


**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
10th September 2018**

| Minute No. 25 | Cabinet Member Q&A Session – Cabinet Member for Economic Prosperity | Outcome |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Cllr Bob Wright referred to the most deprived Ward in Swindon and asked what is being done to improve the situation in the Ward. | <p>Response received from the Head of Strategic Growth and Place on 19th December 2018 as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  181218 Response to Cllr Wright Question f </p> | Complete |

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
22nd October 2018**

| 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. | <p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Children and School Attainment and the Corporate Director of Children’s Services on 10th December 2018 as follows:</p> <p>1) What are the figures for placement changes for Looked After Children over the last year.</p> <p>Performance in relation to placements stability, April – September 18</p> <p><i>Context:</i> <i>Placement changes are reported monthly as part of the routine performance monitoring arrangements for children looked after. Placement stability is a critical factor in ensuring the best outcomes are achieved for children.</i></p> <p><i>Placement stability is measured in 2 ways in line with national guidelines for reporting:</i></p> <p><i>a) Short Term Stability: This looks at the monthly snapshot of children looked after and of those how many have experienced 3 or more placement moves in the last 12 months</i></p> <p><i>b) Long Term Stability: Of those children looked after for 2.5 years or more, how many have been in the same placement for at least 2 years.</i></p> <p>Response: Short Term placement stability: Twenty two children looked after as at the end of September 2018 have experienced 3 different placements between April and September 18. If performance continues at this rate 14% will have experienced 3 or more placement moves during 18/19. This places Swindon higher than other Local Authorities as the national average is 10%.</p> | <p>Complete</p> |

This is directly linked to the lack of capacity in our social work service due to the acute workforce issues, the lack of in-house foster care provision and lack of locally commissioned external care.

Long Term Placement Stability:

The September 2018 position reports 46.5% of children who have been looked after for 2.5 years or more have been in the same placement for at least 2 years. This is a slightly improved position from 41% at the end of June 2019 but is below the national average of 68%. The above factors contributes to the spot purchasing of specialist placements, which causes instability for children as well as significant budgetary pressures. These factors have contributed to an increase in the use of commissioned placements which now accounts for 44.9% (164 out of 365) of the children looked after population. This is a slight reduction from 46.8% at the end of June 18. The Council's demand management programme is focused on this area and increasing the number of in house foster carers is a key service development to enable improvement in long term stability.

- 2) What is the number for changes to Social Workers working with a Looked After Child over the previous year.

This information is gathered annually as part of the stability index data collection which Swindon participates in as this enables us to gain a comparator dataset and look at placement stability in relation to school, placement and social worker changes. The latest stability index publication can be accessed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/stability-index-2018/>

The latest data is for 16/17 for Swindon is outlined in the table below:

Total number of children looked after as at 31st March 17 and the number of social worker changes during the year experienced, Swindon compared with national and

statistical neighbour averages based on those authorities who took part in collection (78 authorities of which 5 were Swindon's statistical neighbours).

2016/17

| Total worker moves | Total CLA as at 31.3.17 | % 16/17 Swindon | % 15/16 National | %16/17 National | % 16/17 SN |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| 0 | 81 | 24.85% | 43.3 | 40.74 | 33.6 |
| 1 | 114 | 34.97% | 31.5 | 33.14 | 35.04 |
| 2 | 56 | 17.18% | 15 | 16.8 | 18.2 |
| 3 | 30 | 9.20% | 6.7 | 6.31 | 8.14 |
| 4 | 28 | 8.59% | 2.1 | 2.05 | 3.08 |
| 5 | 12 | 3.68% | 0.8 | 0.66 | 1.19 |
| 6 | 3 | 0.92% | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| 7+ | 2 | 0.61% | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.25 |
| Grand Total | 326 | | | | |

25% of Swindon children experienced no social work changes during 16/17 compared with 33.6% nationally in 16/17. The decrease from 15/16 to 16/17 is notable meaning that total worker stability is decreasing at a national level. Swindon is in line with national in terms of children experiencing one change. For those experiencing 4 worker changes or more Swindon is higher than average. This reflects the recruitment and retention challenges Swindon has been experiencing in the last few years. The workforce development task force has a number of initiatives in place to improve. This includes an ongoing external campaign to attract all levels of Social Workers and Managers. To date 22 applications are in process.

1) A breakdown of the examination results for Children Looked After.



3 Outcomes for
Children in care 2018

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| Cllr Chris Watts asked for an update on the Service Improvement Targets currently in place for Children's Services. | Response received from the Corporate Director of Children's Services on 5 th December 2018 as follows: The Council is about to make the service improvement plan available to elected members so that they can see all of the action and intended outcomes against the 6 pillars of improvement. | 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. | On-going |

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
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19th November 2018**

| Minute No. 45 | A Review of Outsourcing / Business Transfers | Outcome |
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| Cllr Jane Milner-Barry requested a breakdown of how GLL has invested the £2m in improvements at the leisure centres. | Response received from GLL, via the Head of Property Assets, on 12 th December 2018 as follows: There have been 3 major investments to date: Haydon Gym - £234k Link tramp Park - £900k Link Gym - £1.2 million Others planned in 2019: Spend to Save energy - £900k | Complete |

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|---|--|-----------------|
| | Dorcan Gym - £300k | |
| Cllr Chris Watts asked whether the lease arrangement with Twigmarket for Highworth Golf Course allows them an option of changing the use of the site, and also how long the lease is running for. | <p>Response received from the Head of Property Assets on 12th December 2018 as follows:</p> <p><i>The lease was granted on 01 November 2014 for a term of 25 years.</i></p> <p><i>The Permitted Use in the lease is</i> A golf course with club house, function room, driving range, gym, adventure golf course, practice chipping area, five a side football centre, golf retail shop, restaurant and public bar, equipment storage and ancillary facilities (including staff accommodation) or with the consent of the landlord (not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed) any other sporting use or uses.</p> | Complete |

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE
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10th December 2018**

| Minute No. 48 | Public Question Time | Outcome |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Mr Roy Worman referred to page 101 of the Cabinet Agenda Pack where the Draft Waste Strategy report states that 51% of the survey respondents indicated a charge of £5 or more per box was reasonable. Mr Worman referred to the chart underneath which shows that 44.83% had preferred £3, and 29.12% had preferred £5, and asked how the figure of 51% | <p>Response received from the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Environment on 17th December 2018 as follows:</p> <p><i>The narrative in the report reads that “51% of the survey respondents indicated a charge of £5 or more</i></p> | Complete |

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| had been arrived at. | | per box” in that this is a combination of the £5 and the £7 per box. The figure of £5 is intermediate between the cost neutral £7 per box and the lower figure, largely derived from unit price alone (ie without the on-cost of admin and delivery etc). | |
| Minute No. 49 | Consideration of Cabinet Decisions | | Outcome |
| <u>Budget Update Report</u> Cllr Bob Wright asked for clarification on what the additional election costs had been for. | | Response received from the Electoral Services Manager on 12 th December 2018 as follows: The election pilot incurred cost in excess of £500K for the delivery of a fully electronic bespoke register and equipment for all of the 102 polling stations. This was used to deliver the Governments pilot on Voter ID. The pilot was fully funded by the Government with the additional costs claimed for Swindon including the engagement project (£80K), and additional election staff time (£50K) all being claimed for in addition to all the technical work. | Complete |
| Minute No. 51 | Possible effects of leaving the EU | | Outcome |
| Cllr Jim Robbins asked how many staff might be EU citizens affected by the need to apply for Settled or Pre-Settled status, and whether there will be a negative impact on children’s social care services if any EU citizens employed within the service choose to leave. | | Response received from the Director of Performance, Organisational Improvement and Communications on 3 rd January 2019 as follows: As membership of the European Union afforded EU citizens the right to work in any member country, in recruitment terms the Council has only asked new and existing employees to identify their nationality and right to work in the UK if they require a visa to work here. | Complete |

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| | <p>We are therefore unable to accurately ascertain how many staff may be affected by the need to apply for settled or pre-settled status as the UK leaves the European Union. We are therefore reliant upon staff coming forward to self-identify and have begun some communications with staff to encourage this. We recognise that for this may be unsettling for some staff affected and are providing briefings for managers and staff in the coming months. The process for applying for settled status is straightforward and HR colleagues are taking part in a number of webinars with other colleagues around the country and the Home Office to make sure we are as prepared as we can be to support staff through this process.</p> | |
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