

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC QUESTIONS REQUIRING A WRITTEN RESPONSE AND MEMBER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
11th September 2017

	Consideration of Cabinet decisions		
30.	Cllr Moffatt asked for the reasons why the Housing Revenue Account Car Parking had been removed from the Capital Projects page of the Budget Management Update report considered by Cabinet at its meeting held on 6 th September.	<p>Response received from the Director of Finance (151 Officer) on 10th October 2017, as follows:</p> <p>Expenditure on parking improvements would be met from the Environmental and Communal Areas budget in the capital programme. There has not been a specific budget allocation for parking improvements since 2013/14.</p>	Complete
	Cllr Heenan raised a query about the £300,000 savings already identified and delivered in relation to the digitalisation of services and asked for clarification about how this was achieved.	<p>Response received from the Director of Finance (151 Officer) on 27th September 2017, as follows:</p> <p>The Budget Management Update that went to Cabinet on 6th September 2017 stated:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">2.7.4 Further savings of £303k have been identified and delivered in respect of the Digitisation, Procurement and Headcount Reduction projects.</p> <p>The breakdown of the £303k savings is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £115k saving as a result of process and productivity improvements within Business Support function, resulting in a permanent reduction in the number of posts required; • £164k arising from procurement savings on utility prices; 	Complete

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £24k arising from further savings identified towards the headcount reduction project. 	
	<p>Cllr Heenan raised a query about the variances within the Capital Budget 2017/18 and asked the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does the cabinet member for Finance use the Capital programme report to understand whether a project is on budget, under budget or over spending in the financial year? 2. When was the capital programme last reviewed, and projects which won't be happening removed, or does the report and its borrowing requirement only ever increase? 	<p>Response received from the Director of Finance (151 Officer) on 11th October 2017, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consistent with the approach for the revenue budget, the main report sets out any key issues and risks regarding the delivery of capital schemes – whether over the life of the scheme or in the current financial year. Further, the appendix summarises the projected spend against the available budget. <p>In addition to the above I am briefed on key budget issues (revenue and capital) by officers and this would provide me with an early indication of any developments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The quarterly capital monitoring report provides an update that reflects managers' forecasts. Where any changes are required (reductions or increases) these are submitted to Cabinet for approval. As part of the development of the annual programme for approval by Full Council, a review of all schemes is undertaken which includes the removal of those no longer required. 	Complete
32.	Cllr Moffatt asked for a copy of the Skills and Employment Board membership.	<p>Response received from the Strategic Commissioner Routes to Employment on 27th September 2017, as follows:</p> <p>Skills and Employment Board</p>	Complete

		Representative/Role	Name	Organisation	
		Independent Chair	Mike Godfrey	Independent Chair	
		SBC - Employment & Skills	Sally Burnett	Swindon Borough Council	
		Leader of the Council	David Renard	Swindon Borough Council	
		Director Childrens Services	David Haley	Swindon Borough Council	
		Employer	Stephen Uden	Nationwide Bulding Society	
		Employer	Andy Tait	Intel	
		Employer	Fiona Miller	BT	
		Employer Representative Group	Nicola Bailey	FSB	
		Employer	Oonagh Fitzgerald	NHS - Great Western Hospital	
		Economic Growth Delivery Chair Swindon and Wiltshire LEP Skills and Talent Sub Group	Trudy Godfrey	Forward Swindon Ltd	
			Amanda Burnside	Swindon & Wiltshire LEP	
		Chair Wiltshire Education, Employment and Skills Board	Barry Hughes	Selwood Housing Head Teacher, Goddard Park	
		Chair of Higher Education	Mike Welsh	Nationwide	
		Chair of Skills for Growth	Rob Taffinder	Swindon College	
		Chair of Skills for Inclusion	Steve Wain	DWP	
		DWP	Ian Gardener	Voluntary Action Swindon	
		Voluntary Sector Training Provieer Representative	Tim Ward	GW-Partnership Swindon Borough Council	
		SBC - Education	Peter Nathan		

		<p>New College and Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>SBC Officer, Employment & Skills</p> <p>SBC Officer, Employment & Skills</p> <p>Graham Taylor</p> <p>Joanne Harper</p> <p>Lyn Gardner</p> <p>Martin Casey</p> <p>New College UTC Swindon & UTC Reading</p> <p><u>SBC</u></p> <p>SBC</p>	
37.	Cllr Dempsey asked for details about the Council's contribution towards the Kimmerfields Central Business District development.	<p>Response received from the Director of Finance (151 Officer) on 29th September 2017, as follows:</p> <p>The Council have forward funded £108k for 'land related acquisition costs' but Muse will set these costs against the development account</p> <p>FSL commissioned PJA to review the bus exchange designs (£8.5k), which SBC has forward funded, but will be reclaiming these against the SWLEP grant commitment of £3m</p> <p>FSL have commissioned commercial viability and other consultancy support to review alternative development delivery options for the Kimmerfields development (approx. £16k spent to date).</p>	Complete

Consideration of Cabinet Member Question and Answer Session			
25.	<p>Cllr Dempsey raised a query about town centre health, in light of the recent economic indicator, placing Swindon 5th in the Irwin Mitchell UK Cities Financial Powerhouse league table, and asked if this had a marked benefit on skill levels and earnings for those working in swindon.</p>	<p>Response received from the Strategic Commissioner Routes to Employment on 27th September 2017, as follows:</p> <p>This data comes from https://www.irwinmitchell.com/ukpowerhouse and can be found in the July 2017 report.</p> <p>The report states that Swindon had the 5th largest growing Banking, Finance and Insurance market 2013-16 in terms of GVA. This is the amount of value that this sector (the businesses in this sector) adds to the national economy.</p> <p>This is mirrored by the growth in employment from these industries, with 4.400 more jobs (totalling 23,700) in this sector in 2016 from 2013. Unfortunately there is limited information to demonstrate the correlation between wages and employment in this sector.</p> <p>However ONS data tells us that the average full time workers weekly pay has increased by £48.20 since 2013 compared to an average of £28.10 in the southwest and £23.10 across Great Britain. In 2016 our average weekly pay for a fulltime worker was 38.40 above the southwest and £10.60 above Great Britain at £551.60.</p> <p>There is no clear information or evidence to link employment levels with skills, however we would expect growth in a sector to drive the need for skills and there is evidence of an increasing demand for higher level skills in this sector.</p>	Complete

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23rd October 2017

	Consideration of Cabinet decisions																																									
	Cllr Dempsey asked about the trend for delivery of affordable housing in Swindon over the past 5 years	Response received from the Housing Strategy Manager on 2nd November 2017, as follows: <table><tr><td>Year</td><td>S106 units built</td><td>Homebuy purchases</td><td>SBC HRA development</td><td>SBC HRA purchases</td><td>Total additions</td></tr><tr><td>2013 / 14</td><td>138</td><td>74</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>212</td></tr><tr><td>2014 / 15</td><td>49</td><td>134</td><td>3</td><td>8</td><td>194</td></tr><tr><td>2015 / 16</td><td>130</td><td>304</td><td>12</td><td>8</td><td>454</td></tr><tr><td>2016 / 17</td><td>180</td><td>368</td><td>40</td><td>10</td><td>598</td></tr><tr><td>2017 / 18</td><td>155 (year to Oct) Forecast 276</td><td>130 (first quarter only) Extrapolated 520</td><td>66</td><td>23 (with another 7 sales agreed)</td><td>Estimate 892</td></tr></table> <p>The data show an upward trend on all forms of additional affordable housing in the past 5 years.</p>				Year	S106 units built	Homebuy purchases	SBC HRA development	SBC HRA purchases	Total additions	2013 / 14	138	74	0	0	212	2014 / 15	49	134	3	8	194	2015 / 16	130	304	12	8	454	2016 / 17	180	368	40	10	598	2017 / 18	155 (year to Oct) Forecast 276	130 (first quarter only) Extrapolated 520	66	23 (with another 7 sales agreed)	Estimate 892	Complete
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	<p>Request for further information about the Wichelstowe Joint Venture and the three nominated Directors for the Joint Venture.</p>	<p>Response received from the Corporate Director Resources and Growth on 8th November 2017, as follows:</p> <p>Further to the request at the last Scrutiny committee in respect of the Wichelstowe Joint Venture, I can confirm that the 3 nominated Directors for the JV are:</p> <table><tr><td>John Gilbert MSc</td><td>Chief Executive</td></tr><tr><td>Susie Kemp, MBA</td><td>Corporate Director for Resources and Growth</td></tr><tr><td>Mick Bowden CPFA</td><td>Director of Finance</td></tr></table> <p>All officers hold senior roles within Swindon Borough Council and between them have considerable experience in both the private and public sector. Their roles as Directors of the JV will be to ensure the JV works effectively and delivers the best returns for both the Council and also for the Borough in delivering houses that uphold the expectations of quality and profile.</p> <p>The directors will be calling on the expertise of Chris White (details attached) as required and will also draw on in-house support as required.</p> <p>Stephen Taylor will be the Council’s nomination for the “Member Role”. This is the person who will be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to act on behalf of the Council when it is required to make decisions in its own interest (rather than the JV Board who are required to make decisions in the JV’s interest).</p>	John Gilbert MSc	Chief Executive	Susie Kemp, MBA	Corporate Director for Resources and Growth	Mick Bowden CPFA	Director of Finance	Complete
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