

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

19th March 2018

Minute No. 67	Public Question Time		
Mr Roy Worman referred to the digitisation programme implemented by Northampton County Council and the discussion at the last meeting on how lessons learned from their programme might be used to inform the councils own digitisation programme. Mr Worman asked whether, given the perilous state of said council, are there any lessons that can be adapted by SBC and, if so, what?	Response received from the Director of Digital Services and Corporate Programmes and the Director of Performance, Organisational Improvement and Communications on 13 th April 2018. Dear Mr Worman, Many thanks for your question at the recent scrutiny committee. It is important we do learn lessons from colleagues and projects in other local authorities and often more lessons are available when projects go wrong than when they go right. To that end the government have supported all of us to learn from the Northamptonshire by commissioning a Best Value Inspection which I have pleasure in attaching for your perusal. I will be sharing this with my senior colleagues at Swindon and through our transformation programme we will be striving to make Swindon a more modern, efficient effective council to best enable us to serve our residents.		Complete
Minute No. 69	Consideration of Cabinet and Cabinet Panel on School Organisation Decisions		
Cllr Moffatt and Cllr Wright queried the confusion over the net gain in the number of units in the Queens Drive regeneration (43 or 60) and asked why there is a discrepancy in the figures.	Response received from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety and the Head of Housing Management on 29 th March 2018, as follows.		Complete

	At Scrutiny Committee on 19 th March 2018 Cllr Moffatt referred to the accuracy of the report to Cabinet on 14 th March 2018 on the Redevelopment of Queens Drive. Specifically he advised that the number of homes that would be gained is 43 assuming a planning permission is granted for 149 new dwellings. The Head of Housing agreed to check this figure and can confirm that the net gain is 65 dwellings.	
Cllr Dempsey asked how many children have gone into care in the years since the children's centres have closed, and how many had gone in to care in the two years preceding the closure of the children's centres.	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Children's Service and School Attainment and the Director of Children's Services on 22 nd March 2018.	On-going
Cllr Moffatt asked if there will be any deferred payments to providers in adult social care or children's services at the end of the financial year. He asked what, if any, invoices have been delayed from this financial year to be paid in the next financial year, and what are their total value. Also what, if any, have been delayed beyond the normal settlement date regardless of the reason for such delay.	Response provided by the Director of Finance on 22 nd March 2018, as follows: For each person in receipt of care we: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pay for all invoices received by year end - Accrue for the cost of care provided but not yet billed Therefore nothing will be held back from one financial year to the next.	Complete
Cllr Dempsey asked the following questions: 1) Has it been measured whether the existing transport strategy is meeting the objectives on carbon emissions, and whether carbon	Response received from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place, and the Head of Highways and Transport, on 10 th April 2018, as follows: 1) The current strategy does focus on improvements in sustainable transport and on longer-term options for greener travel and greener vehicles. Inevitably however air quality is	Complete

<p>emissions are going up or down?</p> <p>2) What happened to Bus Rapid Transit, and why is not in the updated strategy?</p> <p>3) Has current investment in this strategy period been value for money? Has the impact of the projects been measured? Are they having a beneficial impact?</p>	<p>impacted fundamentally by vehicle numbers, which are increasing within Swindon on the back of positive levels of growth and economic upturn. That said air quality within Swindon generally remains good.</p> <p>2) In referencing Rapid transit, I anticipate that Cllr Dempsey is referring to the ongoing Quality Bus Corridors schemes which are very much still in existence, with schemes at Mannington, Regents Circus and Pipers way on site or being mobilised at present.</p> <p>3) It's not clear exactly what value for money measurements are being asked about. The council has a range of published indicators and continues to assess and select schemes on a needs led basis assessing cost and benefit as part of the selection process. Members will be aware from the report that the council's rating for its asset management (including scheme selection and needs led investment) has moved from level 1 to level 2 in 2017 and to the highest DfT rating of level 3 in 2018.</p>	
<p>Cllr Heenan requested that an update be provided on the timeline for the Transport Strategy refresh.</p>	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place, and the Head of Highways and Transport, on 10th April 2018, as follows:</p> <p>The transport strategy review is expected to be carried out over the next 2 years in order to mirror and inform the process for the next Local Plan review. Officers within highways and planning are working on more detailed timescales to ensure that these projects align. As part of the strategy development there are a range of elements that complement the overall strategy which are underway at present such as the town centre movement strategy and parking strategy review and consultation.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>Cllr Robbins queried whether any of the extra funding identified in the report to Cabinet on the Swindon Local Transport Plan will be used to sort out the issues being experienced on Rodbourne Road.</p>	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place, and the Head of Highways and Transport, on 10th April 2018, as follows:</p> <p>The agreed funding for maintenance and highway improvements is detailed within the cabinet paper. However the Council are aware of the challenges with traffic levels around the outlet centre and members will be aware of the working group looking into further improvements. Cllr Robbins will be aware of the investment that has been made on signing and addition lane capacity on Kemble Drive, parking management across Rodbourne, improvements to parking outside of Steam and proposals for options to make use of Bristol Street car park. In addition officers continue to work with the outlet centre on their longer term proposals and options to improve their parking layout, management and capacity.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Minute No. 71</p>	<p>Cabinet Member Question & Answer Session – Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercialisation</p>	
<p>Cllr Moffatt asked how much capital has actually been invested under the commercialisation programme in Swindon or elsewhere.</p>	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Commercialisation and the Director of Finance on 22nd March 2018, as follows:</p> <p>The following commercial property purchases have been made by the Council:</p> <p>Delta 900 Business Park, Westlea (£3.745m) Lysander House, Bristol (£7.95m) Former Apostolic Church, Walcot (£140k)</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Cllr Robbins queried what the maintenance backlog</p>	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Children's</p>	<p>Complete</p>

<p>is on the EOTAS service.</p>	<p>Service and School Attainment and the Director of Children's Services on 10th April 2018, as follows:</p> <p>At Marlborough House Adolescent Unit School, the NHS-commissioned contractor is completing works over Easter following recommendations from an NHS Audit. This is on schedule.</p> <p>No other EOTAS Centre has any major works scheduled or maintenance pending apart from the day-to-day jobs completed by our caretaker. All tasks where we need outside contractors (ICT, Alarms etc) have a good response time, normally same day. Larger cosmetic pieces of work (repainting of drainpipes and wooden fascia at Stratton Education Centre for example) which are part of a maintenance cycle but not compliance or safety critical are being held off ahead at SEC and Riverside ahead of the scheduled building move at the end of the academic year.</p>	
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