

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

These minutes are draft until confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting.

Wednesday, 10th September, 2014

Present:

Councillor Paul Crossley	Leader of the Council
Councillor David Dixon	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Simon Allen	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning
Councillor David Bellotti	Cabinet Member for Community Resources
Councillor Caroline Roberts	Cabinet Member for Transport
Councillor Dine Romero	Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Youth
Councillor Ben Stevens	Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

57 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair was taken by Councillor Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council.
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

58 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

60 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

61 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none. The Chair announced that he would hear item 16 (Bath Freight Consolidation Contract) before item 12 on the agenda.

62 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 19 questions from Councillors and 7 questions from members of the public.

[Copies of the questions and responses, including supplementary questions and responses, have been placed on the Minute book as Appendix 1 and are available on the Council's website.]

63 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Roger Berry (Managing Director, Healthmatic) in a statement apologised for an incident in July when a member of the public had been inadvertently locked in a toilet. He assured the Cabinet that the engineer had arrived very promptly to deal with the situation. The Healthmatic member of staff had undertaken training to ensure that there would be no repeat of the incident. Healthmatic had since made donations to the charities DHI and Julian House.

Councillor David Dixon asked Roger Berry whether he had received any feedback from members of the public about the new facilities. Roger replied that the overwhelmingly positive. There had been only 3 complaints about the 20p charge for use. There had been no complaints about queues, nor had he seen any queues despite having visited the various facilities at different times.

Penny Hay (Director of Research, 5x5x5=creativity and Senior Lecturer in Arts Education, Bath Spa University) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 4 and on the Council's website*] asked Cabinet to endorse the application for UNICEF accreditation of Bath as a Child Friendly City. She reminded Cabinet that the city was a magnet for child friendly initiatives and felt that the status could be of huge benefit to the area.

Councillor Ben Stevens asked Penny Hay to give an example of benefit to local children. Penny referred to the Schools Without Walls project which had been very successful and in which children were active protagonists in their own learning.

Councillor Tim Ball asked Penny whether projects should be adult led or whether children should lead them. Penny observed that the event planned for 1st October was co-designed by young people and would not be delivered by adults.

Sue East (Head Teacher, St Andrew Primary) supported Penny Hay's statement. She had discovered that children did not always feel as connected to their city as might be hoped. She urged Cabinet to take up the initiative.

Councillor Tim Ball asked Sue East whether she could ensure that the voice of children would come through clearly and that children were reached even in communities which did not normally respond. Sue East responded that those who worked with children did know how to hear their voice.

Councillor Dine Romero asked what was the most important factor that the Council should work on. Sue East said that the Council should perform an audit on all of its services. Some excellent work had been done in the Roman Baths because children had been consulted.

Councillor David Dixon asked Sue East and Penny Hay whether they would contact him about open spaces. They agreed.

David Redgewell (South West Transport Network) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 5 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to ensure that there would be no delay to the Great Western Train franchise. He congratulated the Cabinet on saving a number of bus routes and services, despite the incorrect article in the local press. He emphasised the need for maintenance of bus shelters.

Councillor Paul Crossley asked David Redgewell whether he wished to make any points about the freight contract which would be discussed later in the meeting.

David Redgewell said the contract was very important. It was essential to keep HGVs out of the city centre. He asked the Cabinet to work with South Gloucestershire Council to encourage the splitting of loads coming into Bath from the Yate distribution centre.

Peter Downey (Deputy Chairman, Wellow Sports) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 6 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to make an award of £15,000 to enable the club to extend its facilities.

Andy Smith (Chair, Wellow Sports) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 7 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to make an award of £15,000 to enable the club to extend its facilities.

Debbie Clarkson read a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 8 and on the Council's website*] on behalf of Dr. Heather Andrews (Head of Local Fundraising, Wellow Sports) asking the Cabinet to make an award of £15,000 to enable the club to extend its facilities.

Chris Wordsworth (Vice-Chair, Wellow Sports) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 9 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to make an award of £15,000 to enable the club to extend its facilities.

Ron Humphreys (Wellow Sports) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 10 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to make an award of £15,000 to enable the club to extend its facilities.

Sibella Chauveau (Young member, Wellow Sports) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 11 and on the Council's website*] asked the Cabinet to make an award of £15,000 to enable the club to extend its facilities.

Robert Morgan (Guildhall Market Stallholder) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 12 and on the Council's website*] thanked Councillor Crossley for meeting with him and for agreeing a way forward following a number of months of uncertainty. He asked Councillor Crossley to ensure that he would be sent a letter confirming that no enforcement or other action was to be taken against him over the allegations of illegal development which he emphasised were false.

Councillor Paul Crossley confirmed to Robert Morgan that in their meeting they had agreed to suspend all actions on both sides. He assured Robert that he would receive the information from officers that he had requested.

Jay Risbridger (Director, Bath Currency CIC) in a statement advised the Cabinet that the inauguration of the Bath Pound was moving forward, with a launch date in early 2015. She observed that early involvement of the Council would be essential to the success of the scheme and she asked the Cabinet to commit to this.

Cabinet members asked about some of the practical arrangements supporting the scheme and Jay Risbridger responded.

64 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor David Dixon, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

65 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

66 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Councillor Sally Davis, Chair of the Early Years, Children and Youth PDS Panel, and invited her to speak.

Councillor Davis in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 4 and on the Council's website*] thanked all those who had taken part in the consultation exercise over the restructuring of the Early Years service. She asked Cabinet to keep her Panel fully informed and involved in future consideration of the proposals and she presented the recommendations recently agreed by the Panel.

67 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Chair drew attention to a replacement report, including some more recent decisions, [*copies of which had been placed in the public gallery prior to the meeting and which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 2 and on the Council's website*].

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

68 BATH FREIGHT CONSOLIDATION CONTRACT

David Redgewell said he was very pleased that the contract was to be renewed. He remained concerned about the level of vehicles and emphasised the need to reduce the number of HGVs coming into the city. He asked the Cabinet to encourage Wiltshire County Council to look at its distribution networks too, especially around Trowbridge.

Councillor Charles Gerrish in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed the paper and said that he supported the principle. He observed however that there was no mention of what would happen if Bristol declined to renew. He asked the Cabinet to consider making it a condition of awarding planning consent to companies that they would use this facility. He suggested that Planning Officers be asked to make it a condition for businesses that they use this facility. He asked for Keynsham to be included in the contract.

Councillor Anthony Clarke in an *ad hoc* statement was supportive but emphasised the need to persuade big businesses to commit to the scheme

Councillor Caroline Roberts introduced the item and explained to Councillor Gerrish that there was already good reason to have a high level of confidence that Bristol would adopt the same approach. She agreed to consider the inclusion of Keynsham in the scheme, as part of the Keynsham Transport Strategy. She emphasised the Cabinet's commitment to sustainable deliveries and said that the number of companies involved had risen from 17 in 2011 to 34 in 2014. It was a contributing

factor in improving air quality and in reducing the dirt and damage to buildings. She moved the proposals.

Councillor Paul Crossley seconded the proposal. He was pleased that the contract was to be renewed. He assured David Redgewell that Cabinet would consider the situation in Wiltshire too. He assured Councillor Charles Gerrish that should Bristol change its mind, the Cabinet would give serious consideration to continuing; but he was confident that Bristol would commit.

Councillor David Dixon supported the proposals. He was pleased that there was an alternative, rather than just to hit businesses with the planning approach. He observed to Councillor Charles Gerrish that some Keynsham businesses had already committed to the existing scheme. He agreed that the Trowbridge situation needed to be explored.

Councillor Tim Ball supported the proposals. He responded to Councillor Charles Gerrish that the imposition of planning conditions was not an option because the government minister had recently stripped Councils of many of its planning powers.

Councillor David Bellotti emphasised the importance of the proposals for the health of people in the city. He commended the businesses which had already signed up to the contract.

On a motion from Councillor Caroline Roberts, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To AWARD the new contract for three years, with an option to terminate after two years. If either authority took the decision to terminate the contract after two years, the other authority would have the option to continue for a further year; and

(2) To ASK the Strategic Director of Place during the contract period to explore local options that would help to expand the service further.

69 ADVICE AND INFORMATION STRATEGY 2014-17

Councillor Vic Pritchard in an *ad hoc* statement said he was pleased that the strategy had reached this point. He observed however that the Action Plan was not included with the published papers.

Peter Duppa-Miller in an *ad hoc* statement [*a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 13 and on the Council's website*] asked the cabinet to consider use of the Town and Parish Councils as information points, particularly for self-service information.

Councillor Simon Allen apologised that the action plan was not yet available. He explained that there had been two periods of consultation on this issue. In particular, views had been sought from the Apex providers, CAB, SWAN, Age UK, DHI and the Carers Centre. This group had been asked to draw up the action plan in conjunction with the Council, as stated in the report.

Councillor Allen said that the strategy was very ambitious because there were a large number of separate sources of information. He thanked Peter Duppa-Miller for the offer of help from Parish Clerks.

He moved the proposals.

Councillor David Bellotti seconded the proposal. He recognised that people wanted and needed to be able to get information from a single point. He wanted to avoid the Council becoming no more than a signpost to other sources of information. He felt these proposals would achieve that.

Councillor Paul Crossley observed in response to Councillor Vic Pritchard that at paragraph 8.5 the report stated that the action plan would be developed in consultation with the partners. He asked the Democratic Services Officer to ensure that the action plan would in due course be published.

On a motion from Councillor Simon Allen, seconded by Councillor David Bellotti, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To NOTE the consultation feedback received and subsequent amendments made to the draft document; and

(2) To AGREE the Strategy.

70 B&NES ECONOMIC STRATEGY REVIEW AND SKILLS PLAN

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed the strategy as a very good response to changing economic times. He made the following observations about the issue: the danger of intensifying economic activity in a small area, thus putting demand on the infrastructure, meant that the Cabinet should consider an urban plan, not just a transport strategy; the nature of high-growth business was changing rapidly; Midsomer Norton was falling behind the pack and although the paper was forward-looking, it was focused too much on the city of Bath.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in an *ad hoc* statement supported the comments made by Councillor Anketell-Jones about Midsomer Norton. Her PDS Panel had asked for an economic report on that area. She pointed out that over 60% of the working population in that area commuted into Bath or Bristol for their work.

Councillor John Bull in an *ad hoc* statement expressed disappointment that the strategy did not differentiate between towns geographically. He reminded the Cabinet that new jobs would require new work locations and was concerned that there were no such proposals, which would be a real hurdle to overcome.

Peter Duppa-Miller in an *ad hoc* statement [*a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 14 and on the Council's website*] referred to paragraph 5.12 of the strategy and re-iterated the view of the Town and Parish Councils Association that this was a strategic issue. He strongly urged the early implementation of Theme

12, which he said must deliver reliable, high-speed broadband to every home and business in the rural area.

Councillor Ben Stevens introduced the item by reminding the Cabinet that this was a commitment given in 2010. The document set out the local economic priorities. The 2008 recession had caused a reduction in jobs but this had been reversed. There was a particular emphasis on high-tech opportunities. High-speed broadband was a critical plank in the strategy, as was the development of the market towns. He would welcome a conversation with Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones if he felt the strategy was not flexible enough towards businesses.

Councillor Stevens felt that Midsomer Norton was a very successful market town with a thriving High Street and that proposed initiatives in that area would contribute to this. He observed that steps had been taken to encourage the use of some sites in Paulton but many companies were looking particularly for sites along the A4 corridor.

Councillor Stevens referred to the 3 key schemes, listed in paragraph 5.2 of the report. He moved the proposals.

Councillor Paul Crossley seconded the proposal. He emphasised that solutions were coming forward for the Cadbury site in Keynsham and for Midsomer Norton. The whole area was proving to be very attractive to new companies.

Councillor Tim Ball congratulated Councillor Ben Stevens for the excellent strategy. This was one part of the Core Strategy which would back up all the Council has been doing. He was keen to see the growth in businesses, houses and jobs in the Radstock area.

Councillor David Dixon observed that in 2011, when the current administration had been formed, the area had not yet been acknowledged as the 3rd best place to live in the UK as it now was. He was delighted that things were beginning to move forward in Midsomer Norton and Radstock. The challenge would be to build suitable accommodation and office buildings in the area. He pointed out to those who had complained of bad broadband coverage in the rural areas that the businesses in Walcot Street also suffered because of the old copper broadband installation.

Councillor David Bellotti was pleased that unemployment was reducing in the area, there had been a massive reduction in benefit claimants and businesses and colleges were providing large numbers of apprenticeships.

Councillor Ben Stevens, in summing up, said he would be meeting very soon with Bradwells to discuss the broadband provision in Walcot Street.

On a motion from Councillor Ben Stevens, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To ENDORSE the objectives and priorities set out in the Economic Strategy Review and agree the Action Plan as a framework for partnership action in the period 2014–2020; and

(2) To DELEGATE authority to the Strategic Director for Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, to:

(i) agree a framework for measuring and monitoring progress against the key priorities in the Economic Strategy; and

(ii) agree minor amendments to the Strategy & Action Plan in conjunction with the Economic Partnership Group prior to publication of the documents.

71 RE-STRUCTURING OF THE EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND EARLY HELP (0 - 11 YEARS) SERVICES 2014 - 2016

Vicky Drew in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to these Minutes as Appendix 15 and on the Council's website*] referred to the fact that Children's Centres were being shut all over the country and appealed to Cabinet to avoid closing any in the area.

Councillor Liz Hardman in an *ad hoc* statement reminded Cabinet of the huge consultation process which had taken place earlier in the year and asked what part the feedback had played in the thinking leading up to the current proposals. She observed that 70% of the respondents had been parents. She encouraged Cabinet to give an opportunity for the proposed staff co-operative to be put in place.

Councillor John Bull in an *ad hoc* statement said that Children's Centres were still faced with cuts of £1M. The business case for a staff mutual would take 18 months to prepare and he asked Cabinet to allow time for this to happen. He suggested that funds could be used from the Council's reserves to suspend any plans until the end of the financial year, so as not to make any changes which would be impossible to reinstate at a later date.

Councillor Michael Evans in an *ad hoc* statement emphasised that it was not possible to use funds which should be available to future generations. He pointed out that it had never been intended that the Sure Start initiative would provide universal access to services. He recognised the ability of a staff mutual to access certain external funding which the Council as a public body was prevented from accessing. He gave credit to the Cabinet that it had been able to avoid closing any Children's Centres.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in an *ad hoc* statement acknowledged the diminishing funds available, but emphasised that people wished to see Children's Centres protected. She strongly supported the proposals put forward by the Early Years, Children and Youth PDS Panel and the proposal from Councillor Bull that Cabinet should suspend any changes during the current financial year.

Councillor Dine Romero introduced the item. With reference to the possible staff mutual, she would need to know that any business case would be viable. It could possibly be in place by summer 2016 but would need time to mature before being floated off from the Council. She thanked those who had contributed to the debate, including those who had responded to the consultation and particularly to the staff of the Children's Centres. She felt that there were two conflicting pressures: reducing

resources and meeting the needs of children. She proposed to meet both. She emphasised that no Children's Centres had been or would be closed. She recognised the importance of outreach work and, as a result, the number of Health Visitors was being expanded. She was confident that the needs of families would continue to be met.

Councillor Romero said she wanted to explore further the possibility of a staff mutual and that some additional transitional funding would be required while this was achieved. She moved the proposals.

Councillor Simon Allen seconded the proposal. He thanked the staff in the Children's Centres for doing a very difficult job. He applauded their bravery in submitting a Right to Provide request and reminded the Cabinet that the council does have previous experience of setting up mutual organisations. He emphasised that no Children's Centres had been closed but that they would be opened up to the community even more. He felt that the alternative suggested by Councillor Bull would be too expensive.

Councillor David Dixon was very impressed by the management buyout proposal. He strongly valued consultation but reminded Cabinet that it was usually impossible to deliver everything the public said they wanted.

Councillor Ben Stevens felt that the proposals were excellent and responded to Vicky Drew by reminding her that no Children's Centres had or would be closed.

Councillor Dine Romero summed up by reminding the Cabinet of the history of the issue. The budget for Early Years services had been reduced by a budget decision taken in full Council. While other authorities had closed many Children's Centres, this authority had not had any closures, nor had it increased Council Tax. But the service will by necessity look different.

On a motion from Councillor Dine Romero, seconded by Councillor Simon Allen, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To NOTE the results of the consultation processes and the range of views expressed by respondents, both for and against each element of the proposed changes;

(2) To AGREE to implement the new proposed service model, in order to deliver the cost savings approved in the Council's approved Medium Term Service and Resource Plan;

(3) To NOTE the 'Right to Provide' proposal submitted by Children's Centre staff who wish to explore the development of a 'staff mutual', (which could help to enable some elements of universal provision to be delivered without direct Council funding), and to AGREE to permit the staff to develop a business case;

(4) To DELEGATE authority to the Strategic Director (People and Communities) and Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Youth, in consultation with the

Section 151 Officer, to have discretion at key stages to halt the process if it becomes evident that the business case is not going to be viable;

(5) To AGREE in light of the above that the Council will continue to be the direct provider of Children's Centre Services for 9 Children's Centres until March 2018 unless a staff mutual is established at an earlier date for an appropriate procurement process to be undertaken;

(6) To AGREE in light of the above the continuation of the Bath West Children's Centre Services (the 2 Children's Centres contracted from an external provider) through appropriate procurement mechanisms to run until March 2018 in order to align with the in-house service;

(7) To AGREE that both the Council service and commissioned provider will be required to work together to enable the new two-service model to be progressively implemented ahead of a full re-commissioning process to let a contract that runs from April 2018 onwards;

(8) To APPROVE the inclusion of further transitional funds of £104,000 in 2015/16 and plan for transitional funding of £76,000 in the Council Budget for 2015/16, with transitional funding to be spread over the following 2 financial years to support these measures, due to the resulting delay in achieving the full implementation of the new two-service model;

(9) To INSTRUCT officers and commissioned providers to continue to promote and explore opportunities to enable some universal services, such as groups and peer networks, to be delivered without direct Council funding; and

(10) To ASK the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel to receive a report and review implementation of new models a year following implementation.

72 UNESCO INFORMATION DOSSIER

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed the information dossier which he said seemed to stretch back a long way. He asked whether the Bath Pattern Book had yet been published and observed that there appeared to be no strategy for limiting the heights of buildings.

Councillor Ben Stevens introduced the item by reminding Cabinet that they would be asked to endorse the document for submission to UNESCO. He commended Tony Crouch, World Heritage Manager, for his hard work in securing the designation of Bath as a World Heritage City. He reminded the Cabinet that protecting the world heritage site and developing the area were not mutually exclusive. He moved the proposal.

Councillor Tim Ball seconded the proposal. He congratulated Councillor Stevens and Tony Crouch for the excellent report. He agreed with Councillor Stevens that protection of the world heritage site was very important but that Bath must not become a sleeping city.

Councillor Paul Crossley said that the Council was seeking designation as a Great Spa Tours of Europe. He acknowledged the point made by Councillor Anketell-Jones and said that building heights was one of the issues needing resolution.

Councillor David Dixon reminded the Cabinet that Berkeley House in Snowhill had in its day won awards for design. He felt that the Council must demand the very best design, not simply restrict the heights of buildings. Bath was a living, vibrant city. He had recently been delighted to use his Discovery Card to take the excellent Tower Tour in the Abbey – which he had not known about previously.

Councillor Ben Stevens summed up by committing to check that the Bath Pattern Book had been published. He acknowledged the importance of architectural quality in all development across the area.

On a motion from Councillor Ben Stevens, seconded by Councillor Tim Ball, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To ENDORSE the submission of the dossier to UNESCO.

73 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2014

Councillor David Bellotti introduced the item. He was delighted to observe that current borrowing was at £70M, which was £50M less than he had inherited from the previous administration. He moved the proposals.

Councillor Tim Ball seconded the proposal. He said that the report showed how well the Council was delivering its programme, within the current economic restraints.

On a motion from Councillor David Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Tim Ball, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To NOTE the Treasury Management Report to 30th June 2014; and

(2) To NOTE the Treasury Management Indicators to 30th June 2014.

74 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO JULY 2014

Councillor David Bellotti introduced the item by observing that for the previous 3 years, the Council had ended the year within its budget and he anticipated the current year would be no exception. He referred to paragraph 2 of Appendix 1, which showed the list of capital projects being delivered by the Cabinet's ambitious programme. He moved the proposals.

Councillor Paul Crossley seconded the proposal and noted that the current level of overspend was only 0.5% which would be rectified by the end of the financial year. He observed that some of the current overspends were demand-led and so very

difficult to control. He reminded Cabinet that investments had been made across the whole of the council's area.

On a motion from Councillor David Bellotti, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To ASK Strategic Directors to continue to work towards managing within budget in the current year for their respective service areas, and to manage below budget where possible by not committing unnecessary expenditure, through tight budgetary control;

(2) To NOTE the revenue budget position;

(3) To NOTE the capital expenditure position for the Council in the financial year to the end of July and the year end projections;

(4) To AGREE the revenue virements listed for approval; and

(5) To NOTE the changes in the capital programme.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

CABINET MEETING 10th September 2014

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

Where the intention is to speak about an item on the Agenda, the speaker will be offered the option to speak near the beginning of the meeting or just before the Agenda item.

Statements about issues NOT on the Agenda

- Roger Berry (Managing Director, Healthmatic)
Re: Public convenience lock-in apology
- Penny Hay (Director of Research, 5x5x5=creativity and Senior Lecturer in Arts Education, Bath Spa University)
Re: The Child Friendly City
- David Redgewell
Re: Metro West and cuts to Bus Services
- Peter Downey (Deputy Chairman, Wellow Sports)
Re: Appeal for final funds to build facilities
- Andy Smith (Chair, Wellow Sports)
Re: Appeal for final funds to build facilities
- Dr. Heather Andrews (Head of Local Fundraising, Wellow Sports)
(read by Debbie Clarkson)
Re: Appeal for final funds to build facilities
- Chris Wordsworth (Vice-Chair, Wellow Sports)
Re: Appeal for final funds to build facilities
- Ron Humphreys (Wellow Sports)
Re: Appeal for final funds to build facilities
- Sibella Chauveau (Young member, Wellow Sports)
Re: Appeal for final funds to build facilities
- Robert Morgan
Re: Stall 36, Guildhall Market
- Jay Risbridger (Director, Bath Currency CIC)
Re: The Bath Pound

Re: Agenda Item 14 (Restructuring of Early Years Services)

- Vicky Drew

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M 01	Question from:	Councillor Eleanor Jackson
When is the 20mph speed limit going to be implemented on Kilmerstone Road, Radstock and Waterloo Road Radstock? (residents want to know).		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<i>Works to implement Area 7, Radstock/ Westfield 20mph speed limits started work on Monday, 1st September and continue for approximately 4 weeks. This will include Kilmersdon Rd and Waterloo Road.</i>		
Supplementary Question:		
I have seen no evidence of the work. Will the Cabinet member consider a speed hump or a chicane?		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<i>I invite Councillor Jackson to add an entry to the task register by contacting the highways officer.</i>		

M 02	Question from:	Councillor Liz Richardson
How many responses have there been to date on the CIL and Planning Obligations Consultation (which is still ongoing to 18th September 2014)?		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Ball
<p><i>There have been 8 responses to the CIL Draft Charging Schedule to date (consultation ends on 18 Sept):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1 Individual</i> • <i>NHS England</i> • <i>The Coal Authority</i> • <i>Watkins Jones Group (re student housing)</i> • <i>The Abbey Residents Association</i> • <i>Theatres Trust</i> • <i>Highways Agency</i> • <i>Thomas Eggar Solicitors on behalf of Asda</i> <p><i>There have been 3 responses to the Draft Planning Obligations SPD:</i></p>		

- *one internal*
- *Highways Agency*
- *Theatres Trust*

M 03	Question from:	Councillor Liz Richardson
As it is now over 6 weeks since the Core Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset Council was formally adopted by the Council, can the Cabinet Member confirm whether or not any legal challenges have been made regarding any element of the policy?		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Ball
<i>No legal challenges were made to the Core Strategy during the 6 week legal challenge period which expired before the end of August</i>		
Supplementary Question:		
Will he amend the page to show the correct date the page was last amended?		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Ball
<i>I will ensure that is done.</i>		

M 04	Question from:	Councillor Liz Richardson
When does the Cabinet Member anticipate construction work will commence on the Lower Bristol Road traveller site?		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Ball
<i>The contractor, working on behalf of the developing Housing Association, is already undertaking pre-commencement mobilisation works, including hoardings, site office, toilets etc. However, full start on site is scheduled for exchange of contracts, anticipated on 16th September.</i>		

M 05	Question from:	Councillor Tim Warren
The Council recently decided to amend the planned toilet capacity proposed as part of the modernisations being undertaken by Healthmatic at some locations, such as Victoria Park and Alexandra Park, but not in others where concerns have been raised by residents. Why has the Cabinet Member chosen to ignore the requests contained		

within petitions at other locations such as Keynsham Memorial Park and Alice Park?	
Answer from:	Councillor David Dixon
<i>There will be a long debate tomorrow at Council about this. We are confident that the provision is sufficient. Even on a busy day, when I visited some of the toilets, there were no queues. We will continue to monitor demand. Regarding the petitions, the facility at Alice Park has already been done and the Shallows is being considered for an additional cubicle. But these additional facilities are being considered as backup in case the one cubicle is out of service, not because of an increase in demand for the facilities.</i>	
Supplementary Question:	
Could he explain the position at Keynsham Park?	
Answer from:	Councillor David Dixon
<i>We are looking carefully at the consultation feedback but we are confident that it will show that the capacity is sufficient to meet the demand.</i>	

M 06	Question from:	Councillor Tim Warren
When does the Cabinet Member anticipate that long-discussed proposals for improved pedestrian crossing facilities outside St Saviour's Junior and Infants Schools will be taken forward?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>A draft proposal for a zebra crossing has recently been prepared for safety audit purposes. If the safety audit is positive the proposal will be put forward for inclusion in the draft Local Transport Programme for 2015/16.</i>		

M 07	Question from:	Councillor Tim Warren
With the Council currently undertaking consultations on proposals for new equipment at children's play areas in many parts of the authority, where there is a clear request from a significant number of residents for popular and well-used play equipment to be kept will the Cabinet Member commit to ensuring this equipment remains as part of any changes?		
Answer from:	Councillor David Dixon	

There is equipment in my ward which I played on as a child! I believe we have a duty to replace old play equipment before it becomes unfit for use. We have spent almost £1M on replacement equipment.

Supplementary Question:

Will the Cabinet member retain equipment so long as it is safe?

Answer from: Councillor David Dixon

The choice is either to wait until it becomes unsafe, or to make a judgement about when to replace it before it is unsafe. We are putting in new, imaginative equipment for children.

M 08 **Question from:** Councillor Tim Warren

It is understood that the Council has now ruled-out the Larkhall Rec as a possible location for a new east of Bath skate park. Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether this is the case and what locations are now being considered instead?

Answer from: Councillor David Dixon

We are still committed. Although Larkhall was ruled out, there are two possible locations in Alice Park

M 09 **Question from:** Councillor Geoff Ward

Many of the verges on main routes in Bath are overgrown and litter strewn, and the "welcome" signs at the Council area boundaries appear particularly utilitarian and unwelcoming. Why is there such little effort in improving the appearance of the gateway main roads into Bath given our World Heritage status?

Answer from: Councillor Caroline Roberts

The verges are cut twice a year in accordance with the Code of Practice for Maintenance. The second cut should be completed in the near future and will address the issues raised.

The boundary signage is being improved and replacement signs installed when replacements are due or the current signs become damaged.

Standards of litter control comply with the requirements of the Environment Protection Act Code of Practice for Litter) as this is the standard which is set by the Council's policy and on which resources are based. Parish Councils may choose to participate in the Parish Sweeping Scheme wherein they may choose to increase service levels

*above those set by this authority, should they so wish.
If the Member could report locations where litter is strewn in the verges to the council Connect, officers will investigate and deal with the matter.*

M 10	Question from:	Councillor Geoff Ward
<p>I have noticed an increase in fly tipping in rural areas. Please provide the last 3 years' annual number of incidents. Is fly tipping increasing or decreasing? What is being done to prevent such incidents? From notification to removal, is the Council achieving its target times of removal from notification?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>Apart from in 2012/13, we have not seen an increase in flytipping incidents across the district and the numbers have been decreasing. The numbers of incidences over the last three whole years are shown below., In order to include this year to date, we have included the number of incidents per month on average so that a valid comparison is possible: 11/12 – 487 - Avg monthly = 40 12/13 – 636 - Avg monthly =53 13/14 – 395 - Avg monthly = 32 14/15 – no total yet, but average monthly to date from the information we have is that we are clearing 22 tips on average a month The service will shortly be undergoing a further restructure and this will strengthen the enforcement function in that more officers will be trained and authorised to collect evidence for the enforcement team. In the last 2 months, officers from the team have undergone specific training (provided by a barrister) to support this work. We cannot currently quantify the number of fly tips being removed within target times due to the limitations of the current software system. The service is migrating its operating system to the Corporate Relationship Management system and, in so doing, will make improvements to processes to ensure that waste is cleared even more quickly and that we are able to report on the end to end times for removal as well as other parameters.</i></p>		
Supplementary Question:		
<p>This is still a very large number. What is the largest time it has taken to remove fly tipped materials?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>Residents are working with us very well by reporting fly tipping. We are reducing the numbers.</i></p>		

M 11	Question from:	Councillor Geoff Ward
A few years ago number plate recognition was introduced at our amenity waste sites. What are the results of assessments into expected benefits?		
Answer from:	Councillor David Dixon	
<p><i>The residents permit scheme was launched on the 2nd April 2013. During the 2013/14 financial year, we saw a 2.3% reduction in the total amount of waste taken to the Recycling Centres compared to prior to the permit scheme in 2012/13. At the same time we also saw a reduction in fly tipping. This indicates that the scheme has been successful in ensuring that householders from outside the authority's boundary are not using our recycling centres and also enables us to achieve the MTSRP £60,000 savings target.</i></p>		
Supplementary Question:		
How many cars are being turned away from the facility?		
Answer from:	Councillor David Dixon	
A lot less than when we first introduced the practice.		

M 12	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
Can the Cabinet Member please provide a firm date on which the Cabinet will take its decision, or make its recommendation to Council, on the future of the Dorchester Street Bus Gate?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<p><i>A report was taken to Informal Cabinet on 5th September and will now be considered by Planning, Transport and Environment Policy Development and Scrutiny on the 4th November 2014. I will then consider any recommendations made by the Panel. Until that time the scheme will remain suspended.</i></p>		

M 13	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
When does the Cabinet Member anticipate that a decision will be taken on whether the proposed Bathampton 'Park & Rail' project will be taken forward?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	

We have commissioned Mott MacDonald to undertake an appraisal of this and other options for the P&R to the east of Bath. We anticipate that we will be in a position to make this decision next year, following completion of this work, in conjunction with the Place Making Plan.

Supplementary Question:

Can the Cabinet member confirm that there is no practical possibility of closure during electrification?

Answer from:

Councillor Caroline Roberts

We have waited 30 years for Park and Ride to the east of Bath. We won't build it within the next year.

M 14

Question from:

Councillor Anthony Clarke

By how many does the Cabinet Member anticipate the number parking spaces within the centre of Bath will be reduced in the next ten years as a result of the planned redevelopments of sites within the centre of Bath such as Avon Street and Manvers Street?

Answer from:

Councillor Caroline Roberts

The Getting Around Bath Transport Strategy will outline our policy on the management of city centre parking and indicate the overall numbers which we will seek to retain in order to support the city centre economy.

Supplementary Question:

Could the Cabinet member give numbers, as requested in my question?

Answer from:

Councillor Caroline Roberts

I won't predict what the numbers might be. The Strategy will deal with this issue.

M 15

Question from:

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones

As part of the Connecting Devon & Somerset rural broadband programme it is estimated that 5-10% of properties will still be unable to access superfast broadband speeds. This will clearly still leave a large number of residents without access to fast and reliable modern internet, and I understand the Government is making funds available for harder to reach properties and accessing this money represents an

opportunity for small enterprises like Wansdyke Telecom. What funding is therefore available for the remaining 5-10% in B&NES and what plans does the Council have to roll-out superfast broadband to these properties?

Answer from:

Councillor Ben Stevens

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) and its partners have raised £19.167 million towards extending superfast broadband coverage. Bath and North East Somerset Council has allocated an additional £200,000 as part of this. This means that alongside confirmed matched funding from Government, the CDS programme now has a further £38.334 million to invest, the largest of any superfast broadband programme in the UK. Building on commercial provision from the private sector, this new investment will enable CDS to increase coverage to 95% of homes and businesses by 2017 and it puts the programme well on the way to help ensure 100% coverage by 2020. Funding support has been secured from local authorities, the Heart of the South West LEP and National Parks.

The next step will be to run an open procurement exercise to find the best partners to deliver broadband solutions funded by this additional investment. CDS aim to start this process in September and select one or more partners by next February. By that time, CDS will also be able to identify the next communities that will benefit from the additional funding.

Supplementary Question:

Is there a map showing the areas worst affected?

Answer from:

Councillor Ben Stevens

Councillor Anketell-Jones should look at the Connecting Devon and Somerset website where the information is available.

M 16

Question from:

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones

With many of Bath's comparator and competitor cities (such as Bristol, Brighton, Cambridge, Coventry, Oxford, York, Edinburgh and Cardiff) benefitting from investment to deliver 'ultrafast' broadband, through private investment and the Government's 'Super-connected Cities' fund, it is vital to Bath's economic prosperity that it is not left behind on this issue. Therefore, what are the Council's latest plans to bring 'ultrafast' broadband to Bath and the wider area?

Answer from:

Councillor Ben Stevens

The Council is investing £150,000 to support the implementation of a Digital B&NES strategy. Digital B&NES includes plans for the delivery of a wireless connectivity network to enable Wi-Fi and 3G/4G coverage in city and town centres. The Council is in discussions with potential commercial providers which it is hoped can be finalised this

year.

Longer-term, the Council is investigating the options for the delivery of ultra-fast broadband by using our existing fibre network to attract private sector investment. The initial work to map the existing network has been completed and the next step is to go to the market to find a private sector partner. We are also working with the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on projects to facilitate broadband connectivity for business, looking to build on the “super connected cities” government funded initiative.

As part of this work it is intended that the Bath City Riverside Enterprise Area will also be connected to the £15 million LEP Terrabit West closed loop Research and Development broadband project which will companies to test new applications on a system offering near unlimited speeds. This will link enterprise areas across the West of England with other global research centres.

Supplementary Question:

Do we now have an officer responsible for delivering this across the authority?

Answer from:

Councillor Ben Stevens

The previous role had been a fixed term contract. He will be delighted to know however that we have just advertised for a replacement.

M 17

Question from:

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones

What are the Council’s current plans for the future of the Cattlemarket and when does the Cabinet Member anticipate public engagement commencing on any development proposals for the site?

Answer from:

Councillor Ben Stevens

The Council has chosen to withdraw from the previous marketing exercise and is currently reviewing options in relation to the Cattlemarket site. Further information will be made available in due course. In the interim, the Council will be continuing with the development of the Placemaking plan, which will involve further consideration around potential scenarios attached to the future redevelopment of this site and other key city centre sites.

M 18

Question from:

Councillor Michael Evans

Can the Cabinet Member outline how Children’s Services will be responding to the findings of the Rotherham Report?

Answer from:

Councillor Dine Romero

The operation and effectiveness of our local multi-agency safeguarding and child protection services is overseen by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) which is chaired by an independent specialist and involves all of the statutory and key voluntary agencies involved in this work within Bath and North East Somerset. The LSCB has a special sub-group specifically tasked with developing and monitoring our local work on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The report into CSE in Rotherham will be considered by that sub-group and a report taken to LSCB to consider if and how our local practice in this area needs to change to reflect the lessons learned as a result of that exhaustive inquiry.

I am grateful for this question as it also allows me to lay out some of the work already done which includes:

- A highly effective working partnership between Children's Services, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and NHS Bath and North East Somerset, through our LSCB, which deals with all allegations of harm to children and young people.*
- A draft CSE Strategy to be considered by the LSCB this week.*
- Monthly multi-agency "sampling" of Assessments undertaken to check quality and thoroughness of our work. This work is overseen by a special sub-group of the LSCB and is independently chaired by a colleague who works for a specialist child welfare charity.*
- Increased emphasis on ensuring we collect information on the ethnic and cultural background of both children/young people and those adults who care for them or are significant in their life. This information is then used within our assessments and plans so that all risk and protective factors for the child/young person are considered.*
- Access to specialist advice and consultancy on race/ethnicity and culture for social workers provided through SARI (Stand Against Racism and Inequality) which is a highly respected local charity. This allows for the proper consideration of race, ethnicity and culture and avoids the possibility of these issues not being addressed when planning for the care and protection of a child or young person.*
- A Protocol with Avon and Somerset Constabulary to deal with any young person who absconds from their home and to ensure that a follow-up home visit to that young person is made and any required actions are followed up.*
- Effective procedures to respond when any child or young person who is in our care absconds from their placement.*
- A monthly multi-agency "Risk Panel" which considers the needs of any child or young person who may be acting in a manner which leaves them vulnerable to any form of abuse.*
- Strong training and ongoing emphasis on listening to and acting upon the voice of the child/young person. This includes making sure that Social Workers talk to the child individually and privately so that they can tell us what they are concerned about and how we can best help them.*
- Ongoing awareness raising and training work across our workforce to ensure that they are aware of this issue, what to look for and who to contact if worried or suspicious.*

Despite all of the above, it is important to state that Children's Services and the Police can only act to protect children where it is made aware of the issue, there is a need for community-wide awareness and vigilance.

M 19	Question from:	Councillor Michael Evans
<p>Given recent press coverage of the Coalition Government's free school meals initiative can the Cabinet Member please provide assurance that all those entitled to the free meals will receive them?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Dine Romero
<p>Every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in B&NES schools has been able to access a free, hot school dinner from the start of term this year. For most schools term began on 3rd September.</p> <p>12 schools have had completed building works to ensure that the increase in numbers of meals can be accommodated. This means that we now have 36 production kitchens providing hot meals to our 57 Infant and Primary schools. The remaining schools have part –production facilities or are dining centres receiving meals from nearby production kitchens.</p> <p>In addition, other schools have received extra hot trolleys and ovens. The catering service have also bought and delivered 4000 extra plates and bowls, as well as additional cutlery and, in some cases, tables.</p> <p>The Children's Service and Catering Service have also visited all the Infant and primary schools that requested a visit (over 50) to assess the social aspects of the dining environment, addressing such issues as noise, timings of sittings and queuing times to improve the dining experience for all.</p> <p>The following have been completed,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Michaels (new kitchen) • Combe Down) New wash up area) • Peasedown (new Kitchen) • Newbridge (new kitchen in the junior) • Freshford (upgrade of equipment) • Farmborough (new kitchen) • St Johns MSN (new kitchen) • Larkhall (new kitchen) • St Stephens (new kitchen) • Paulton Infants (new kitchen) • WASPS (extension to existing kitchen) • Upgrade to Longvernal • Combi at Moorlands Infants • 22 mobile hot trolleys have been delivered • 4000 plates and bowls have been ordered and delivered <p>I am confident that every child whose parent wishes them to have a hot school meal can access one. We have also sought to build in sufficient capacity to address any increase in demand as this new system becomes established. I would like to commend staff within our Catering Services, Children's Services, Schools and Property Services for ensuring that Bath and North East Somerset has been able to deliver this important development for our children. This is an evidence-based reform which will support the learning and development of all of our youngest children.</p>		

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01	Question from:	Malcolm Cupis
<p>I'd like the Cabinet member for Transport to answer a series of related questions pertaining to travel in and around the city.</p> <p>Could the Cabinet member please let us know if any research has been done into transport movements around the city?</p> <p>How many people travel into and around the city every day?</p> <p>How does this vary through the year?</p> <p>What methods of transport do they use?</p> <p>How many drive cars?</p> <p>How many cycle?</p> <p>How many use public transport?</p> <p>How many walk?</p> <p>How many use motorcycles?</p> <p>How many use commercial vehicles on business?</p> <p>Why do these people travel?</p> <p>What time do they travel?</p> <p>Where do they travel from and to?</p> <p>How many of them travel alone?</p> <p>How many of them travel from one single place to another single place and then return?</p> <p>How many of them have to travel to more than one place in a given day?</p> <p>What makes them choose the methods of travel that they do?</p> <p>What alternative methods are available to them that are of practical use to them bearing in mind where they travel to and from and the time of day they travel?</p> <p>What would encourage them to choose a different method of travel?</p> <p>Assuming that none of this information is available, could the Cabinet Member please explain how it is possible to come up with a transport strategy that takes no account of the facts about travel in and around the city? How can it therefore possibly provide an effective solution to people that meets their needs and delivers a better travel experience for them?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The "Getting Around Bath" strategy will address specific transport problems and issues that have been identified through the recent consultation and previous studies. A large number of detailed traffic surveys are undertaken on a regular basis and this allows the Authority to plan for current and future transport requirements as well as to predict what will happen with regards to future travel demand and movements given specific changes. We also have many automatic traffic count sites located at key sites in the city that allow the authority to monitor the volume, speed and flow of traffic in the city at key points as well as a number of cycle counters on those cycle routes located in and around Bath.</i></p> <p><i>It is clear that, to tackle some of the issues, further research is required and the</i></p>		

Authority has recently commissioned roadside interviews and other surveys to help develop a multi-modal model for Bath. A report will be brought to the next Cabinet meeting in November to explain the research work that has been commissioned and the report will provide a full response to the questions raised.

P 02	Question from:	Malcolm Cupis
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Could the Cabinet member for Transport please provide an update on the proposed Seven Dials Cycle scheme.

No official plans for the scheme have yet been made public. When will these plans become available?

According to the timetable for works presented at the Cabinet meeting last December, the works were due to commence in July 2014. What delay has been caused and when will work start?

What consultation has taken place with local residents and businesses about the scheme?

Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts
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The original timescale for commencement of works was provisional, as no detailed designs were available in December 2013.

The Council has been consulting on the design of the streetscape with accessibility groups and finalising details of the cycle routes with the cycling forum. Their comments are being incorporated into the latest plans which will be made public in September via a public event, the Council web site and the media. Feedback from residents and businesses will be invited at this point.

Construction is expected to commence in January 2015, within the timescale for DfT funding for the project.

P 03	Question from:	Malcolm Cupis
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With regards to the proposed changes to Kingsmead Square to turn it into an open air piazza, could the Cabinet member please provide an update on the status of the scheme, whether a formal plan has been created and made public and whether there is a timetable for implementation?

Answer from:	Councillor Ben Stevens
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This is a BID scheme and therefore the a Council has no direct involvement in developing the scheme, however we are keeping an eye on it as it has the potential to greatly improve the environment for residents and businesses. Planning permission has been approved. A number of premises are now considering developing applications for table and chairs licenses taking the planning and design into account. The authority will consider these and any application for a road closure once the businesses are ready to apply.

P 04	Question from:	Malcolm Cupis
<p>The car parking restriction sign on the Upper Bristol Road at Lark Place has recently been removed. This has led to a lot of unhappiness from local businesses and residents because people are taking advantage to park all day. There is a growing rumour that this has been done deliberately and that the car parking is to be permanently removed, which would have a very negative impact on the businesses and residents. Can the Cabinet member for transport please confirm if this restriction sign has been deliberately removed and if there are plans for the car parking to be removed? If not, can the member say when the sign will be replaced?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The parking restriction sign from Lark Place has been removed or stolen and an order has been placed with our contractors to replace the missing sign within normal contractual timeframes. I thank you for bringing this to our attention. I can confirm that there is no change to the parking in his location on the Traffic Regulation Forward Plan and the parking will remain.</i></p>		

P 05	Question from:	Sarah Moore
<p>Please can the cabinet member responsible for cleansing offer a commitment to sort out the waste and recycling problems in Westmoreland ward?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>Thank you for the question. This ward does have problems, especially because of the high turnover of residents. We are issuing heavy duty, reusable sacks and we will be enforcing for non-presentation of waste and recycling.</i></p>		

P 06	Question from:	Sarah Moore
<p>Please can the cabinet member responsible provide an update on odd down playing fields?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>This facility is working really well. A new pavilion and astro turf are being done which should be completed by the new year.</i></p>		

P 07	Question from:	Joel Hirst
Please could the cabinet member give an update on the implementation of universal free school meals for infants in B&NES?		
Answer from:	Councillor Dine Romero	
<i>I refer you to my response to Question #M19, above</i>		



Bath: A Child Friendly City: Statement to B&NES Cabinet: 10 September 2014

Over the last year, the idea for creating a Child Friendly City (and area) has been initiated by a group of creative, cultural and educational organisations on behalf of many others that are regularly involved with children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset. I have been nominated to speak to you today on behalf of this group. These organisations endorse the aspiration to seek UNICEF accreditation for Bath as a Child-Friendly City: <http://childfriendlycities.org/building-a-cfc/building-blocks/>.

Bath has many vibrant groups that are clearly child-friendly and meet the UNICEF criteria. The Children's Literature Festival is a good example of a large-scale recurring child-friendly event; the egg theatre is an outstanding example of an entire project built from the ground up, with and for children and young people; the museums, heritage and library services all signpost child-friendly interactive engagement. 5x5x5=creativity is now in its 14th year and born out of this Council - it has inspired and supported child-informed teaching and learning across the UK. B&NES is a magnet for child-friendly initiatives with the capacity and will to sustain and extend them.

So why is this initiative is so important?

- For children and young people to truly believe that they are equal citizens in the social and cultural life and governance of B&NES, is not only democratically correct, but also inspires generations of powerful and connected young people that contribute to the overall make up of our city.
- Our hope is that we can then build a vision and strategy from the bottom up, alongside young people. Children would be engaged in the development of services and opportunities within their communities, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Young people would have a deeper understanding of citizenship and sense of purpose, connection and well-being that could benefit the country as a whole.
- A child-friendly city has the power to unite many organisations, companies and schools in a clear and creative endeavour that will benefit the whole area.
- This is a unique opportunity for B&NES to take a far-sighted, long-term view about the development, perception and enjoyment of the city by all its citizens.

In the longer term, 'Child Friendly' status could become Bath's contemporary and international calling card and provide influential, world-leading approaches to participation and democracy.

In summary, this status could be a huge step forward for the future of Bath and North East Somerset. We aim to ensure all young people are active citizens engaged in the process of creating a truly child-friendly city where children are at the heart of the city.

Next steps would include:

- a strategy for delivery: raising funds for the scoping and application period
- appointing a Project Officer to support the process of working towards accreditation as a Child Friendly City
- encouraging the development of new child-friendly days and activities
- celebrating and promoting events that put children's curiosity and passions at the heart of their process, e.g. 'School without walls' and 'Forest of Imagination': <https://vimeo.com/schoolwithoutwalls/> <http://www.forestofimagination.com/>

The recent well-being report from the Children's Society shows the UK near the bottom of the league. Bath would be leading the sea change by celebrating the benefits of child-friendly approaches to transformation. <http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/well-being>

The Bath Child Friendly City Initiative Steering Group would be very keen to work with the Council to progress achieving the Child Friendly City Status Award.

The Cultural Forum is hosting an intergenerational conversation with young people on 1 October at the egg theatre to galvanise interest from cultural, civic and community organisations. We would like to invite you all to this event and urge Bath and North East Somerset to support this initiative.

Child Friendly City: Steering Group

Councillor Cherry Beath, Mayor of Bath and North East Somerset

Louise Betts, Learning and Participation Manager, Bath Festivals

Kate Cross, Director, the egg theatre

Sue East, Headteacher, St Andrew's Primary School Bath

Penny Hay, Director of Research, 5x5x5=creativity, Senior Lecturer in Arts Education, Bath Spa University

Greg Ingham, Chair, Creative Bath and Chair of Trustees, Theatre Royal Bath

Jamie Luck, Director, Mentoring Plus

Marian McNeir, Co-Chair, Bath Area Cultural Forum

Dr Janet Rose, Programme Leader, School of Education, Bath Spa University

Child Friendly City: Partners

5x5x5=creativity

Bath Area Cultural Forum

Bath Area Play Project

Bath Artists Studios

Bath City College

Bath City Farm

Bath Festivals

Bath Fringe

Bath Libraries

Bath Museums

Bath Spa University

Bath Spa Institute for Education

B&NES Children's Services

B&NES Schools and Colleges

Black Families Support Group

Creative Bath

egg theatre

Green Vision

Learning2Lead

Mentoring Plus

Off the Record

RUH Art at the Heart

Theatre Royal Bath

Young Carers

Youth Parliament

Penny Hay, Director of Research, 5x5x5=creativity

Senior Lecturer in Arts Education, Bath Spa University

p.hay@bathspa.ac.uk

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BaNES Cabinet on 10 September

BaNES Full Council on 11 September

BaNES Transport Committee on 16 September

MetroWest, Economic Strategy for Transport and the Duty to Co-Operate in the South West of England

Under the Duty to Co-operate we are concerned that the Secretary of State is imposing a large number of new homes and a quantity of employment land in the Greater Bristol and Bath city region and the adjoining areas, Wiltshire, Swindon, Somerset and Gloucestershire. This is being done without reference to public transport infrastructure and improvements across the sub-region. We already lag well behind such centres as Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Newcastle/Gateshead, (the last of which includes large rural areas, like our own region). We are looking to the local authorities to ensure that realistic, future-proof public transport strategies are put in place in advance of the large increase in population. Any other option will lead to gridlock and economic and social damage.

The final plans for Phase One of MetroWest are due to be completed later this year and concurrently to work their way through the Network Rail GRIP stages 1 to 9. As of writing, there remain serious questions about some elements of the plan. In particular, the retrenchment over the siting of Portishead station is very concerning as this will undoubtedly have a serious negative impact on future take-up of rail services. We need to know if pressure has been brought to bear on Network Rail and the ORR to look at a "Stop and Proceed" arrangement into the station, similar to the Barnstaple branch. If the ORR is not prepared to see sense in this, we must at least

South West Transport Network **Statement** for

BaNES Cabinet on 10 September

BaNES Full Council on 11 September

BaNES Transport Committee on 16 September

ensure that the station is both as close as possible to the town centre and as user-friendly as can be afforded. In addition to optimum siting, the plan must include bus-rail interchange facilities and become the focus for transport in the town. The station site adjoining the Lidl car park provides easy pedestrian access to the town centre and shopping facilities, as well as the opportunity for convenient and visible bus/rail/taxi integration.

We have not yet seen evidence of a realistic MetroBus/MetroRail interchange at the proposed Ashton Gate station or integration with the Stadium, though we understand that this is currently out for consultation with the MetroBus plans. Under the duty to co-operate between North Somerset and Bristol City Council, we need clear planning around the Portishead railway line and associated infrastructure.

The current proposed service pattern for the Portishead line still does not include stops at Bedminster or Parson Street which for a headway of 17 minutes end-to-end as against 22 minutes does not seem to be especially critical, especially when set against bus timings and rush-hour car journey timings of an hour or more. There is also the question of integration with the Weston and Taunton line which the current service plan ignores. And finally, it should be pointed out that stopping trains in Bedminster and Parson Street provides gateway access from otherwise ill-served areas of South Bristol. In addition this helps towards the City Council's regeneration planning of South Bristol as per their core strategy and BaNES core strategy.

With the final adoption of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan, it is essential that a clear and defined provision is made for station sites on the Henbury

South West Transport Network **Statement** for

BaNES Cabinet on 10 September

BaNES Full Council on 11 September

BaNES Transport Committee on 16 September

Loop around Henbury, Filton (at North Platform) and Charlton Halt, and protect sites at Hallen and Chittingen for future halt/s — which are likely to be required in the next phase of the Metro to meet huge future development in housing and employment (Sevenside Plan). A bus network solution alone to this access issue will not do and will end up trapped in yet more gridlock. Park-and-Ride and Bus-Rail interchanges must also be built into the plans to ensure the maximum benefit to the local populace and the greatest uptake of services.

In the case of Charlton Hayes, it would be highly beneficial to the development of the emergent community if the building of the station and transport interchanges preceded the construction of the area (in very much the opposite way to how Bradley Stoke was allowed to develop without any public services).

It is also imperative that work is commissioned with Network Rail for extra holding sidings for freight trains around Hallen/Chittingen, and to the north of Bristol Parkway.

The signalling on the Henbury line also needs to be upgraded as part of the Thames Valley Signaling Centre when Bristol signal box is transferred to Didcot.

We welcome the local electrification study of the Greater Bristol Metro and Filton Bank and the proposed new stations at Ashley Down and Horfield/Lockleaze, but this needs to be broadened to ensure that the study

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encompasses not only EMUs but tram-train operation for Henbury, the Severn Beach Line and Portishead once the 165 units are cascaded.

For future transport strategy, extensions to Taunton, Frome, Westbury, Warminster, Swindon and Gloucester/Cheltenham should be put on the agenda.

Under the duty to co-operate and the SHMA which would include BaNES, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Mendip and western Wiltshire, the various transport boards which cover the Bristol and Bath travel to work area need to work together and dovetail their planning on transport and land use in the way that Newcastle and Gateshead work together or the various authorities in Greater Manchester. Using these examples, the way forward for this area would be a Combined Authority and Transport Board.

Within BaNES the emphasis needs to be on ramps and CCTV at Keynsham, a new station at Saltford, CCTV at Oldfield Park and new stations at Bathampton and Corsham with appropriate bus-rail interchanges and onward links to serve the new development areas within the core strategy (for instance from Keynsham to Whitchurch, South Bristol Hospital and the proposed Whitchurch Park-and-Ride).

The Somer Valley development which will see a large increase in residential and employment provision within Radstock, Midsomer Norton and Chilcompton, means that there is increasing pressure to provide a rail link to Radstock along the existing trackbed with a station in the town centre linking to a high quality bus/rail interchange within the NRR land. This is subject to

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discussion between Norton-Radstock Regeneration Ltd, BaNES, the North Somerset Railway Ltd and the Somer Valley Trust. There is a clear duty of co-operation between BaNES, Mendip and Somerset County Council over the planning of this area. There is some urgency here to protect the Radstock line and the Frome to Wells and Shepton Mallet rail corridor as consultation on the Mendip Core Strategy, which includes public transport as well as housing and economic development, finishes on 4 August.

The inclusion of stations at Charfield (for Wotton-under-Edge), Stonehouse Bristol Road (Bristol-Gloucester line) and Royal Wootton Bassett need to be built into neighbouring local authority and LEP economic plans. To this end, we would like to see evidence of this joint working in progress under the duty to co-operate.

A clear plan for the delivery of new stations and lines needs to be drawn up. With the IEP being constructed through the Bristol area (on a timeplan driven by the DfT and the Welsh Government), timescales for construction or passive provision of local stations and related infrastructure need to be clear and coordinated with the IEP. If this is not done, the local rail project is likely to be marginalized, and therefore difficult and increasingly expensive to achieve. Even with Network Rail's confirmation of four-tracking at Filton Bank and the extra platforms at Bristol Parkway and Temple Meads and East Bristol Junction, the rest of the Metro is not included beyond Phase One.

Intermodal interchanges need to be prioritised at Bristol Temple Meads, Bristol Parkway, Filton Abbey Wood, Lawrence Hill, Clifton Down, Weston-super-Mare, Yatton, Nailsea and Backwell, Bath Spa and Oldfield Park. In the

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case of Temple Meads, "Intermodal" should include ferry services as well as local and Metro buses. Any new ferry services at Bath or along the Bristol Channel should also be dovetailed into the MetroWest system.

Beyond the major projects, the duty to co-operate needs to take account of the specific requirements of several local areas.

The rural hinterland to Bristol and Bath and within the counties of Somerset and Gloucestershire has transport networks and requirements which are significantly different from the urban areas, and need to be recognized and protected as such to allow access to jobs and services. Two examples would be maintaining bus services south to Wells, Street and Shepton Mallet and north to Dursley and Gloucester because these supply long-distance commuter and leisure services into and out of the city.

Tourism is a major determinant in the economic survival of the West Somerset coast and the Quantocks. The West Somerset Railway is an iconic tourist attraction, currently owned and underwritten by Somerset County Council.

We believe that one future option for this asset, given the fact we are almost certainly heading into a period of increasingly extreme and unpredictable weather due to climate change, would be to transfer ownership of the permanent way and associated infrastructure to Network Rail (who have both the wherewithal and the experience to deal with contingency and emergency planning) with a long-term lease back to the West Somerset PLC.

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It should also be pointed out that Somerset County Council have themselves supported a bid through the Heart of the South West Transport Board and LEP to reopen the route to network trains along with the Okehampton line. This would allow for a year-round seven-day a week service to run through from Bristol/Taunton to Minehead, opening up the line to serve other economic drivers beyond pure tourism.

South Bristol has traditionally been the poor relation in local planning and it would benefit the area enormously to create a local enterprise zone centered on Hartcliffe and Filwood hopefully including MetroBus/MetroRail links to Parson Street, Ashton Gate and Keynsham. A future option which would also benefit the area would be a Park and Ride facility at Flax Bourton on the Weston rail line. As the government inspector has directed North Somerset to include a great deal more new homes in its Core Strategy, we would support allocations along the rail corridor at Yatton, Nailsea and Backwell, Flax Bourton and Pill.

On the overall strategy we are very concerned that the current plan displays an over-emphasis on aerospace and related industries, which may well not remain as major employers in the Greater Bristol city region. At the same time there appears to be a lack of focus on tourism which is not only one of the largest employers but also likely to see growth in the coming decades.

Finally, the lack of a combined transport authority for the city region is a severe hindrance to the delivery of high quality public services and also to giving local projects the clout and authority they need in the face of

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competition from treasury-driven planning and national strategies. When projects are brought to completion, the lack of an ITA means that maintenance is not necessarily followed through. Bristol Bus Station, Bath Bus Station and Cribbs Causeway are all good examples, where the fracturing of responsibility means that information services, toilets and cafés tend to be discoordinated rather than integral to the running of the facility. In all of the transport planning for our region, the lack of a transport authority with real powers is probably the greatest barrier to delivery.

David Redgewell

South West Transport Network – Tel 07814 794953

Wellow Sports Project

Statement by Peter Downey Vice Chairman

Three years ago two extraordinary people Chris Wordsworth, former Wellow Youth Club organiser and Andy Smith, whose daughter played Tennis to a very high standard, determined that something should be done to create more sport in Wellow, which will be the first major Project in Wellow since the building of the Village Hall and purchase of the field 40 years ago.

Before you today is the proposal that has emerged, not just from them, but the team drawn from the people of the Village. We have a full sized football pitch, but no team has been able to be raised for the 19 years I lived there. It is used for the once a year Horticultural Show which will still be able to take place, and occasional scratch kick-about and the odd cricket match – odd because it is so un-level even I can get a decent leg break if I am bowling in the right direction.

A huge amount of work, Planning, Designing, Fundraising, Community exhibitions and consultations as well as a full Referendum that received 2/3rd support on a turnout greater than the General Election. The youngsters, too young to vote, were so determined they held their own vote! You will hear from one of them later

In your papers you will see the layout from an architect who then lived locally which provides for :

- 7 aside football pitch –In line with Somerset FA policy for villages - requires smoothing
- 2 Tennis Courts – Floodlit which includes a Netball layout on one.
- 2 Cricket Nets – we expect to feed Hinton Charterhouse CC
- Outdoor Gym
- Boules Park
- Speed Walk – Jogging track

These sports facilities will provide the opportunity for all ages, male and female, for those of us with grey hair or none to the youngsters at St Julian's Primary..

With considerable difficulty, not least with the LTA nearly 90% of the funding has been pledged or raised. Of the £23,000 still to be raised we are seeking the support of the Council for £15,000. When our Project is completed, we will be happy to share our experience with other communities who share with us the belief that fitness and sport are vital ingredients plus important in connecting communities in rural areas.

Our Chairman, who has driven this community project is next.....

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Endorsement of the programme

I am Andy Smith, Wellow Sports chairman, by background a chartered accountant, former Finance Director and resident of Wellow for just over 10 years.

We wanted to start our sporting mission with a sport that all ages, genres and abilities could play - tennis, in the right setting fitted that bill.

We spoke to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) who soon bought into our vision, particularly when we almost instantly met one of their key criteria of 200 paid subscribers.

But then why stop at tennis, the whole ground is a rutted slopping field hardly used. We listened to what people had to say and became excited by their enthusiasm. We could see why the FA suggested a smoothed 7 aside football pitch and now a football group has been formed that will be ready to play matches again after a 20 year absence. Others would rather go round the jogging track and visiting the outdoor gym to improve their health and fitness. Cricket is also popular with many parents taking their children to Hinton Charterhouse for matches, so the two lane cricket nets seemed an ideal place for them to practice. An organised boules tournament has already been a great success in the car park with Councilor Butters providing some financial support, it is now incorporated into the plan.

Plans were drawn up and consultation began with all interested village organisations being involved and the Parish Council chairman organising a full village consultation evening and subsequently a village referendum. With an amazing 79% turnout and nearly a 2/3rds majority the Parish Council agreed the plans.

A major fund raising activity commenced. Sport England's Inspired Facilities grant for £50,000 was a ringing endorsement, particularly

when they said it was one of the best grant applications they had come across throughout the country. Big Lottery soon followed with funding for the outdoor gym equipment.

With nearly a year lapsing the LTA funding were now proving more difficult to obtain, SE had heavily criticized them for declining participation. The LTA thus turned us down saying all grant funding had to be focused on inner cities. So convinced were we of the likely high participation levels, particularly by implementing the new key fob entry system, we returned to the LTA. The system empowers people to play without so much as a gatekeeper. At an annual cost of around £30 a household, playing numbers have quadrupled for the 20+ facilities using it. We will be the first two-court facility to operate the fob system and we are please to say the new LTA chief Executive has agreed to fund us for £30,000.

I'll hand you over to Parish Councilor Debbie Clarkson speaking on behalf of Parish Councilor Dr Heather Andrews and a St Julian's School Governor.

Wellow Sports presentation to B&NES' Cabinet on 10.09.2014 by Heather Andrews, read by Debbie Clarkson another Wellow Parish Councillor

I have been a Wellow Parish Councillor for nearly eight years and have recently become the Community Governor for St Julian's School Wellow. I am a recently retired hospital consultant.

All these positions temper my views on what is good for Wellow.

I have lived in Wellow for nine years and it is very apparent to me that the playing field is woefully underused. This was evidenced by a five day snapshot audit of playing field use which was undertaken to support Wellow Sports' successful planning application for the tennis / netball courts.

Presently the only 'organised' sporting activity in Wellow is horse riding. Very few parishioners avail themselves of this facility. Kicking a football about on the field is the only main stream sport available in Wellow and that is certainly not for girls and women.

Obesity is the major health problem in the developing world with its consequent epidemic of diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer. It is universally accepted that exercise has a major preventative effect. Wellow has taken on this challenge with this innovative sports project.

We are aiming to provide varied sporting activities for all sections of society whether young or old. Equally important is the 'social hub' aspect of this project. Loneliness is a major source of depression in the elderly. This site will allow facilities for conversation, tea and home-made cakes providing a much needed village facility. It must be remembered that older ladies don't feel comfortable going to the pub.

We are fortunate to have an excellent primary school in Wellow which draws pupils from the surrounding villages. It is designated OFSTED outstanding but the sports facilities are very limited. The school is hoping for the enhanced sporting facilities that this project will allow. This has the full support of the Head Mistress. There will be a safe walking passage between the school and the playing field.

Curo tell me that just over 20% of the housing units are classified as affordable. Every element of our balanced village community would benefit from enhanced sporting facilities. Presently senior school children attend eleven different schools and this project will allow them to get together and have fun through sporting activities.

We are determined to provide equal life chances for all children and young people in the village in a safe and healthy environment and importantly to enhance the lives of the elderly.

In short, **'Sport for All'**.

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My name is Chris Wordsworth and I'm a Chartered Surveyor and I also live in Wellow. This project was conceived to provide a wide range of sports to the under used village playing field so that there would be new activities available for everyone. At the moment we have to drive to sporting facilities in Bath or other places and young people have to be taken and fetched by car. The idea is to provide sport in the middle of the village on the designated sports field so that there is opportunity for all to enjoy sport more sustainably. Our new amenities will

include sports for women and senior citizens who up to now don't use the village playing field at all. The different sports we are providing comprise:

1. A smooth five and seven aside football pitch with replanted grass. At present the playing field has a very corrugated and uneven surface which is unsafe to play on and the work would involve a contractor ploughing up the field, smoothing out the undulations and reseeding it .
2. Surrounding the football pitch a jogging track approximately 200 m long which can be used particularly in the winter months when the lanes around Wellow are very muddy.
3. Two cricket nets with a concrete base and artificial grass so that they can be used throughout the year.
4. Two all-weather floodlit tennis courts built to Lawn Tennis Association standards. At a later date and subject to more fund raising there is an area where we wish to install a wooden pavilion next to the courts
5. One netball court which is located on one of the tennis courts with its own coloured lines
6. A court for boules or "pétanque" as it is called.
7. A range of outdoor gym equipment which will comprise approximately 8 different exercises.

As far as the implementation is concerned, because of my own construction experience, I'm well suited to looking after the delivery side of the project on behalf of the Parish. I have been liaising with the Lawn Tennis Association's chartered surveyor who also reports to Sport England. He will oversee the project throughout its delivery phase and also provide the important advice on health and safety issues. All the principal elements of work will be tendered to at least three contractors and there is a rigorous procedure to ensure best value is obtained on behalf of all grant funders. We are now working to a very tight timetable and need certainty now to enable the works to commence in early March.

I will now hand you over to my neighbour Ron Humphreys who has been in charge of the fundraising side of our project .

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Wellow Sports – speech to Cabinet by Ron Humphreys 10.09.2014

I'm Ron Humphreys and during my time as a member of the senior team at the University of Bath I've had the pleasure of working closely with the Council on issues relating to economic development and hosting the School Games, Olympic, Paralympic and Malaysian sports training camps.

Now retired, my role within Wellow Sports has been to raise funds to meet the overall requirement of £166,000. I am pleased to report that we now have pledges that amount to £143,000. This leaves us with a shortfall of £23,000.

The team before you this evening seeks your approval for the Council to award £15,000 to this outstanding project. Through local fundraising, we will meet the remaining balance of £8,000.

As you will have seen from the proposal circulated prior to this meeting, the breakdown of costs is as follows:

Two floodlit tennis courts plus netball court	126,000
Smoothing of playing field	10,500
Jogging track	7,500
Outdoor gym	10,000
Cricket nets	10,000
Boules court	2,000

Total	166,000

To meet these costs, we have secured pledges that will bring major investment into this area. For the tennis / netball courts we have awards from:

	£
Sport England 'Inspired Facilities' Fund	50,000
Lawn Tennis Association (LTA)	30,000
A major local Charitable Trust	25,000

For the outdoor gym equipment we have received £9,500 from Big Lottery 'Awards for All'

The cricket group have raised £10,000

We are extremely grateful to Cllr Neil Butters, Past Chairman for the £500 he contributed to the boules element

And from local fund raising we have £18,000 in our bank account ready to plug the funding gaps.

So that makes the total secured so far: £143,000

Since many of these offers are time limited, we need the Council to award £15,000 to guarantee that the project can proceed. It would represent the 'last brick' in the funding wall that would enable us to move from the planning and fundraising stage of the project to the execution phase. Site works to commence early 2015 with completion mid-year latest.

The reward for us all would be the satisfaction that we have created a new, healthy, active future for local residents, particularly our young people. Sibella is here to represent them.

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Statement Sibella Chauveau

My name is Sibella Chauveau, I am 13 years old and I live in Wellow.

I attended the village primary school there called St. Julian's. The school doesn't have the space for sports facilities for its students. I did not play a lot of sport there.

I am now at secondary, Hayesfield Girls School, where we have PE just once a week. School team sports are only for the better players and they happen after school which would mean committing my parents to driving back and forth to Bath and beyond.

I use the playing field in Wellow a little. There are a few boys I know who live next to the playing field and sometimes my sister and I play football with them. The game doesn't last that long because the field is too big, there are not enough players, the boys are competitive and they don't pass the ball a lot to us girls.

We played tennis with the same set of boys when my dad set up a mini tennis net last summer on the playing field. That was much more fun because our abilities were more evenly matched and there are no hard tackles on a tennis court.

There is a small play area next to the playing field which is fine for little children. I've only seen teenagers there drink and write rude words on the equipment.

Parents are always complaining that children spend too much time on computer games and social media but they are inexpensive and easily accessible. Sporting facilities should be just as easily available. I think this would encourage children to step away from electronic devices and into the outside world.

The world seems to be worried about our fitness levels but I don't see how that can improve until it is easier for us to be active and have fun. The 10-15 year olds in Wellow handed in a petition in support of putting sporting facilities on the playing field. I know the younger ones are also keen because when they saw us playing mini tennis they ran off to get their rackets.

Please help us with this. It would make a huge difference to our life because we would have more sport options that we could walk or cycle to and so we would play more often. It would help us become fitter young adults. It would also give us the chance to have actual experiences and conversations, instead of virtual ones, and not just with our own age group but with grown ups as well.

We appreciate your time in considering this. Thank you very much.

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Good Evening

This is the fourth time I have come to speak to you concerning my stall in the Guildhall Market.

I should like to thank Councillor Crossley for taking the time to meet with me and officers following my last statement here. I welcome the commitment he has made to the **setting up of a a proper and effective agreement between the two departments concerning the future management of the market**

However, this doesn't help to resolve my case. Despite Councillor Crossley's intervention, I have still had no communication from officers of either department.

Officers from the two departments have alleged, continuously over the last four years, that I have committed an offence under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. My stall does not alter or extend the building, neither does it affect its special architectural or historical character., both conditions that have to be met for listed building consent to be required.

Officers have had ample opportunity to prepare and bring either an enforcement action or a criminal prosecution against me. The fact they they have done neither is clear evidence that they know that any such action would fail. It would fail on the technical aspects of the law, and it would fail on the principles.

My stall is attractively built, and an asset to the market. If you compare its design to photographs and drawings of the Guildhall Market in the first few years after it was opened in 1863, you will see that it is clearly in sympathy with the original historic and architectural character.

Officers claim that there is now some special element of the historic and architectural character that is adversely affected by my stall, and my stall alone. **They have failed to bring any rational evidence to support their case, and they have refused to consider independent evidence, even refusing to allow such evidence to be entered on the recent listed building application file.**

What I should like to ask is that, by the end of this month, officers are instructed either to bring formal action against me, providing the evidence for their allegations, and in compliance with Council policy and central government guidance, or that they formally withdraw the allegations, and admit they do not, and never have had, any case against me.

In our meeting, Councillor Crossley, officers seemed to think that they had no duty to ensure fair and equal treatment. Fairness is a fundamental principle of English Law, laid down in the Magna Carta, but more recently in the Council's own Code of Conduct, its Local Enforcement Plan and in the Human Rights Act. Any action taken against me must also be taken in similar fashion against all those in similar circumstances, or good evidence provided as to why the cases are different..

Here again, officers will have a problem, as they have already ruled that other stalls similar to mine "cause no harm" and that enforcement action is neither expedient nor in the public interest. They can't have it both ways.

In conclusion then, I say to the Council and its officers it's time to put up or shut up. Either take action to prove that you are right or admit that you are wrong.

Thank you.

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Statement: Cllr Sally Davis, Chair, EYCY PDS Panel

I would like to start by thanking a number of people:

- the public who have engaged with the EYCY PDS Panel over the last 18 months & helped us focus on aspects which needed careful consideration,
- staff from both the Voluntary & Statutory services which allowed us to be fully aware of the work they were delivering,
- & finally Officers for their continual support providing information so that any recommendations we made we were aware of their impact.

The Cabinet were aware that changes to Early Years Funding covered a range of services not just Children's Centres & they now have to look at how a new model will ensure vulnerable children & their families needs are met across the board.

This is not the end for the EYCY PDS Panel as we expect to be consulted & kept informed of progress - as the Panel title suggests we will scrutinise decisions as they are made, ask questions & expect answers, part of our remit is to ensure that Early Years provision meets the needs of families & young people in a range of situations.

At the Early Years, Children and Youth Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on Monday 8th September 2014

The Panel agreed the following resolutions.

1. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel recognises the service needs to remove duplication and consolidate operations to make sure the service is efficient and all components dovetail appropriately.
2. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel notes the results of the consultation and recognises the work that has gone in to developing new models which seek to minimise the adverse impact of the budget reductions;
3. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel notes in particular the consultees' concerns about the loss of universal services delivered by the Children's Centres and requests a report back on how alternative ways of delivering universal groups without council funding is progressing, ahead of implementation of the new model;
4. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel supports the concept of the staff mutual and requests a further report on this as the business case develops;
5. The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel welcomes the recommendation for a further report on implementation of the new models in due course and will want that report to include evidence of the implementation of the mitigating actions and the impact that the remodelling has had for families.

Sally Davis, Chair EYCY PDS Panel.
10th September 2014

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Cabinet Single-Member Decisions and Responses to Recommendations from PDS Panels

published 11-Jul-14 to 2-Sep-14

Further details of each decision can be seen on the Council's Single-member Decision Register at <http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?&dm=3>

Date	Decision Maker
Reference	Title

07-Jul-14 Cllr Katie Hall

E2677 Naming of Streets in Keynsham Redevelopment Site

The Cabinet Member decided not to object. The decision was Called-in and the Cabinet Member made a replacement decision which was not to object.

14-Jul-14 Cllrs Paul Crossley, Tim Ball

E2665 Gypsy & Traveller Site (Lower Bristol Road)

The Cabinet Members agreed to enter into a partnership to deliver a site on the land; and approved spending of £1.8M already given provisional budget approval

23-Jul-14 Cllrs Tim Ball, Paul Crossley

E2648 Combe Hay Conservation Area Appraisal

The Cabinet Members agreed to adopt the Combe Hay Conservation Area Appraisal

23-Jul-14 Cllrs Paul Crossley, Tim Ball

E2675 Hinton Blewett Conservation Area Appraisal

The Cabinet Members agreed to adopt the Hinton Blewett Conservation Area Appraisal

06-Aug-14 Cllrs Paul Crossley, Ben Stevens

E2680 Bath Enterprise Area Innovation Quay Capital Approval

The Cabinet Members approved the Capital Items for Bath Quays North & Bath Quays South totalling £1.65M identified within the Councils Capital Programme

Date	Decision Maker
Reference	Title

17-Jul-14 Cllrs Paul Crossley, David Bellotti

E2685 (R16) Property Acquisition

The Cabinet Members agreed to the acquisition of the property by way of assignment

11-Aug-14 Cllrs Paul Crossley, David Dixon

E2686 Consultation Outcome For Radstock Library

The Cabinet members agreed that Library facilities will be re-located to new premises in the RADCO superstore and agreed the basis of operation

22-Aug-14 Cllr Caroline Roberts

E2671 Bath Outer Area TRO

The Cabinet member approved some aspects of the p[ro]posals but decided to amend or not to proceed with other aspects

22-Aug-14 Cllr David Bellotti

E2672 Purchase of Self Service Payment Kiosks

The Cabinet Member approved the commencement of this project within the 2014/15 capital programme

02-Sep-14 Cllrs Paul Crossley, David Bellotti

E2692 Policy loan of £500k in Wilmington Farm Solar Array

The Cabinet members agreed to approve the loan in principle, subject to due diligence

Cabinet 10 September 2014

Advice and Information Strategy

- Please give consideration to making use of the Town and Parish Councils as "information points" - particularly for "self-serve" information.
- Do bear in mind that members of the local communities are very accustomed to seeking information from their Local Councils and especially from the Clerks.
- There would, of course, be no cost to the Authority.

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Cabinet 10 September 2014

Economic Strategy

- The Town and Parish Councils Association re-iterates the strategic issue relating to broadband, as identified in the adopted Core Strategy at paragraph 5.12.
- The Association most strongly urges the early implementation of Economic Strategy Theme 12, which must scope the provision of reliable, high-speed, broadband to every home and business throughout the rural area.

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Statement Vicky Drew

Good evening. My name is Vicky Drew, I was the lead petitioner for the Children's Centre campaign and I'm North East Somerset Labour Party Secretary.

Protecting funding for intervention in the early years, the most crucial time of all – has been of great concern to myself and many other local campaigners. When a devastating £2.3 million cut to Children's Centres was announced by the Cabinet in Autumn 2013, we started a campaign to protect this service. Having been a councillor myself, I know the pressure that cuts from the Coalition Government in Westminster are placing on local services. Nonetheless, saving this service was our top priority.

After much hard work we convinced the Council that cutting Children's Centres was a false economy, and in January some of the reduction in funding was reversed. One million pounds of extra money for services that help families across the local authority was granted thanks to the determination of parents, staff and activists, working together for the public services we all value. I pay tribute to all those involved in the campaign. Without their determined action we would be talking about the Children's Centres we used to have. Instead we can seize the opportunity to develop exciting new forms of co-operative provision in Bath and North East Somerset.

But this is no time for complacency. A devastating sum of more than one and a half million pounds is still to be slashed from this budget. Nationally, the Coalition Government has shown scant regard for the contribution of Children's Centres to family life. Despite pledging to protect them, 628 Centres have closed since the General Election. Here in the South West, Cornwall has lost 22 of its 40. In Bristol six have closed. One round of cuts leads to another as it has in Swindon.

Each closure represents a blow for families in our region. The Council's own consultation revealed how worried people are about losing their Children's Centres and the universal services that go with them. People value the opportunity for them and their children to meet other families from their local area, and build networks of support and friendship.

Sticking-plaster solutions can't be a long term option. Radical change is needed to secure the services that families rely on or the programme of early intervention will fade away. This will increase costs in the long run as opportunities to solve problems for they occur are lost. Good early years services have effects long into the future.

A staff mutual in B&NES can be part of the answer. We should be proud that our Children's Centre staff are so committed that they want to run the service themselves. By allowing the staff to put together a business case under the Right to Provide guidelines, the Cabinet would show its commitment to families and equal opportunities for children no matter their background. I call on councillors to trust their professionals. Give them the time and resources to develop a new service provision and start a better future for children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset.

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