

## STATUS OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS ARISING FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

4.	<b>Consideration of Cabinet Decisions</b>		
	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Status</b>	
	<p>Cllr McCracken asked about licensing pre-application advice charges and (i) whether the charge was applicable to businesses only or all requests for advice and (ii) if the charge was being applied in the same way to Charities, Community Groups/Parishes and Schools/PTAs.</p>	<p>Response received from Kathryn Ashton – Licensing Manager in relation to part I of the question on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016, as follows:</p> <p>‘Having spoken with the Chair of Licensing Committee last week, I understand that you sought clarification on the Pre-Application Advice charge of £51.00 which is included in the new fees and charges. Councillor Tomlinson was correct in the advice she gave but she has asked me to clarify.</p> <p>We get a large number of requests for pre-application advice from applicants including assistance in completing standard forms. These requests can often be extremely time consuming and divert officer time from their statutory duties. Currently there is no charge for the pre-application advice we provide, which means that officer time spent helping applicants isn’t accounted for.</p> <p>The introduction of a £51 charge is for an estimated one hour of officer advice or part thereof. It is calculated at my hourly rate as I am normally the person who provides this advice.</p>	<b>On-going</b>

		The Planning team have charged for pre-application advice for many years, but the level of charge and the service provided here is also being reviewed. Once the charge is introduced it will be incumbent on my team to formally record pre-apps, including the advice provided, and to monitor its success. I anticipate that a more structured pre-app service will lead to better applications, swifter decisions and more compliant premises.'	
	Cllr Moffatt asked about expenditure shown against the Broadband Capital project.	<p>Response received from Ian Burbidge, Head of Finance, Schools on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016, as follows:</p> <p>'The overall project assumes £1.9m of payments to UKB of which 50%, £950k is grant from BDUK (Broadband Delivery UK who are part of the DCLG). Payments to the Broadband Supplier are based on Milestones reached of which so far only the first has been achieved and £190k has been paid over. Further milestones are expected to be achieved over the next few months and payments will be paid with the BDUK grant monies being used first. It's expected that SBC monies will be spent towards the end of 2016.'</p> <p>Additional information from Stuart McKellar</p> <p>'Under the contract with UKBN the money BDUK are putting in is spent first and SBC's goes in last.'</p>	<b>Complete</b>
	The Chair asked about the level SBC payments to the Government following the sale of Council housing stock under the Right to Buy Scheme.	<p>Response received from Michael Ash/Cllr Russell Holland on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016, as follows:</p> <p>The Head of Housing and Community Safety advises that the</p>	<b>Complete</b>

		<p>following figures relate to properties sold under the Right to Buy legislation in the last financial year (2015/16).</p> <table><tr><td>Number sold under the Right to Buy</td><td></td><td>55</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Net receipts after discount</td><td></td><td>3,295,378</td></tr><tr><td><b>Less</b></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Debt Repayment</td><td>1,099,117</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Payment to Government</td><td>1,030,081</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>2,129,198</td></tr><tr><td><b>Retained by SBC</b></td><td></td><td>1,166,180</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Admin Fee</td><td>71,500</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><b>Available to spend on the development programme</b></td><td></td><td><b>1,094,680</b></td></tr></table> <p>In essence the Council has sold 55 properties with a useable capital receipt of just over £1m available for replacement.</p>	Number sold under the Right to Buy		55				Net receipts after discount		3,295,378	<b>Less</b>			Debt Repayment	1,099,117		Payment to Government	1,030,081				2,129,198	<b>Retained by SBC</b>		1,166,180				Admin Fee	71,500		<b>Available to spend on the development programme</b>		<b>1,094,680</b>	
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	The Chair asked if a route has been decided to replace the closed off Fleming Way. He is specifically asking for the planned route.	Response requested from Philip Martlew/Cllr Dale Heenan on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2016	<b>On-going</b>																																	
	Cllr Martyn asked whether Wroughton was identified as a 'main area' in the Local Bus Service and Strategy review or if it was a subsidised route and the	Response requested from Nigel Hale/Cllr Mary Martin on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2016	<b>On-going</b>																																	

	current bus service in Wroughton was scheduled to be withdrawn.		
5.	<b>Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session – Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet</b>		
	Cllr Emma Faramarzi and Cllr Vera Tomlinson expressed a concern about the Leader's statement that they had been party to the suggestion for new sites for superfast broadband masts in the Priory Vale and St Andrews wards, when in fact they had not made any suggestions for the new sites.	The Leader confirmed at the Scrutiny Committee on 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 that he would contact UK Broadband and seek clarification about the content of the statement.	<b>On-going</b>