

STATUS OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

15th February 2016

| 53 | Consideration of Cabinet Decisions | | |
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| | Subject | Status | |
| | The Chair asked for confirmation that there is a requirement for new school bids to include nursery care provision and measures to encourage existing schools to introduce such provision | <p>Response received from Peter Nathan and information circulated to Scrutiny members on 2nd March 2016 in response to the question asked.</p> <p>Yes, this was set out in paragraph 3.38 of the School Places Report.</p> <p>‘3.38 Early Years provision will be required at each of our new primary schools. This will help meet the increase demand as a result of the government’s plans to increase 3 and 4 year old entitlement from 15 to 30 hours for working parents in September 2017.’</p> | Completed |
| | Councillor Pajak spoke about the 2% increase in Council Tax in relation to Adult Social Care Services and contended that it was, in fact, due to the payment of the National Living | Response received from Sue Wald and information circulated to Scrutiny members on 2 nd March 2016 in response to the questions asked. | Completed |

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| | <p>Wage to carers and was not to be evidenced in any real increase in service provision</p> | <p>Here is the response agreed with Kirsty Cole</p> <p>The additional investment in adult social care is as follows:</p> <p>Learning disability demand £1.3m Demand for older people £1.7m Inflation £0.9m Living wage £1.0m Total £5.9m</p> <p>Savings £4.5m Precept £1.6m</p> <p>So overall the precept is helping to fund demand in adult social care but there are also savings associated with those services</p> <p>An additional £0.5m savings against SEQOL contract is part of corporate savings</p> | |
| | <p>Councillor Pajak asked for confirmation of the level of revenue estimated from enforcement of the public service protection order. He also asked for information about how many notices would have to be issued to realise the projected £127k revenue</p> | <p>Response received from Mark Walker and information circulated to Scrutiny members on 4th March 2016 in response to the questions asked.</p> <p>“The figure arrived at in the budget is an estimate based on the volume of incidents / occurrences that have taken</p> | <p>Completed</p> |

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| | | <p>place in recent times. The level of fines varies depending on the actual circumstances of each case so that giving a figure, or even a range, for the number of fines would not necessarily be a good indicator.</p> <p>The budget projection includes future Public Space Protection Orders that are being worked up at present, (such as a town-wide PSPO around dog fouling to enable officers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to those owners who do not pick up after their dogs fouled)."</p> | |
| | <p>Councillor Penny asked if the requisite funding for Westrop Primary School has been outstanding since the closure of Northview Primary School accurate. Councillor Penny contended that the closure of Northview had been some years ago and she expressed surprise at the apparent time taken to secure this additional provision.</p> | <p>Response received from Peter Nathan and information circulated to Scrutiny members on 2nd March 2016 in response to the question asked.</p> <p>The decision to close Northview Primary School took place on the 3rd February 2010, for closure to be implemented on the 31st August 2010. The decision was linked to the expansion of Westrop Primary School from 1FE to 1.5FE. At the time the long term forecasts expected a continued reduction of pupil numbers in Highworth Town and the original expansion of premises consisted of a double classroom mobile to take the</p> | Completed |

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| | | <p>overall number of classes from 7 to 9. However, this does not provide the required capacity for a full 1.5FE school. Pupil numbers have increased for the 2015 and 2016 intakes, but are expected to reduce again. The funding for Westrop is to complete an expansion that was only part completed in 2010 due to the long term pupil number forecasts deeming the extra capacity not to be required at that time.</p> | |
| | <p>Councillor Donachie asked what is the contract penalty for non-delivery a 24Mb per second service</p> | <p>Response received and information circulated to Scrutiny members on 2nd March 2016 in response to the questions asked.</p> <p>The contractual obligation to achieve minimum speeds is not related to specific, individual premises because the detailed design was / is subject to refinement post contract signature. UKBN is measured in terms of contractual compliance on Total Homes Passed (THPs) in each “speed bucket”, as follows.</p> <p>- Access Line Speeds (ALS) greater than 24 Mbps and less than 30 Mbps to 856 premises (4%)</p> | <p>Completed</p> |

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| | | <p>- ALS greater than or equal to 30 Mbps, and less than or equal to 50 Mbps to 4,716 premises (24%)</p> <p>- ALS greater than 50 Mbps and less than or equal to 100 Mbps to 14,187 premises (72%)</p> <p>Busy hour committed rates (a BDUK contractual term) are greater than 24 Mbps for all properties above.</p> <p>In the event that performance does not achieve these levels, the contract includes the following provisions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the first instance, the supplier should be given a reasonable opportunity to rectify any service deficiency at its own cost - In the event that the supplier is unable to do so, the Council is able to terminate the contract on the grounds of supplier default - The automatic penalty payable by the supplier at termination (the supplier default termination sum) is £121k - The Council can also seek to recover costs of up to 115% of the milestone payments paid or due (totalling £2.1m, i.e. 115% of the value of the subsidy) | |
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| | | <p>payments totalling £1.9m) relating to additional costs we would incur, including procuring a replacement supplier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any repayments from the supplier would accrue to the Council and not to the end consumer <p>On the last point, any remedy available to the end consumer would be detailed in their contract with their retail provider.</p> | |
| | <p>Councillor McCracken, as Chair of the Children's Health, Social Care & Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee asked for confirmation that there would be no changes to the emergency duty service for children (based at Moredon Clinic) as the staff are provided by SEQOL, or a brief overview of what the changes would be. She also asked if there is an impact on any element of service provided for Children and young people.</p> | <p>Response received and information circulated to Scrutiny members on 9th March 2016 in response to the questions asked.</p> <p>The SUCCESS clinics are commissioned by the CCG to provide additional capacity for parents unable to book an urgent GP appointment. This was a new service in 2015. The funding has been extended for 2016. The future of the service will depend on demonstrating that it is reducing admissions to GWH. The service is monitored monthly and adult services is part of the monitoring.</p> <p>Additional question from Cllr</p> | Completed |

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| | | <p>McCracken - Is it safe to say the service will remain until at least April 2017?</p> <p>This would be for the CCG to confirm. The funding decision will be part of the CCG financial plan which has to be agreed with NHS England. I don't think the CCG would be able to confirm this until its financial plan is approved by NHS England.</p> <p>Additional response from Nicki Millin, Accountable Officer, CQC:</p> <p>The SUCCESS services including the children's clinic are not part of the SEQOL contract which is currently being retendered. These services are being piloted used national 'Prime Minister Change Fund' monies and currently are expected to be in place until the end of June 2016. A full review of the services will be carried out and continuation will be dependent upon availability of funding.</p> | |
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SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
21st March 2016

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| 59 | Consideration of Cabinet Decisions | | |
| | Subject | Status | |
| | The Chair asked for the future plans for the development of a programme to connect schools to the cycle network. | <p>Response received from Anne Stevens – Transport Planner on 1st April 2016, as follows:</p> <p>The Cycling Framework was intended to be a high level document to form a basis for the establishment of future priorities.</p> <p>Objective 3 of the framework highlights the desirability of providing better cycle facilities to schools and workplaces. The development of specific proposals to address the framework objectives will form part of a Delivery Plan, which is the next stage of the process following adoption of the framework. The Council has recently submitted a bid to the DfT under the new Access Fund arrangements (the revenue funding stream replacing the Local Sustainable Transport Fund) which could provide support to enable SBC to continue to work with schools to promote cycling.</p> <p>The DfT Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, published for consultation on 27th March, sets out the Government's agenda for the promotion of cycling and walking, gives targets for increasing levels of both and identifies potential funding sources. The Strategy recognises that currently three quarters of children live within a fifteen minute cycle ride of their secondary school, and in view of this it would be reasonable to expect future capital funding to be directed</p> | Complete |

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| | | towards measures that would assist older pupils to get to school by bike. | |
| | The Chair asked for clarification on the guidance given when the public move obstructions in alleyways onto private land. | Response requested from Kehinde Awojobi – Solicitor on 24 th March 2016. | On-going |
| | The Chair raised an issue of a resident who had been the subject of covert surveillance and requested to attend an interview with enforcement officers. The resident was not informed of his rights to be legally represented at the interview. The Chair asked for clarification of the procedure for attending such interviews. | Response requested from Kehinde Awojobi – Solicitor on 24 th March 2016. | On-going |
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| 60. | Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session – Cabinet Member for Finance, People and Performance | | |
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| | Councillor Penny raised the issue of considering all possible options for the future delivery of the Library Service including the consideration of outsourcing. She asked for a meeting with Stuart McKellar, Board Director Resources and libraries staff. | Response received from Stuart McKellar on 24 th March 2016 and arrangements being made for the meeting. | On-going |

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| | <p>Councillor Penny asked about the role of the Town Twinning Network and the expenditure of its budget.</p> | <p>Response received on 13th April 2016:</p> <p>1) The work of the Town Twinning Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to promote co-ordination and co-operation in the development of Twinning Links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal) and other existing Twinning Links with towns in the Borough. It will also encourage the development of other international friendship links between the people of the Borough of Swindon and communities in other countries. • Will act as a co-ordinating body for interested groups and individuals seeking to promote twinning links with the Twin Towns of Swindon (currently Salzgitter and Ocotal). • Will seek to co-ordinate fund raising and publicity in relation to Town Twinning but will not itself undertake these activities. • Will seek to encourage the development of international friendship links and commercial links between the people of Swindon and communities in other countries by the provision of a forum for discussion and the exchange of information. • Will receive and consider applications for Town Twinning grants and make recommendations to the Council. | <p>Complete</p> |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shall not hold funds or enter into any financial transactions. <p>2) Does the Town Twinning Network have a budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Twinning Network does not have a budget, however it administers the award of grants to Twinning Groups and other Swindon based voluntary or not-for-profit organisations wishing to take part in twinning activities that will strengthen links between Swindon and its twin towns and widen the horizons of the individuals and groups involved in twinning activities. • Town Twinning grants are non-recurring grants intended to promote Town Twinning and, specifically, activities which will enhance existing twinning links and develop other international friendship links between the people of Swindon and communities in other countries. A reserve has been made available for Town Twinning expenditure and this currently stands at £4,752.38. • The maximum grant available is normally £1,000. The Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Twinning, the Chief Executive and the Town Twinning Network can award slightly larger grants where necessary. • The grant application procedure is that, in accordance with delegated authority number 30 in the Council's Scheme of Delegations, the Director of Law and Democratic Services is authorised to approve the | |
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| | | award for grants for Twinning activities, subject to available resources and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Twinning, the Chief Executive and the Town Twinning Network. | |
| | Councillor Tomlinson asked about the new procurement processes. | Response received on 24 th March 2016 from Kirsty Cole. A copy of the updated Contract Standing Order report considered by Cabinet on 21 st October 2015 was circulated to Scrutiny Committee members. | Complete |
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| 61. | Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session – Cabinet Member for Children’s Services | | |
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| | Councillor Moffatt raised a question about the number of foster carers who went on to be adopters. | Response received from Karen Reeve on 14 th April 2016. In Swindon 2014 /2015 3 all adoption no SG Orders 2015/2016 3 all adoption no SG Orders | Complete |
| | Councillor Penny asked about Fixed Term Exclusions, in particular for further statistical information and information on the measures in place to tackle high rates of FTE experienced in Swindon. | Response received from Peter Nathan on 27 th March 2016 and Nigel Pickering on 1 st April 2016, as follows: Peter Nathan – ‘The issue of high fixed term exclusions has been raised by myself and also John Gilbert for example with the headteacher of Nova (and there has been a reduction). Furthermore, it is an agenda item on each Education Strategy | Complete |

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| | | <p>Board meeting where the data is analysed – it is also shared with SASH (secondary heads group). A group of deputy headteachers meets fortnightly to go over behaviour issues (permanent exclusions and behaviour concerns) and they are currently looking at practice in each others schools with behaviour learning walks.'</p> <p>Nigel Pickering –</p> <p>'Primary sector – The latest data (end of term 3) is showing an increase in fixed term exclusion compared to the same period last year. In addition there have been four permanent exclusions in the Primary sector this academic year. FTE in the primary sector overall is not exceptionally high in Swindon and the increasing trend of challenges for children who are very young is an issue across the SW region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The data shows that fixed term exclusion in the primary sector does tend to be an issue for a relatively small number of pupils that cause significant challenges. These pupils can receive multiple exclusions. • This being the case the primary schools using FTE does change year on year. • In the majority of cases the pupils involved are subject to external school support notably from Nyland Campus outreach team (NCOT) and in some cases dual placement with their home school and either Nyland or Mountford Manor. • In addition support from colleagues within the Exclusion and Reintegration Team, SEN and health colleagues including mental health professionals is also sought depending on the needs of the | |
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| | | <p>pupil/family.</p> <p>Secondary sector – The latest data is showing a significant decrease in FTE (approximately 25%) compared to the same period last year. Swindon figures have been highlighted as a particular concern as Peter has highlighted below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary schools Behaviour and Attendance leaders have this issue high on their agenda and are taking a number of actions in reviewing their school systems and sharing best practice to try and reduce the numbers of exclusion. They meet each term as a group to discuss issues and share best practice. Current actions include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Behaviour inquiry walks across the secondary sector. ○ Developing a set of over-arching principles around managing behaviour in secondary schools ○ Using data from the primary sector to be able to identify pupils who may need additional support as they move from Year 6 to Year 7. ○ Using strategies of ‘managed moves’ to avoid permanent exclusion as part of the Fair Access processes in Swindon. The Fair Access Panel meets fortnightly during term time. ○ Organising a half day conference with a focus of managing behaviour in school with a keynote external specialist speaker Paul Dix (October 16). | |
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| | | <p>Special School sector – The latest data is showing an increase in FTE in comparison to the same period last academic year. Most FTE in the special school sector are at St Lukes which is our secondary school that supports pupils with Statements of Special Educational Need/Education Health and Care Plans under the main SEN category of Social Emotional and Mental Health. Work is being undertaken by the LA with St Lukes to try and develop alternatives to fixed term exclusion.</p> <p>From the perspective of the Local Authority we do monitor all exclusion from school and target pupils in the mainstream who have multiple exclusions and also exclusions for particular vulnerable groupings for example pupils with Statements/Education Health and Care Plans and Children in Care.</p> <p>In Swindon there has been one formal permanent exclusion of a child with a Statement/Education Health and Care Plan in the last eight years . There have been no formal permanent exclusions of a Child in Care across the same period.</p> <p>We are currently support colleagues within the secondary sector in all of the actions noted above. In addition intensive work is being taken to drill down in to the exclusion data and to work with our secondary schools in highlighting their own specific issues and setting targets where appropriate to reduce the number of pupils subject to FTE. The Commissioner for Education Marie Horton is taking this work forward.</p> <p>The Exclusion and Reintegration team work on a multi-</p> | |
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| | | <p>agency/service basis to support pupils who are at risk of permanent exclusions and to support plans aimed at maintaining pupils in school. This team also provides a level of challenge to school colleagues with regard to the use of exclusion. Training on exclusion is also provided to school governors.</p> <p>As noted below report on school exclusion is presented each term to the Education Strategy Board meeting.'</p> | |
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