

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
18th June 2018**

Minute No. 4	Consideration of Cabinet Decisions	Outcome
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

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
16th July 2018**

Minute No. 11	Consideration of Cabinet Decisions	Outcome
<p>Cllr Jim Robbins requested the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) How much did it cost to produce the plans for Kimmerfields? 2) How much public money has been spent on the Kimmerfields project so far? 3) How much private money has been attracted to the project? 	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for the Town Centre and the Corporate Director of Resources and Growth on 23 July 2018.	Ongoing

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
13th August 2018**

Minute No. 18	Cabinet Member Q&A Session – Cabinet Member for Adults	Outcome
Cllr Jane Milner-Barry asked how long members of the public have to wait for autistic spectrum disorder diagnoses.	Response requested from the NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group on 31 August 2018.	Ongoing

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
10th September 2018**

Minute No. 24	Consideration of Cabinet Decisions	Outcome
<p>Cllr Jim Robbins asked for an update on the following within children's services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How many agency social workers do we have, including managers. 2. How these numbers compare to last year. 3. What progress has been made against the strategy adopted by Cabinet in July to reduce the numbers of agency social workers. 	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Children and School Attainment and the Corporate Director of Children's Services on 20th September 2018, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 80 (58%) of workforce were agency staff based on data position at the end of July 18. Some of the reasons for the increase in the last 12 months is for covering established vacancies as well as providing additional temporary capacity to the social work teams, to meet the increase in demand and ensure manageable caseloads. 2. 25% of staff were agency based on the data position reported for the annual workforce survey in September 17. 3. The below is an extract from the Progress update against 	Complete

the workforce and retention pillar of the service improvement plan:

Progress and key achievements:

- 3 Senior Management posts are in the recruitment process. The Senior Management Post for (Early Help) has now been appointed. It is anticipated that all posts will be recruited to by December 18.
- Agency staff offer has been reviewed and enhanced with the aim of reducing turnover. This includes increased hourly pay where appropriate and travel and accommodation allowances. The impact of the revised offer will be evaluated at the end of October 18.
- A 45 day consultation process is underway to restructure Social Work teams and create a specialist children looked after team.
- An agreement has been made for guaranteed interviews to the NQSW (Newly qualified Social Workers), programme for Social Work students undertaking final placement within the local authority. Pro- active recruitment is underway in preparation for January 19 co-hort.
- Retention payment has been authorised and processed for eligible staff within Social Work Teams.

Next four most important priorities:

- A second recruitment campaign is being initialised for the Assistant Director Children, Families and Community Health.
- Launch permanent recruitment advertising campaign to attract Social Workers to Swindon.
- A review of the career progression scheme is to be undertaken during October 18.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore feasibility of provision of keyworker accommodation for Social Workers as part of recruitment offer 	
Cllr Emma Bushell asked for an update on the progress against resolving the impact of current void levels, and when it is expected that the turnaround of voids will return to a normal level.	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety and the Head of Housing on 14th September 2018, as follows:</p> <p>The current Void Improvement Plan is well underway and making good progress. Voids awaiting repair in February 2018 when the Council ended the contract with The Bell Group was 220. As of Friday 7th September this number stood at 104. The target is to reduce this further to 80 by the end of September. This target reflects a top quartile performance.</p>	Complete
Cllr Jane Milner-Barry questioned why the Council had not applied conditions relating to the car parks when the McArthur-Glen Outlet Centre had submitted a planning application for expansion in the past.	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment on the 25th September 2018 as follows:</p> <p>I understand the question query was around why haven't conditions imposed regarding matters of access / parking been enforced following recent decisions relating to the expansion of the GWDOV.</p> <p>In replying it is helpful to revisit the birth of the centre which was formed following an application made in 1998. The access and car parking arrangements were found to be appropriate by the planning committee who granted permission at that time.</p> <p>The original permission imposed a condition that set a maximum retail floor space of 18331sq m.</p>	Complete

	<p>A subsequent application in 2002 to vary that condition to allow an increase up to a maximum of 2300 sq m of retail floorspace was submitted and again found acceptable by the planning committee who resolved to grant permission. No further car parking was proposed or required at that time. Rather, the vitality of the centre was secured and a listed building was preserved.</p> <p>The application was however 'called in' for determination by the Secretary of State and following a public Inquiry into the proposal, he granted permission.</p> <p>No additional car parking / access requirements were imposed on his grant of permission as he noted that some 1838 parking spaces were available and agreed with the applicant, LPA and the Inspector that the centre was well located to enable access by walking public transport and cycling in addition to the car. This permission enabled the 'Long Shop' to be refurbished and incorporated into the centre.</p> <p>All subsequent applications have reconfigured the space such that the 2300 sq m quantum of retail space has not been exceeded.</p> <p>There are therefore no recent conditions relating to the matters of concern as the relevant conditions / control go back decades and are from a time when the current issues were not envisaged and problems experienced had not arisen.</p>	
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Minute No. 25	Cabinet Member Q&A Session – Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity	Outcome
Cllr Jim Robbins asked how long the parking meters at Coate Water Park and Lydiard Park had been out of action, and how much revenue has been lost during this period.	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity and the Service Manager for Highways and Transport on the 3rd October 2018 as follows:</p> <p>Country Park machines were out of action from 25th June, due to robbery. Consistent, repetitive robbery was causing more damage to the machines in place than there was money in the machines. The machines have now had bespoke security measures added to them.</p> <p>It is difficult to say how much income was lost. However based on previous years for the same time period, over both parks there is a £75,000 reduction. The country Parks were pushing for visitors to either use the Pay by Phone method or by visiting a ranger station.</p> <p>The Council's Head of Planning, Regulatory Services and Heritage has advised that a £42k pressure is being forecast at Lydiard as a direct result of the loss of parking income.</p>	Complete
Cllr Bob Wright referred to the most deprived Ward in Swindon and asked what is being done to improve the situation in the Ward.	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity and the Project Manager for Economy and Skills on 20 th September 2018.	Ongoing

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
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22nd October 2018

22nd October 2018		
Minute No.40	Consideration of Cabinet Decisions	Outcome
Cllr Des Moffatt asked a question regarding the placement of Families with Children at Membeury Service Station.	<p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Children and School Attainment and Attainment and the Corporate Director of Children's Services on 8th November 2018.</p> <p>Six families who had children below the age of 16 were temporarily accommodated at Membury Services in the current calendar year. The Council uses this type of accommodation as a last resort where there are no alternatives and enables households to be rehoused quickly once formal homelessness assessments have been completed. The maximum number of nights used is four.</p>	Complete
Minute No. 33	Cabinet Member Questions and Answer Session – Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Outcome
<p>Cllr Jim Robbins asked for an update on the following within children's services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the figures for placement changes for Looked After Children over the last year. 2. What is the number for changes to Social Workers working with a Looked After Child over the previous year. 3. A breakdown of the examination results for Children Looked After. 	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Children and School Attainment and the Corporate Director of Children's Services on 9 th November 2018.	On-going
Cllr Chris Watts asked for an update on the Service	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Children	On-going

Improvement Targets currently in place for Children's Services.	and School Attainment and the Corporate Director of Children's Services on 9 th November 2018.	
Cllr Jane Milner-Barry asked whether the Parishes or Swindon Borough Council paid for Butterflies or whether accommodation was through Parish Councils.	<p>Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Children and School Attainment and the Corporate Director of Children's Services 29th October 2018.</p> <p>Butterflies provide a number of Play Together parent and child groups all over Swindon and these groups are extremely well attended. They target vulnerable families and the central group in Broad Green is heavily represented by many ethnic communities who historically have not engaged with services.</p> <p>Prior to the formation of the Parish Councils Swindon Borough Council owned the various community centres and venues and we provided room hire free of charge to Butterflies to enable these groups to be run in many seriously deprived areas of Swindon.</p> <p>The Parish Councils were unable to continue this arrangement and started to charge room hire (some of these charges were simply too high). Butterflies were faced with having to pull vital services as many of these groups were provided free of charge to families and Butterflies were unable to absorb the room hire costs. In response to this, especially for key venues such as Broad Green Central Swindon, Butterflies had to apply for a grant to cover the room hire costs through their charity arm. The money goes to Butterflies Families Matter Charity and through this to the parishes to pay for cost of room.</p>	Complete

Cllr Bob Wright asked split within the school budget for work relating to prevention, intervention and work with those pupils at risk from moving past the intervention stage.	Response requested from the Cabinet Member for Children and School Attainment and the Corporate Director of Children's Services on 9 th November 2018.	
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