old, and Officers have highlighted that recent Structural Reports demonstrate that the Council is rapidly approaching the point where substantial investment must be made within 5 to 7 years' time.</p> <p>If there is cross Council appetite, and agreement, then I'm sure this project could be accelerated since only external grant funding is currently being used.</p> <p>As the Cabinet member responsible, I am determined that Officers complete the work with rigour, and that no uncostered commitments or promises are made. I trust that all Councillors will be interested in this work as it progresses, and I welcome any constructive challenge on any uses, numbers, assumptions made or any aspect of the project. Only when the business case is available will the complete financial picture be available, and a decision required on funding.</p> <p>To not proceed with a combined project has a 'do nothing' cost for both providing an Art Gallery and Museum in another way, but also rebuilding the Wyvern due to its age.</p>	
<p>Cllr Bob Wright referred to the reduction in the number of private landlords, and queried how the Council plans to provide rooms or properties for the homeless given that reduction.</p>	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety on 20th June 2019 as follows:</p> <p>Cllr Wright raised concerns at Scrutiny Committee on the 10th June about the reduction of accommodation available to house those for whom the Council has a statutory homelessness duty.</p>	Complete

	<p>I can assure the Committee that the Housing Service has a strong relationship with private landlords and provides 250 homes as temporary accommodation for the homeless. This figure has reduced over the last 18months (previously 450) due to our improved performance in homelessness prevention and the ability to use more cost effective solutions including our Housing First accommodation.</p>	
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