

# **Cabinet**

**Wednesday, 15 March 2017**

## **Additional Information**

Agenda Item No. 4 - Public Question Time

Written responses to questions submitted before meeting

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**Public Question Time  
Cabinet  
15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Mr Brian Cockbill, Stratton, has asked the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services**

What were the Assets of the Council in terms of Fixed and Reserved Monies in the following years:-

1. 2003
2. 2010
3. 2013
4. 2014
5. 2015
6. 2016

What was the total of all:-

7. governments grants?
8. lottery funding?
9. receipts by way residential Council Tax?
10. receipts by way of business tax?
11. income from Business Ventures undertaken by SBC?
12. losses incurred from any Business Venture?

**The Cabinet Member has responded:**

Thank you for your questions.

1-12 Given that you have asked submitted so many questions to this meeting we are still working to determine those to which we can respond within ten working days, and those that we will treat as enquiries under the Freedom of Information Act.

**Public Question Time**  
**Cabinet**  
**15<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Mr Brian Cockbill, Stratton, has asked the Leader of the Council**

13. What has been the cost to the Borough Council in the last 5 years of the disposal of paupers (ie persons or known relatives without adequate means for their own burial, cremation, disposal etc.)?

14. Has SBC finished its investigation into the fire at Marshgate?

15. When will it be published?

How many visits were made in the 12 months leading up to the fire by:-

16. Fire Service?

17. Environment Agency?

18. SBC officers planning & enforcement officers?

What were the:-

19. findings in each case 16), 17) and 18)?

20. What action(s?) were taken regarding the findings at question 19 above BEFORE the fire at Marshgate?

21. What is the cost of all the assistance being given to the new Parish Councils being established this year?

22. Given this almost entirely is for the present unparished areas of the Borough what sums of money were allocated in the current (ie 2016-2017) for these expenses?

23. What steps is the Leader of the Council taking to address the staffing issues that cause the delay in the Council's recorded messages that reported uncollected plastic waste will be collected within 48 hours?

Are or were there any appointed to our UTC as:-

24. personal appointments, or

25. from SBC or any of its committees or associated bodies?

26. What was the Council's leader's public response when questions were raised about the UTC a few months ago?

27. As a student at Swindon Technical School in 1949-51, excluding myself, the school produced a number of significant people in the school's three disciplines of commerce, building and engineering both practical and theorists. Is it not time to reassess our education priorities and concentrate on education instead calling schools 'fee' and 'University Colleges'?

28. The transfer of Services from Swindon Borough Council is enshrined in the legal processes. Can the Leader explain why the maps showing areas of land between the Greenbridge Recreation Ground and the northern ends of Northfield Way, Egerfon Close and roads between, have been transferred are in Stratton St

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Margaret Parish. But the plan supplied to me under a freedom of information request suggests those areas are in Nythe Parish?

29. How many formal complaints about SBC staff and practices are outstanding?

30. What is the present situation of each of those in the answer to 29 above?

**The Leader has responded:**

Thank you for your questions

13 Given that you have asked submitted so many questions to this meeting we are still working to determine those to which we can respond within ten working days, and those that we will treat as enquiries under the Freedom of Information Act.

14 The Scrutiny Committee working party report will be completed and published after the criminal investigation.

15 We will publish the report as part of the relevant committee papers at least five clear days before the meeting in public at which it is to be discussed.

16 This is a question for the Fire Service not the Borough Council as it refers to an independent body.

17 This is a question for the Environment Agency not the Borough Council as it refers to an independent body.

18 The Council does not own the site at Marshgate and the facility was regulated by the Environment Agency.

19 Please see answers 16, 17 and 18.

20 Please see answers 16, 17 and 18.

21 Please see answer 13

22 Please see answer 13

23 Staffing levels are a matter for managers to address. Where we cannot respond to a missed collection we make every effort to return quickly and we prioritise collecting refuse to ensure it does not create a health hazard. The Council conducts over 30,000 collections per day and typically receives around 50 to 70 reports of misses – equating to less than two misses per thousand. There are plans being developed to improve the way missed collections are handled, using in-cab systems in the vehicles which will be linked to the new citizen portal website, this will speed up the process of missed collections being communicated to crews and will allow them to confirm when they have completed the outstanding work

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24 Swindon Borough Council did not appoint a councillor to the UTC in a personal capacity; however, Councillor Perkins was a Director.

25 No.

26 My public responses are in the public domain. It is not for the Council Tax Payer to provide you with a news clipping service.

27 This is a national policy that the Council is happy to support. Please contact your Member of Parliament, Justin Tomlinson to lobby for the government to change its policy.

28 This is a question for the Cabinet Member for Communities who lead the Community Governance Review. I will invite her to send you a written response as soon as practicable, if not within ten working days.

29 Please see answer 13.

30 It is entirely inappropriate to discuss in a public forum issues that could allow individuals to be identified prior to the completion of any formal complaints process.

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**Mr Brian Cockbill, Stratton, has asked the Cabinet Member for Communities**

31. I understood from a meeting of the current Nythe Parish Council that a possible transfer of the Nythe Community Centre by Swindon Borough Council that there was to be a two stage (red & blue) offer to repair defects by the Borough, Is this a sweet heart deal, gentlemen's agreement or are similar options open to all parish councils new or existing?

32. Will any expenditure be allocated in the agreed 'Special Expenses' or from where?

**The Cabinet Member has responded**

Thank you for your questions.

31 The Council does not engage in 'Sweetheart deals' or 'Gentlemen's Agreements'. Discussions on asset transfers and dilapidations are on a case-by-case basis.

32 Given that you have asked submitted so many questions to this meeting we are still working to determine those to which we can respond within ten working days, and those that we will treat as enquiries under the Freedom of Information Act.

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