

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

19th March 2018

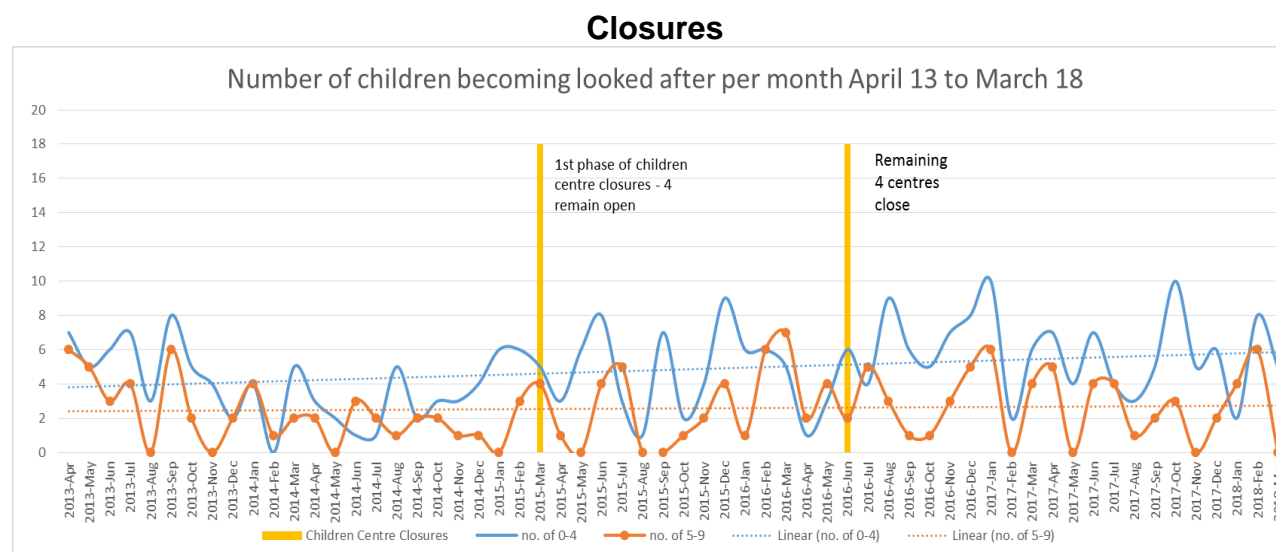
**Minute
No. 69**

Consideration of Cabinet and Cabinet Panel on School Organisation Decisions

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 received from the Director of Children's Services on 29 June 2018 as follows:

Complete



Notes to consider when reviewing the data:

- Within the longer term data 2014/15 was a dip year in terms of activity in relation to children looked after and child protection.
- Historically Swindon had a low percentage of 0-4 becoming looked after and higher number of children becoming looked after in the older age groups. Awareness work

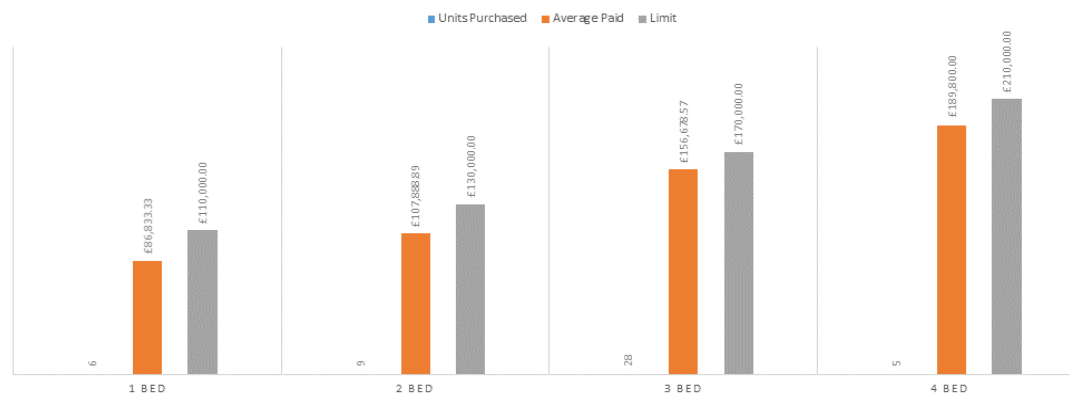
	<p>was done in 15/16 in relation to earlier interventions where appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the revised Healthy Child Programme 0 – 5 led by Health Visiting led to increased awareness and opportunities for identification of vulnerable children in need of early intervention. The programme included for the first time a universal offer of antenatal visits between 28 and 34 weeks of pregnancy delivered by Health Visitors. The programme was fully implemented nationally by the end of March 2015. • The numbers becoming looked after each month in the age groups is 10 or less and so it is difficult to draw conclusions from such small numbers. • Prior to the closure of Children's Centres, data analysis was undertaken in terms of which children and families the centres were working with. This showed a low percentage of children centre attendees were from vulnerable groups. The referral rate to children's social care was not impacted when the children centres closed. • Audit work has been undertaken of children becoming looked after, with a focus on those who had a children centres involvement. In all 10 cases audited the children centres involvement was not linked to work that would have prevented the children from becoming looked after. • On the evidence we have to date, there is no causal link between the closure of the children's centres and an increase in children becoming Looked After or being referred to Children's social care. • At the time of the Children Centre's being closed, the Family Service was created to work with children and families and Butterflies Family Centre was maintained. Both work with some families that would have attended Children's Centres. • The Local Authority has increase the value of the Butterflies contract by £75k in 18/19 so that has a Borough wide reach. In 17/18 the Family Centre was 	
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	commissioned to provide targeted services with 3682 children and their families.	
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**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
18th June 2018**

Minute No. 4	Consideration of Cabinet Decisions	Outcome
<p>Cllr Des Moffatt requested clarification on why three of the BISF houses were not purchased by SBC to be included in the social housing programme, given the Council's policy commitment to purchasing 100 houses.</p>	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety and the Housing Strategy and Development Manager on 22 June 2018 as follows:</p> <p>Thank you for your questions regarding the Council's Acquisition Programme. Unfortunately comments cannot be provided on those properties, but an overview and update on the programme to date can be provided. There are financial parameters around the properties we have purchased under this programme and here are the key headlines thus far.</p> <p>In 2017/18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 Properties Purchased • As per the attached graph, the average price paid provides evidence we have bought properties well under budget despite a strong housing market. 	<p>Complete</p>

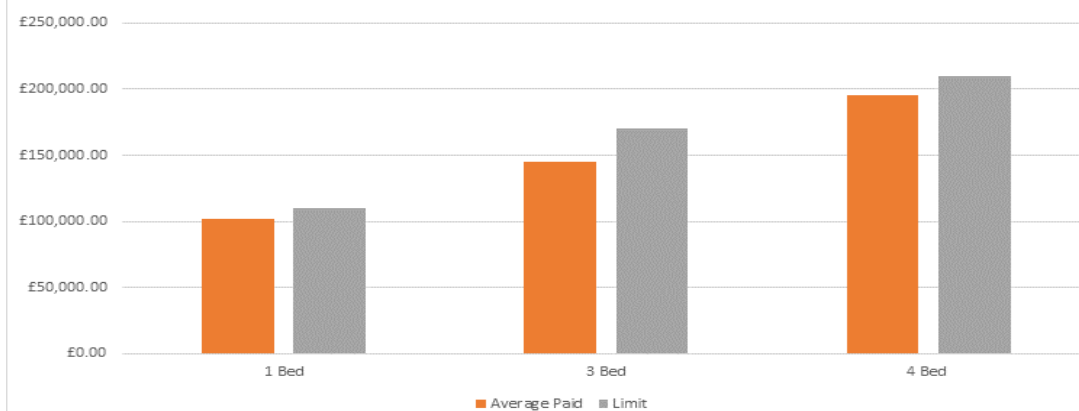
ACQUISITION PROGRAMME UPDATE



In 2018/19

- 7 x Properties purchased
- 13 x Properties Under Offer

Acquisitions Programme 2018/19



	<p>Please Note : Programme is temporarily on hold to allow voids department to continue with the progress they are making the reduce voids.</p> <p>There is a strong focus on ex-Local Authority housing as they do represent the best value and we continue to try and realise the best opportunities and properties that represent the best value for money for the Council to increase our stock by 100 units.</p>	
<p>Cllr Emma Bushell requested that the Libraries Business Plan be circulated to members of Scrutiny.</p>	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Customer Services and the Head of Libraries and Information Service on 29 June 2018, as follows:</p> <p>The Business plan was produced by Mutual Ventures, working with the Library Service for a potential PSM that would start in 2018. The work was commissioned to explore options and inform SBC's approach to market, to understand the potential risks and opportunities but a firm decision on a route to market has not been made.</p> <p>The business plan was deemed not to be viable and hasn't been adopted. The plan will be used in developing the Transition business plan</p> <p>The Business plan is marked as commercial and in confidence. Releasing the commercial information could prejudice Swindon library services opportunities to be successful in the event of a procurement process by providing details of their plan to competitors.</p> <p>The document is private and confidential and released to members on the basis that they have a duty to keep its contents confidential and not share it with anyone external to the Council.</p> <p>If councillors are going to discuss the business plan at a meeting then any</p>	Complete

	members of the public present should be required to withdraw when that item is discussed.	
Cllr Des Moffatt requested that a heatmap of UK Broadband consumers be circulated to members of Scrutiny.	Response requested from the Director of Digital Services and Corporate Programmes on 20 June 2018.	Ongoing
Minute No. 5	Leader of the Council: Annual Report	Outcome
Cllr Emma Bushell requested information on the number of affordable homes that had been built by the Council during the previous year.	<p>Response received from the Head of Housing on 3rd July 2018 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawthorns (24 units). <i>Expected to Complete March 2018.</i> Actual Completion May 2018 • Townsend House (15 units). Completed July 2017 • Royal British Legion (14 units). <i>Expected to Complete March 2018.</i> Actual Completion May 2018 • Brookfield (3 units – brownfield). Completed July 2017. <p>We had expected to complete 58 units in 2017/18 but it was 18 due to the Hawthorns and RBL development slightly over running. However, this does mean that the 2018/19 figures will look better than previously reported.</p> <p>The Council also purchased 48 properties on the Open market that are now additional Affordable Housing units</p>	Complete
Cllr Emma Bushell requested information on the amount of funding the Council has committed to assist the foodbank, and where the funding will be drawn from.	<p>Response received from the Leader of Council and the Social Inclusion and Enterprise Manager on 22 June 2018 as follows:</p> <p>SBC FUNDING TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF THE SWINDON FOODBANK PAYMENT SCHEDULE</p>	Complete

The total funding available for the 12 month period July 2018 to June 2019 is: a maximum of £51,207. Payments will be made to the new operating body in advance at two monthly intervals. The date for the first payment is to be agreed.

The first payment is of a significant amount covering two month projected operational costs and monies for the purchase of two vans from the previous operator of the Foodbank; Swindon Christian Community Projects (£12K) and all operational required insurances (£2K). The monies will be paid in the following amounts:

PAYMENT	1: Jun 18	2: Aug 18	3: Oct 18	4: Dec 18	5: Feb 19	6: Mar
AMOUNT	£21,958	£7,558	£9,002	£6,650	£3,516	£2,343

BUDGET

No additional funding is required as the existing SBC emergency welfare budget is being utilised. If the Swindon Foodbank discontinued there would be a large number of persons (possibly 5,000) seeking emergency assistance funds from the Council at an estimated cost in excess of £100,000 each year.