

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

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

Wednesday, 11th February, 2015

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 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

110 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair was taken by Councillor Paul Crossley, Leader of the Council.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

As a mark of respect to those who had lost their lives and to the injured and bereaved following the road tragedy in Weston, Bath, the Chair led a one-minute silence.

111 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

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

112 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillor David Bellotti, as a result of sickness. The Chair sent the best wishes of the meeting to Councillor Bellotti.

113 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

114 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

115 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 15 questions from Councillors and 1 question from the public.

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

116 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

The Chair welcomed Councillor Robin Moss (Chair, Economic and Community Development PDS Panel) to the meeting and asked him to introduce his Panel's recommendations relating to disability access to Keynsham Leisure Centre.

Councillor Moss in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 2 and on the Council's website*] explained that the Panel had been petitioned by residents about the issue. The Panel regretted that opportunities to resolve the issue had been missed in the past. He emphasised to Cabinet the shared responsibility to ensure disability access.

The Chair thanked Councillor Moss for his statement and promised to respond to the Panel's recommendations.

Jonathan Rich (Peasedown St John Parish Councillor) made a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 3 and on the Council's website*] relating to the Junction of A367 and Bath Road in Peasedown St John. He presented a petition of 1422 signatures asking for additional s.106 money to be allocated to the proposed budget so that urgent safety improvements could be made at the junction.

The Chair thanked Jonathan for his statement and assured him that the petition would inform the debate leading up to Budget council.

Lesley Mansell (Chair, Radstock TC) made a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 4 and on the Council's website*] supporting the petition presented by Jonathan Rich and reminded Cabinet that the recent Resources Panel had also recommended to Cabinet that road safety measures at the junction should be looked at.

The Chair thanked Lesley for her statement and confirmed that the issue would be addressed in the lead up to Budget council.

Gerald Chown in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 5 and on the Council's website*] asked for a 20mph speed limit for the whole of Widcombe Hill.

The Chair thanked Gerald for his statement and promised to respond to the petition as soon as possible.

Fiona Bell (Chair, The Volunteer Centre, Bath) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 6 and on the Council's website*] appealed to Cabinet to allocate additional funding support of £10K to enable the Volunteer Centre to continue to operate while it secures other funding sources.

The Chair thanked Fiona for her statement and promised to give urgent attention to her request.

[*Later in the meeting, Councillor Crossley indicated that the Cabinet would give consideration to provision of funds of £10K from the current year's budget to support the Volunteer Centre until it could secure other funding. This would avoid making any change to the proposed budget for the coming year.*]

Bleddyn Phillips (Trustee, Keynsham Dial-a-Ride) in a statement [*a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 7 and on the Council's website*] relating to Item 19 on the Agenda (Funding for Community Transport) asked that Cabinet review the

distribution of funds to correct a perceived inequity between the Keynsham and Norton Radstock Dial-a-Rides. He welcomed the Council's recognition of the part that community transport can play in the well-being agenda.

The Chair thanked Bleddyn for his statement and promised a detailed response as soon as possible.

Councillor Martin Veale in an *ad hoc* statement [a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 8 and on the Council's website] supported Fiona Bell's appeal to Cabinet to allocate additional funding support of £10K to enable it to continue while it secures other funding sources.

117 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 3rd December 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

118 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

119 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

The Chair welcomed Councillor John Bull (Chair, Resources PDS Panel) to the meeting. He said that Councillor Bull would address Cabinet immediately before the Budget item to introduce his Panel's Budget recommendations.

120 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

Councillor David Dixon took the opportunity to remind Cabinet of some of the decisions he had taken in the recent period. He was particularly pleased that he had been able to initiate a 3-month consultation on whether to introduce a Public Space Protection Order to address the issue of amplified buskers in parts of the city. The final decision on whether to introduce the PSPO would be taken by the incoming administration. He had also been delighted to agree capital expenditure of £250K for renovation works in Sydney Gardens. To ensure the funds were used effectively, there would be a public consultation, including discussions with the Sydney Gardens Steering Group.

Councillor Caroline Roberts took the opportunity to highlight the safety improvements she had been able to introduce; in particular a number of 20mph zones across both the city and rural area. She was also very pleased that the Lansdown Road School Safety Project was being implemented and that local children would soon have a new crossing point on their journey to school.

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

121 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING REPORT TO 31ST DECEMBER 2014

Councillor Paul Crossley introduced the item and referred to the Council's sound financial management. He paid tribute to the Council's Finance team.

He moved the proposals.

Councillor David Dixon seconded the proposal. He too thanked the Council's Finance team for their excellent work.

Councillor Ben Stevens drew attention to the prudent decision, taken when the administration came into office, to pay down £50M of existing high-interest debt.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To NOTE the Treasury Management Report to 31st December 2014, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice; and

(2) To NOTE the Treasury Management Indicators to 31st December 2014.

122 REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS – APRIL TO DECEMBER 2014

Councillor Eleanor Jackson referred to paragraph 2.11 of Appendix 1 of the report, relating to the Norton Radstock Infrastructure which she said was 3 weeks behind schedule. She referred to paragraph 2.14 relating to Radstock Regeneration and thanked the Cabinet particularly for the new roofs at Writhlington School and at Radstock Methodist Church.

Councillor Paul Crossley in moving the item referred to paragraph 5.3 of the report which indicated an underspend of 0.35% of the entire budget for the year. This amounted to £1.638M.

Councillor David Dixon seconded the proposal. He referred to the small overspend on the Parks budget and expressed his gratitude to the Friends of the Parks. He expressed his delight to see the Civic Centre in Keynsham and had been particularly impressed by the new Library there. He listed a number of other projects which he had been pleased to see completed, including the Café in Victoria Park, which he hoped would sell fajitas, among other things. He had also overseen the successful toilet improvement programme which had been widely welcomed in the community.

Councillor Caroline Roberts said that as ward member, she had been most impressed by the rowing club shower and toilet block. This would encourage a new generation of young rowers, particularly girls. As Cabinet Member for Transport, she welcomed the delivery of the Bath Transport Package schemes. She felt that particular thanks should go to Kelvin Packer and his colleagues who had delivered the Kelston road repairs in such a timely way.

Councillor Tim Ball thanked Councillor Roberts for the Traffic Calming in his ward, and for the delivery of the Gypsy and Travellers Site in his ward.

Councillor Simon Allen said the Radstock Regeneration had been a great success. Although he regretted the 3-week delay over the pavements referred to by Councillor Jackson, he assured her that she would be delighted once they were completed.

Councillor Paul Crossley in summing up said that the Odd Down Sports Centre had been a great achievement for the Council

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor David Dixon, 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 this year's revenue budget position detailed in the report;

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

(4) To APPROVE the revenue virements listed in the report; and

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

123 BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2015/16 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Councillor Charles Gerrish in an *ad hoc* statement said that his Group would have a number of amendments which would be put to Full Council; but he had been advised by Officers that none of the proposals was substantial. He did however wish to raise one issue which had been discussed at Resources Panel, relating to the list of further potential community asset transfers in appendix 5 of the report. He asked that The Paddock, Keynsham, be added to the list.

Wera Hobhouse in an *ad hoc* statement congratulated the Cabinet for proposing a Council Tax freeze for another year. She was confident that householders would appreciate this. She was pleased to see the road between Peasedown St John and Wellow included in the budget. She thanked Cabinet for indicating that attention would be given to safety on the A367 at Peasedown.

David Redgewell in an *ad hoc* statement raised 3 issues. He asked the Cabinet to ensure that the devolution clause would be included in the Metro West agreement; that Cabinet would give attention to cleaning in Bath city centre; and that the issue of support for cross-boundary bus services be resolved with North Somerset Council.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson in an *ad hoc* statement apologised that there had been no formal statement from the Housing and Major Projects PDS Panel. The Panel however had asked that no further cuts should be made to support staff for PDS Panels. She complimented the Cabinet on the probity of the budget proposals but was alarmed at the proposed £1.3M cuts to Children's Services and the effect on Children's Centres. She felt that over all, Midsomer Norton was getting a fair deal from the proposals but asked why Radstock was not getting new Town Council offices.

Councillor Jeremy Sparks in an *ad hoc* statement reminded Cabinet that the need for road safety measures in Clutton had become even more urgent since the start of the new development of 45 houses.

Sally Bailey, a volunteer youth worker in the area and a member of St Nicholas PCC, referred to the planned 5-hour parking limit in Radstock and asked that this be reduced to 2 hours so as to encourage local shoppers. She presented a petition of 133 signatures.

The Chair said that the petition would be given prompt consideration and would be fed into the consultation process about the proposals.

The Chair asked Councillor John Bull (Chair, Resources PDS Panel) to introduce his Panel's Budget recommendations. Councillor Bull referred to the Notes from the recent meeting, copies of which had been placed in the public gallery before the meeting [and a copy of which is attached to the Minutes as Appendix 9 and on the Council's website]. He said that the Panel's main recommendation was for the inclusion of a safety scheme for the A367 at Peasedown and said that he had already been encouraged by what he had heard earlier in the meeting.

Councillor Bull then spoke as Leader of the Labour Group. He said he shared the disappointment expressed by Councillor Jackson about the future of Children's Centres. He warmly welcomed however the budget proposal to pay staff the Living Wage.

Councillor Paul Crossley moved the proposals. He assured Councillor Gerrish that The Paddock would be added to the list of potential community asset transfers before the proposals came to Council. He confirmed that the A367 safety issue was being looked at very closely and a number of fully costed options would be considered. He asked David Redgewell to send details of the Devon and Cornwall Franchise; promised to address the issue of gull bins; and assured him of the strong commitment of the Cabinet to cross-border bus services.

Councillor Crossley referred to Councillor Jackson's point about Children's Services and observed that the Council had needed to target the scarce resources to meet the most pressing needs. He agreed with Councillor Jackson that Midsomer Norton would get a fair deal from the proposals but said that the aim had been to make fair provision across the entire authority.

He agreed with Councillor Sparks that road safety measures at Clutton were now more urgent as a result of the new housing and promised to ensure that the £30K required for this would be included in the budget going to Council.

He responded to Councillor Bull's comments about Paulton Junior School by saying that the budget analysis of the scheme had not been completed but it seemed that the increased proposals were for 6 classrooms which he was not convinced was viable.

Councillor Crossley reminded the Cabinet that they had delivered £30M of budget cuts without any serious impact on services, apart from Children's Centres which would move to a new targeted model of delivery rather than universal. They had delivered a compliant Core Strategy; had protected the services to vulnerable people and public protection; had delivered 4 balanced budgets and had retained healthy reserves; and had repaid £50M of previously existing high-interest debt. He listed a number of achievements of the administration, including the Co-Worker Hub; the enterprise Area; Victoria Bridge emergency repairs; had brought the Victoria Hall back into use; delivery of One-Stop Shops; locally generated renewables; moving to full implementation of the Living Wage plus 3p; the Better Care Plan; Somerset Rates Pool (partnership working); Bath City riverside; the Midsomer Norton Business Centre; and had been throughout a listening Council. His proudest achievement was the success of the connecting Families project. He regretted that the Council had not achieved more on Community Asset Transfers but said that the next Council would be able to move ahead faster as a result of the ground work already done.

Councillor Crossley emphasised that the budget being proposed was built on sound finances and contained no banana skins for the next administration and commended it to Cabinet.

Councillor David Dixon seconded the proposal. He felt that the sound budget was based on healthy income streams, particularly from the Museum Service and the Property portfolio. He was delighted that the Council would be able to introduce the Living Wage. He looked forward to the continuation of the tour and cycling events and to the £15M investment in Leisure Centres which had been made possible by this administration and would be delivered by the next. He felt that the administration would leave a superb legacy for the area. He reminded Cabinet that the next administration would need to look at the renewal of the Recycling Centre.

Councillor Ben Stevens said that the good financial situation was a credit to the Council's Finance officers. Against a backdrop of funding cuts, the Council had maintained public services and he congratulated Councillor David Bellotti and his officers for this. He agreed with Councillor Dixon that in the light of continuing funding cuts, the Council's income streams must be maintained in order to protect the Council's budget and to ensure the future prosperity of the area.

Councillor Caroline Roberts referred to the £6M road maintenance programme. She was delighted that it was proposed to put in an extra £1M for cycling and walking schemes. She observed that the proposals before Cabinet contained more details than had previously been the case, and said that she welcomed the debate this had encouraged.

Councillor Tim Ball referred to the £7.9M provision for new homes grants. He referred to Appendix 6 of the report, which showed the Council's commitment to supporting vulnerable people.

Councillor Simon Allen said the budget was putting money where it mattered. There was a close working relationship with the NHS, which was critical to improving local health. The Better Care Fund was an example of this partnership and as a result, those with support needs had more funds available to meet their needs.

Councillor Dine Romero emphasised that no Children's Centres were being closed, despite the very tight funding position, although it was necessary to target resources where most needed.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council approve:

- a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2015/16 of £119.914m with no increase in Council Tax;
- b) That no Special Expenses be charged other than Town and Parish Council precepts for 2015/16;
- c) The adequacy of reserves at Appendix 1 Table 8 with a risk-assessed level of £10.5m;
- d) The individual service cash limits for 2015/16 summarised at Appendix 1 Table 4 and detailed in Annex 1;
- e) That the specific arrangements for the governance and release of reserves, including invest to save proposals, be delegated to the Council's Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Resources and the Chief Executive;

(2) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council include in its Council Tax setting, the precepts set and approved by other bodies including the local precepts of Town Councils, Parish Councils and the Charter Trustees of the City of Bath, and those of the Fire and Police Authorities;

(3) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council notes the Section 151 officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves and approves the conditions upon which the recommendations are made as set out throughout Appendix 1;

(4) To RECOMMEND to Council that in relation to the capital budget the Council:

a) approves a capital programme of £57.537m for 2015/16 and notes items for provisional approval in 2015/16 and the programme for 2016/17 to 2019/20 as shown at Appendix 1, Annex 3 including the planned sources of funding;

b) delegates implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 3i to Annex 3iv to the relevant Strategic Director in Consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member;

c) approves all other delegations as set out in the budget report;

d) approves the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy as shown at Appendix 1, Annex 4;

e) approves the Capital Prudential Indicators as set out in the report;

(5) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council agree the Council's proposed pay policy statement, including the provision in respect of minimum pay rates in 2015/16 as set out in the report delegating implementation arrangements to the Employment Committee where appropriate;

(6) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council increases the "think local" financial limit to provide local businesses with the opportunity to obtain contracts up to £50,000 (increased from the current £25,000);

(7) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council notes the approach to Community Assets as set out in the report;

(8) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council notes the approach to tackling poverty as set out in the report; and

(9) To AUTHORISE the Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Resources, to make any necessary changes and presentational improvements to the draft budget proposal for submission to Council.

124 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2015/16

Councillor Paul Crossley said that the papers were self-explanatory and he moved the recommendations.

Councillor David Dixon seconded the proposal.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously)

- (1) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council approves the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement;
- (2) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council approves the Investment Strategy;
- (3) To RECOMMEND to Council that the Council approves the changes to the authorised lending lists;
- (4) To NOTE the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in the report; and
- (5) To DELEGATE authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 17th February 2015 to the Chief Finance Officer & Divisional Director – Business Support and Cabinet Member for Community Resources, in light of any changes to the recommended budget as set out in the Budget Report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

125 GATEWAY CENTRE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Councillor Dine Romero briefly introduced the item and moved the proposals.

Councillor Simon Allen seconded the proposals which he felt showed the Council's commitment to working closely with community groups.

Councillor David Dixon said the discussion around community venues was long-standing. He had known the Riverside Youth Centre, off London Road, since his youth and spoke highly of the service it had delivered. He asked for an assurance that not one element of the Youth Centre would be lost in the move.

Councillor Romero assured Councillor Dixon that the proposals did not denigrate the service provided at Riverside over a number of years.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously)

- (1) To ASK the Strategic Director (People) to explore a possible cooperation agreement with the Snow Hill Gateway Trust; and
- (2) To ASK the Strategic Director (People) to consult community groups in the Snow Hill/London Road area about interest in developing a community venue.

126 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY APPROVAL & PLANNING OBLIGATIONS SPD

[The Chair referred to the update documents which had been published as a supplementary agenda despatch and on the Council's public website, and copies of which had been placed in the public gallery before the meeting.]

Wera Hobhouse in an *ad hoc* statement welcomed the fact that 15-25% of the proceeds from the levy would be returned to the local community. She emphasised the need to ensure that these funds would be used in their entirety to improving infrastructure.

Councillor Tim Ball, in introducing the item, acknowledged the excellent work done, against tight deadlines, by Kaoru Jacques, Simon deBeer and the team. He outlined briefly the 3 changes to the charging schedule requested by the Inspector and shown in the update report. He said that Cabinet fully accepted the Inspector's recommendations and that as a result he would be moving an amended

recommendation. In addition, the papers presented to Full Council would include the Inspector's amendments.

He moved the amended proposals.

Councillor Ben Stevens seconded the proposal, saying he was delighted to see that the proposals were for a 0% levy on office space.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To RECOMMEND to Full Council that:

(a) the B&NES Community Infrastructure Levy (Attachment 1 from the update report) along with modifications made by the Examiner, is approved with a commencement date of 6th April 2015;

(b) the CIL charging schedule is kept under review and any proposed adjustments to the charging schedules are reported to Cabinet before 6th April 2017 for recommendation if appropriate to Council; and

(c) responsibility is delegated to the Divisional Director for Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning, to make any minor amendments and to correct any errors to the documentation.

(2) To ADOPT the revised Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (Attachment 3), to become effective alongside CIL on 6th April 2015;

(3) To ADOPT the Regulation 123 Statement (Attachment 2 from the update report);

(4) To DELEGATE authority to the Divisional Director for Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning, to:

(i) give notice that 'Discretionary Exceptional Circumstances Relief', 'Payment in Kind' and 'Infrastructure Payments' will be made available in the District

(ii) implement a payment instalment policy as set out in the report

(iii) finalise the commuted sum formula for off-site affordable housing contributions

(iv) make any minor amendments and to correct any errors to the documentation.

(5) To DELEGATE authority to the Divisional Director for Development, in conjunction with Cabinet Member for Homes and Planning, to amend the Regulation 123 List in the event that any current planning applications fail to be concluded until after 6th April in order to ensure the timely provision of the necessary infrastructure and that there is no overlap between CIL charges and Section 106 contributions.

127 ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY 2014-2019

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones in an *ad hoc* statement observed that young men drinking too much were putting themselves in great danger. He asked whether the strategy could mention this.

Councillor Simon Allen introduced the item. He agreed with Councillor Anketell-Jones about the dangers of young men drinking too much and confirmed that the Public Health teams were working closely with the Universities on this issue. He was aware that alcohol abuse was costing £45M per year. He was pleased that the strategy was making such good progress. The key was to provide education to those who were drinking just above the recommended levels. He explained that systematic screening, single point of access and support for detox were all in place.

He moved the proposals.

Councillor Dine Romero seconded the proposal. She told Cabinet that alcohol education was being delivered in schools.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To ADOPT the Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset (2014–2019);

(2) To AGREE the key priorities.

128 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT 2015-16

Councillor Caroline Roberts introduced the item. She referred to paragraph 5.3 which showed that journeys were up 5.9% and the cost per passenger mile had fallen. She assured Bleddyn Phillips that his points would be considered by the Divisional Director who was being given delegated authority to make some changes to the funding during the year if appropriate.

She moved the proposals.

Councillor Paul Crossley seconded the proposal. He very much appreciated the volunteer drivers who kept the service going.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously)

(1) To APPROVE the funding proposals, subject to decision of the Council on the budget for 2015-16.

(2) To DELEGATE authority to the Divisional Director for Environmental Services to reallocate funds, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, from approved projects that become unviable owing to the level of funding allocated or to a change in circumstances of the applicant group, should such situations arise during the year.

129 HERITAGE SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN 2015-2020 AND MUSEUM FORWARD PLANS

Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones in an *ad hoc* statement referred to paragraphs 5.9 and 5.10 of the report which showed that the Saver Ticket and Discovery Card schemes would both be extended to include the Victoria Art Gallery. He felt this was excellent news and congratulated the Cabinet for taking this step.

Councillor Ben Stevens moved the proposals. He gave his thanks to the Heritage Team for their achievements. He mentioned the risks inherent in any Heritage Service which at any time might be disrupted by events outside of the control of the Council. These were laid out in the report.

Councillor David Dixon was delighted to second the proposal. He had known as a boy the special privilege of living in a city with such a heritage. He still felt it was so. He was excited that the archway project would open up a new education centre for

the roman Baths, from which young people would walk through a Roman tunnel under the road, to appear in the Baths themselves. He was confident that this would catch the imagination of young people.

Councillor Paul Crossley said that the heritage of the area was tremendous. He was aware of the risks, laid out in the report. He agreed with Councillor Anketell-Jones that the extension of the Saver and Discovery Cards to include the Victoria Art Gallery was good news and he was delighted about this.

On a motion from Councillor Ben Stevens, seconded by Councillor David Dixon, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

- (1) To APPROVE the Heritage Services Business Plan 2015-2020;
- (2) To APPROVE the Roman Baths Museum Forward Plan;
- (3) To APPROVE the Victoria Art Gallery Museum Forward Plan;
- (4) To APPROVE the Museum Documentation Policy
- (5) To APPROVE the Care and Collections Policy;
- (6) To NOTE that the February 2015 Council Budget Report recommends that both the £1m capital budget for East Baths Development, to be delivered in 2015/16 and 2016/17, and the £100k capital budget for Roman Baths infrastructure works to be delivered in 2015/16, be fully approved;
- (7) To NOTE the proposed capital project to commence the refurbishment of the Roman Baths site and its Retail outlets in 2019/20 at a cost of £1.15 Million, for consideration as part of the 2016/17 budget process.
- (8) To NOTE that the February 2015 Council Budget Report approves the re-phasing of the £100k capital budget for the Retail module of the Visitor Management System from 2014/15 to 2015/16.
- (9) To NOTE that the February 2014 Council budget included the development of the Archway Centre as an emerging capital project for which a Council contribution of £650-750k should be sufficient to satisfy the Heritage Lottery Fund
- (10) To CONFIRM that Cabinet wishes Heritage Services to continue to work to the business principles agreed by the Council Executive in 2004 as amended.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

CABINET MEETING 11th February 2015

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

- Jonathan Rich (Resident, Peasedown-St-John)
Re: Petition - Junction of A367 and Bath Road in Peasedown St John
- Lesley Mansell (Chair, Radstock TC)
Re: Junction of A367 and Bath Road in Peasedown St John
- Gerald Chown
Re: A 20mph Limit for the whole of Widcombe Hill
- Fiona Bell (Chair of Trustees, The Volunteer Centre, Bath and Beyond)
Re: Volunteering in B&NES

Re: Agenda Item 19 (Funding for Community Transport)

- Bleddyn Phillips (Trustee, Keynsham Dial-a-Ride)

Statements from Chairs of PDS Panels

- Cllr John Bull (Chair, Resources PDS Panel)
Re: Council Budget. *Cllr Bull will speak at the Budget Item on the agenda*
- Cllr Robin Moss (Chair, Economic and Community Development PDS Panel)
Re: Disability access to Keynsham Leisure Centre

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

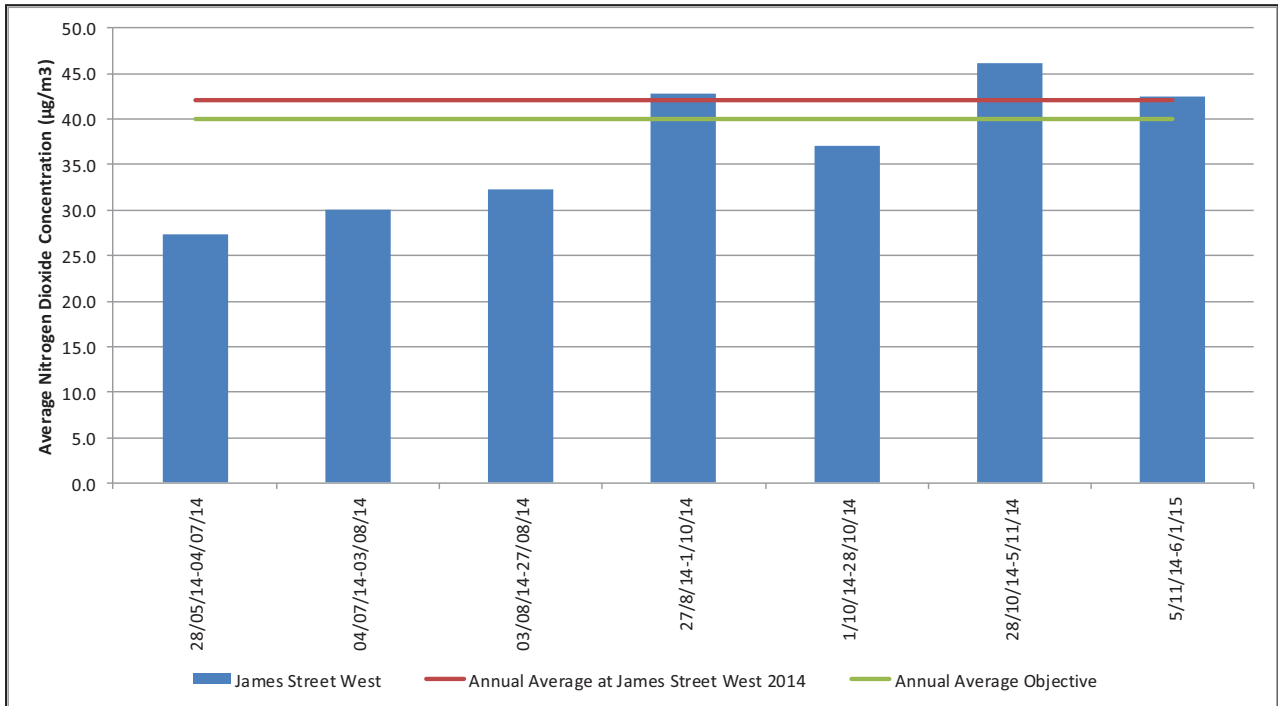
M 01	Question from:	Councillor Andy Furse
<p>Bath city centre air quality</p> <p>In view of proposals from DEFRA to change the obligations placed upon local authorities, can the cabinet member confirm that B&NES will;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work towards reducing sources of PM2.5 2. Continue to monitor PM10 3. Continue to monitor NO2 <p>That overall, the council will undertake measures to improve air quality across the city and tackle sources of pollution, and target improvements at air quality black spots. Kingsmead residents living within the city centre are concerned that during busy periods air quality is noticeably worse, recently citing the Christmas market in particular. Therefore, can the cabinet member confirm;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. the status of air quality monitoring in and around Kingsmead car park, and 5. provide outline results for this area from July to December 2014. 6. Indicate how circulating traffic at such busy times will be reduced. 		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Yes we are working towards reducing PM2.5 (particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers). Actions identified within the Bath Air Quality Action Plan will also reduce both PM10 and PM2.5.</i> 2. <i>Yes we will continue to monitor PM10 at both Windsor Bridge and Chelsea House (London Road Enclosure) sites.</i> 3. <i>Yes we will continue to monitor NO2 at 4 sites where we have continuous analysers and by using diffusion tubes. The Council is currently working on measures within the Bath Air Quality Action Plan. This plan will be reviewed once the Keynsham and Saltford Action Plans have been consulted upon and adopted later this year.</i> 4. <i>The closest monitor to Kingsmead Car Park is a diffusion tube located on James Street West. Monitoring has been carried out at this location since 2009.</i> 5. <i>The monitoring results from James Street West in 2014 show an annual average of 42 µg/m3. This is consistent with previous years. The bar chart (below) shows this information.</i> 6. <i>The Bath Transportation Package has put in place a set of variable message signs within the city and on the main approaches which will direct drivers to the most appropriate parking site, either P&R or off-street parking within the city centre. These signs are linked to newly installed counters at these sites which monitor availability of parking spaces. This should allow drivers to be directed to available parking spaces and minimise those who might otherwise driver around searching for a parking space.</i> 		
Supplementary Question:		
Has the Cabinet considered what measures would be necessary to mitigate the		

situation if the high levels of pollution to be encountered?

Answer from:

Councillor David Dixon

We are well off any of the triggers. If we were to encounter such a situation we would not hesitate to take action to address the situation, such as removing all pollution vehicles from the roads for a period of time.



M 02

Question from:

Councillor Eleanor Jackson

What is being done about the subsidence of the Bristol Road at Radstock between numbers 52 and 98?

Answer from:

Councillor Caroline Roberts

The highway in Bristol Road is regularly monitored. If the conditions meet the intervention levels then remedial work is ordered. In view of the member's concerns Officers will check the road and inform Cllr Jackson of their findings.

Supplementary Question:

The officer has confirmed to me that there is subsidence. Please halt the sale of the land which contains supporting trees and shrubs.

Answer from:

Councillor Caroline Roberts

Anything which becomes a danger will be given priority.

M 03	Question from:	Councillor Geoff Ward
<p>Whilst I welcome and commend that the budget has been found to invest in waste bins at a number of our rural road lay-by sites, is the Member for Neighbourhoods aware many lay-bys remain in a deplorable state with long term scattered waste trapped in undergrowth and in some cases spawning a none to healthy population of rats? What actions does the Member propose to take to reduce such these populations and prevent re-infestation? Are you able to reassure me that you understand the importance of our World Heritage setting and the fact that these lay-bys are possibly the first impression our road journeying visitors might get of our City and at the moment its likely to be an objectionable and unfavourable one?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>The Cleansing Service is reviewing schedules for the rural lay-bys to see if it is possible to increase the frequency of cleansing within existing budget. Our pest control service will attend to any infestations reported. Litter picking on A road verges with no footways and speed limits above 30 mph is clearly a very hazardous operation, and can only be carried out safely with the correct traffic management systems. The Cleansing Service is working with highway contractors to see if lane closures can be scheduled in more routinely and to take advantage of lane closures already programmed in. Where work can be completed without specialist help, then this will be done. The cleanliness of the whole district is of importance to our residents and visitors alike. We urge anyone with specific concerns about the cleanliness of a public highway to be reported to Council Connect on 01225 394041 or councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk</i></p>		
Supplementary Question:		
<p>Given the state of the verges and lay-bys, especially on the A46 in my ward, where there is evidence of colonies of rats, when will the review be undertaken?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>We are not aware of any evidence of rat colonies. I can assure him that the team is actively looking at this. We agree with him that we want the area to be clean and beautiful.</i></p>		

M 04	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
<p>How much was the total cost of creating of the cycle land which runs alongside the A4 dual carriageway from the Globe Roundabout to the Twerton Fork?</p>		

Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts
<i>The total cost of the shared path was £180k. This included providing drop crossings. I am aware that there is a need to complete some remedial work to the verge and officers are in discussions with the contractor to agree appropriate dates for these works.</i>	

M 05	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
What is the total cost of creating the new Toucan Crossing on the A4 by the Globe Roundabout, including the cost of moving the bus stop?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>The total estimated cost for the works including bus stop improvements is £309k. The project is funded from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund grant.</i>		

M 06	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
What was the total cost of installing the traffic calming build-out on the B3355 in Paulton towards Midsomer Norton, and does the Council now intend on removing this traffic calming measure?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>The total cost including all materials and electrical work is £10k. Officers have agreed with Ward Councillors and the Parish Council to jointly review the feature upon receipt of the Stage 3 Road Safety Audit. This is in accordance with good design and construction practice.</i>		

M 07	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
Will the new build-out on the Lower Bristol Road near the Twerton Fork make the access/egress to the traveller site compliant in highway terms, and are the lost parking spaces being replaced?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>The scheme has been designed and is being constructed in accordance with highway standards. The Council's highways contractor is delivering the works. There is no loss of official parking spaces. However, the new layout effectively displaces</i>		

approximately 7 car lengths of parking to further along the Lower Bristol Road.

M 08	Question from:	Councillor Vic Pritchard
When will the Cabinet Member take a decision regarding the Ford signs in Stowey which the Parish Council and PT&E PD&S Panel recommended, on a cross-party basis, be removed?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>Officers have expressed further concerns about prospect of changing the signage in view of the Coroner's comments and the fact that water levels can rise quickly in this rapid response catchment. As a result, I have asked officers to seek further independent specialist advice and consult the Environment Agency before I make a decision on this matter.</i>		

M 09	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether any Government or other external funding has been committed to allow an East of Bath Park & Rail to be constructed?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>We would not expect to receive any commitment from Government Agencies to the construction of this project until the completion of the outline business case which is currently in preparation. However we are actively involving the Highways Agency, Network Rail, DfT and the West of England LEP in this work and will submit our bid for funding in due course.</i>		
Supplementary Question:		
What then would be a realistic timescale?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>If the budget is approved, we would then have to wait for the government to confirm funding.</i>		

M 10	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
Can the Cabinet Member confirm the completion dates for the Rossiter Road work,		

London Road work, and Newbridge Park & Ride extension?	
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts
<i>Rossiter Road and London Road schemes are scheduled to complete by the end of April 2015. The works on the Newbridge P&R extension should complete by the end of March 2015. Some essential maintenance work within the Newbridge site will take place once the extension works are completed.</i>	

M 11	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the preparatory works for the provision of the pedestrian crossing (or crossings) outside the three schools in Larkhall have commenced, as voted for at the full Council last month?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>Engineers were appointed immediately following the decision by full Council. Officers and the engineers have already met to scope the scheme and commence design work.</i>		

M 12	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
What conversations has the Cabinet Member, and/or her officers, with the Highways Authority relating to road safety issues on their trunk roads within Bath & North East Somerset, especially the A36 south of the Avon, where it runs through residential areas?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>The Council's officers have a good working relationship with the Highways Agency (HA) and meet quarterly to discuss programmes of work. No conversations are currently taking place regarding road safety concerns. If the member would provide details of the concerns these will be raised with the HA.</i>		
<i>The A36 trunk road falls within the remit of the Highways Agency and is subject to an entirely separate government funding arrangement and bidding process with the DfT for road safety schemes.</i>		
Supplementary Question:		
Given the safety issues on both the north and south sides of the river, is the Cabinet member contemplating at least informal discussions with the Highway Agency?		
Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts	
<i>We do already meet regularly with the HA, as I stated in my answer, and have a very good relationship with them.</i>		

M 13	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>Has the Cabinet Member been informed of the monitoring of the effects of the Dorchester Street Bus Gate experiment and when does the Cabinet Member anticipate taking a decision over the future of this Bus Gate?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The impact of removing the bus gate cannot be assessed until Rossiter road works are complete and traffic patterns return to normal flows. The results of the enforcement during the trial have been reported to the PDS Panel. No decision will be taken on this matter until a suitable alternative arrangement for westbound traffic is found and fully evaluated by officers.</i></p>		

M 14	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>Can the Cabinet Member provide details of the full cost of the Kelston Road works following the landslip last year?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The final account has not been received yet as ground reinstatement work in Kelston park is ongoing. At present it expected that the project costs will be within the revised scheme budget, reported to and agreed by Members.</i></p>		

M 15	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>Is the Cabinet Member aware that there is mounting concern about the standard of resurfacing within the authority and in particular the apparent failure of the contractor to revisit completed works to rectify any outstanding problems and can she say how many of these visits are now outstanding, particularly in excess of one month, and if so what is being done to address this?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>This year the Council's officers has delivered a multi – million pound programme of resurfacing and surface treatments, as well as delivering the resurfacing funded from The DfT's winter damage fund . Only one surfacing site requires remedial work and officers are working with the contractor to agree the dates for remedial work. Although there is no issue with quality of work, there a small number of sites where parked vehicles prevented the completion of the micro asphalt programme. The contractor works across the whole of the UK and is scheduled to revisit these sites with officers in February and agree a programme to complete any missed work.</i></p>		

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01	Question from:	Vicky Drew
<p>In light of recent feedback I've received in Lambridge Ward from the isolated residents on the Gloucester Road and Swainswick Gardens, could the cabinet please open a dialogue with First Bus and other local transport providers (Wessex), with a view to increasing what is an extremely sparse and inaccessible bus service. Residents with mobility problems, disabilities and many who are elderly have a 0.5 mile walk to the nearest shops - and similar to a stop opposite the Lambridge rugby ground for a regular bus service.</p> <p>The one bus that passes the Gloucester Road within walking distance of the Curo owned bungalows and flats, is timetabled in such a way that a resident would need to spend a minimum of 4 hours waiting for a return bus from the supermarket or the city centre.</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>Bus service 79 runs along Gloucester Road en route between Marshfield and Bath. It is operated by Wessex under contract to South Gloucestershire Council. The service consists of a morning peak bus into Bath on Mondays to Fridays and two journeys back from Bath in the afternoon peak. In addition, there is a mid-morning bus and lunchtime bus to Bath on Fridays with a return journey at midday. On Saturdays, there is an afternoon bus to and from Bath. The daytime buses give users the choice of 1 hour 40 minutes or 3 hours 20 minutes in Bath on Fridays and 2 hours 50 minutes in Bath on Saturdays. The full timetable is available at www.travelinesw.com</i></p> <p><i>South Gloucestershire Council has recently advised us that it is reviewing several bus services, including the 79, and is carrying out a consultation at the moment. We will consider the issues and respond in due course.</i></p> <p><i>The Gloucester Road area is within reasonable walking distance of the frequent bus services that operate along London Road to the south and along St Saviours Road to the west. For elderly residents and those with disabilities, Bath Dial-a-Ride provides a door-to-door service on Mondays to Fridays between 0930 and 1430. This service is operated by the Council's in-house fleet with fully accessible vehicles.</i></p> <p><i>Any local bus operator is free to register a service along Gloucester Road if they wish to and I would welcome any such commercial initiative. In the absence of any such initiative on the part of bus operators and the pressure on the Council's revenue budget, I regret I am unable to commit funding for a new supported bus service at present. However, I have asked officers to review this matter in future if other sources of funding – such as developer contributions – become available.</i></p>		

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Statement to Cabinet 11 Feb 2015

Robin Moss, chair, economic & community development scrutiny & policy development panel

- Economic & Community Development scrutiny & policy development panel ('panel') has been petitioned by residents of Keynsham concerning the difficulty of disability access to swimming pool in the Leisure Centre on a number of occasions over the last 3 years. While it is not within the remit of panel to be involved in decision making, the obligation to provide accessible services is a shared corporate responsibility.
- Specifically the issue is not one of access within the 'front door' of the leisure centre, but is about people being able to park within a reasonable & accessible distance of the entrance.
- Panel is aware that the general redevelopment of that part of the centre of Keynsham, as well as the potential redevelopment of the leisure centre specifically, has made the management of the leisure centre problematic as well as making short term planning difficult. Panel is also aware of the financial constraints on local government. However panel is also acutely aware of B&NES's duty under Equalities legislation to ensure that services are accessible to people with a disability.
- There has been a history of correspondence & meetings over the last few years, with various outcomes, agreements & disagreements. However, as the development of the central area & associated parking has progressed & the physical setting has changed, opportunities to resolve this issue have arisen but have been missed.
- Panel visited Keynsham in order to see for themselves how the situation appeared 'on the ground'. The conclusion drawn was that while there were clearly difficulties & challenges for Leisure centre management, these appeared to be far from insurmountable or unaffordable, particularly an option to access the reception level of the Leisure centre via the recently refurbished & reconfigured car park to the rear.
- Panel feels it has been disappointing that the focus appears to have been on what problems exist as barriers to our corporate obligation to access rather than the more proactive approach of problem solving.
- Panel wishes to emphasise the shared responsibility to ensure disability access to Cabinet. Panel also believes this is more than simply a legal obligation.

This is NOT an insoluble problem. It is disappointing that some appear to view it as such.

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A367/Bath Road Junction south of Peasedown St John

Cllr Jonathan Rich, Peasedown St John Parish Council.

I wish to raise with you the A367/Bath Road Junction south of Peasedown St John

You would have heard at the full council meeting a few weeks ago of another serious accident at the junction on the evening of Friday 9th January, Cllr Lesley Mansell, chair of Radstock Town Council and myself, contacted B&NES officers, and have also written to the cabinet member for transport, calling on the council to take immediate action to prevent further accidents which repeatedly occur at this junction.

In 2008 David Wilson Homes submitted a planning application to built 95 houses in Wellow Lane. As a part of their application they submitted an independent traffic report which stated that this junction was already **over capacity**, and that major improvements were necessary irrespective to whether this development went ahead or not. Detailed in this report were two proposals and plans to improve this junction. One being traffic Lights the other a roundabout. That was in 2008, since then, the Wellow lane development has been completed & the houses are now occupied. In the S106 agreement there was £91k earmarked for highway improvements including a sum for this junction. I understand that there is also other S106 money from previous developments which also made a financial contribution to this junction which may not have been spent.

But now is 2015 nearly 7 years on and very little has been done to resolve or improve this dangerous junction.

With developments under construction in Radstock & others planned for Midsomer Norton, Westfield and Peasedown; the traffic volumes using this stretch of highway will continue to raise.

There have been too many accidents over the years and now is the time for this junction to be looked at as a matter of urgency before there is a really serious incident. We have asked officers and highways engineers to undertake an urgent review of the junction and assess what is the best solution to improve safety there.

I welcome the recommendation of Resources Scrutiny panel which meet on Monday night.

I am therefore requesting that in addition to the S106 money, additional funding is allocated and to include this as a project for priority funding in the 2015/16 budget; insuring that the necessary and urgent safety improvements are implemented sooner rather than later.

I to take this opportunity to present to the Council a petition signed by residents and users of the A367; calling upon Bath & North East Somerset Council to implement the urgent safety improvements as a priority as mentioned in my statement. This petition has 1422 signatures.

Thank you.

Thank you to Cllr Crossley for just announcing that Cabinet will look to include something in the next budget. It is great news.

I have been helping Jonathan Rich collect signatures on the petition calling for improved safety measures at the junction of the Bath Road and the A367 at Peasedown St John. We collected almost twice the number as the previous petition. The strength of feeling has been very clearly shown as many local people have expressed their grave concerns and all want to avoid a serious tragedy.

I maintain it is not just an issue for people in Peasedown St John it is also important for everyone who uses the A367, some on a daily basis, to get to and from Bath and all points between.

I attended the B&NES Resources Scrutiny panel on Monday night and it was most pleasing to hear the panel make a recommendation to ask that road safety measures be looked at. I would like to thank Cllr Gerrish for this proposal.

Since the panel meeting I have been informed that £10K will be incorporated into the current Capital Programme to fund feasibility, design and produce costings for further consideration. Officers will also maximise funding in the Section 106 deposit. This is also very good news indeed and a huge step forward.

But I am asking all councillors to support the allocation of funding and, most important to ensure this is a high priority.

The speed limit was reduced but this did not stop the serious accident on 9th January. It also does not help cars and buses who try to turn out of the village onto the main road and the many minor bumps that happen.

The costs I've found relate to 2011.

Highways Agency suggests that the cost for each person seriously injured in a road accident is £189,000.00 (2011 figures). "Serious" is defined as where casualties need an overnight hospital stay.

Now my researches show that roundabouts cost anything from £10,000 – 210,000 to construct. Please note these are not exact costs but give an indication.

If one accident classified as serious costs around £190,000 per person, then surely one roundabout at around £210,000 would represent significant savings to the emergency services, especially the hard pressed NHS and to individual drivers, pedestrians and their families and friends. Not to mention the immeasurable and traumatic cost when a tragedy happens.

The fact remains the cost of accidents far outweigh the amount required to install safety measures at this junction.

At the end of the day we pay the price to clear up accidents through local and national taxes as we will also have to pay for the safety improvements. I know which I would rather have and almost 1400 residents are agreed that something needs to be done, whatever that is, and sooner rather than later.

I urge all Cllrs to give this full consideration, ensure that relevant funding is allocated, that appropriate safety measures are installed and that this is given a high priority.

Thank you.

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A 20mph LIMIT FOR THE WHOLE OF WIDCOMBE HILL

When we heard a year ago that the Council was proposing to introduce a 20mph limit in the Widcombe/Bathwick area, but that Widcombe Hill could have been excluded from this, I and two other local residents submitted a Petition to Council on 10 April 2013, asking for the whole of Widcombe Hill to be included in the new lower limit. This is because Widcombe Hill is steep and narrow in many places, has a number of semi blind side road accesses, and is heavily used by cyclists and walkers going to and from the University. There have been many accidents of varying seriousness, over the years, due to excess speed.

Our Petition was signed by 71 residents, representing 87.5% of the homes on, or with access to the Hill.

We were delighted when the original draft scheme, published in 2014, included the whole of Widcombe Hill in the new limit.

However after the Scheme went out for statutory consultation, I heard from my local Councillor, Ian Gilchrist, that the Council Traffic Officer had reported to him that the Police had raised objections, because they questioned the likelihood of compliance without additional engineering measures.

The residents would love to see additional speed reducing engineering measures but I was told that there is no money for these in this year's budget. I subsequently met Councillor Caroline Roberts for a very helpful discussion. I argued that if it is not possible to introduce additional engineering measures, the Residents strongly felt that the implementation of a 20mph limit on the Hill would persuade the majority of drivers to reduce their speeds, thereby reducing the risk of accidents

On 4 September 2014, I heard from Caroline that she had decided to include the whole of Widcombe Hill in the new limit and that if traffic calming was necessary, this would be included in future budget planning.

So, you can understand our disappointment, when Caroline wrote to me on 8 December 2014 to say that she had taken Officer advice and had agreed to implement a separate Order for Widcombe Hill. The reason for this being that mean speeds on the Hill are too high to implement the speed limit without physical measures and the Police and others may object, This, she said, may jeopardise the implementation for the whole of the Widcombe/Bathwick area.

On 13 January 2015, I spoke to Dave Sheppard of Avon and Somerset Police. He explained that their position was that where speed checks indicated that compliance to a 20mph limit would be questionable, they normally recommended additional engineering measures. I specifically asked him if the Police would have objected to the current RTO for Widcombe/Bathwick if the whole of Widcombe Hill had been included. His reply was that, although they might make recommendations, the Police did not see it to be their role to object to the introduction of a 20mph limit if the Local Authority and the local community want one.

This being the case, my plea is that a separate Order covering the whole of Widcombe Hill is issued without delay. This will have the added benefit of simplifying the signing in the Widcombe Hill area and therefore will save cost for the Council.

Why is this now not possible please?

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Gerald Chown 1 Macaulay Buildings, Widcombe, Bath BA2 6AS



Statement to Council Cabinet - 11th Feb. 2015

“The importance of keeping a Volunteer Centre in Bath & NE Somerset”

The Volunteer Centre will close in the second quarter of this year without financial help.

I represent the board of Trustees for this community charity. We cannot continue without sufficient funds. So I am here to raise your awareness of our situation and ask for your partnership support to secure our future.

Who we are and what we do

We give a “matchmaking” service for volunteers, charities and businesses to guide potential volunteers to the best volunteering opportunities and we help businesses to work on charity projects with their employees. Our charity’s cause is the whole community and the ‘frontline’ charities within it.

Last year, our volunteers gave over £1,000,000 worth of time to voluntary organisations for a running cost of about £60,000. We employ just 2 remarkable people, who are highly regarded and often consulted for advice by Council officials, individuals and companies. Our manager, Mike Plows, was recognised with a special Chairman’s award at the recent Community Awards.

Behind Bath & NE Somerset’s vibrant volunteering community is the Volunteer Centre.

The benefits we bring to the Council and community

We have found volunteers for

- the Roman Baths, the Victoria Art Gallery and Mayor's Corps of Guides,
- the Library service, 86 people, from the home library for the housebound to the volunteer-run Paulton library,
- the Friends of our various parks - 80 last year in Alexandra Park alone.

These and many other volunteers have made a real contribution to the Council's efficiency and have helped to keep expenditure down. In the wider community, we have sourced many more volunteers for our 350 local charities.

We support the charitable work of socially responsible businesses – including the 33 "Community Challenge" projects we organised last summer.

Why we need funds from the Council

Our operating costs are £5,000/month. In the last few years we have been operating on reserves, sporadic grants and small fees from businesses. The Council has supported us, mainly indirectly via a sub-contract - due to end next month. Even if it continues, we still need to find £3,500 every month.

The board of trustees was refreshed last autumn and we have been working hard to raise funds to keep the Centre going.

Our recent bid for core funding from the St John's Hospital Fund was praised for its quality, but lost out to front-line charities. A promised central government support fund has been postponed by the Treasury.

“What would life be like without us?” Charities, businesses and the Council would need to spend more time, resource and money on finding volunteers. The professional “vetting” we do to ensure the best fit of volunteer with opportunity would be difficult or not happen at all.

Two years ago in Plymouth the Volunteer Centre was closed for lack of funds. The impact on the council and community was so bad it is now being re-established with council funding. Re-building the knowledge and expertise is proving expensive – we want to avoid that here.

Our community needs the Volunteer Centre service. We need 9 months to bring our funding plans to fruition. Our funds will run out in 4 months.

What we are doing and what we need

A profile raising campaign has been started with the balloon launch in the autumn and bold plans for the AGM Meeting, bringing food-related charities together. The revenue from our new membership scheme is already more than the national average for VCs.

We need £60,000 each year to operate - we are not asking you for all of this. In fact our long term aim is to rely less on Council funding.

Encouraged by recent meetings with MPs and community stakeholders, we are optimistic of success with other grants and initiatives, including potential matched funding with Council support.

So we are asking for partnership support in two ways.

Firstly financially, to 'tide us over' while we secure other sources of funding and plan how to deliver the best volunteering service in 2016 and beyond. The Institute for Volunteering reported the average local government contribution to volunteer centres was £30,000 or £2,500/month. With the Council providing half of what we need for this year, we believe we can raise the rest. Finding a way to increase your contribution by £10,000 would enable us to do this.

Receiving it, we would want to report back to you in the Autumn.

Secondly with venues.

You already support us with office and Helpdesk space in the library. Using other Council venues for Trustee Network and other fundraising meetings free of charge would enable us to generate income.

Both these investments would be vital and responsible for our community. They would not only keep our support of your objectives but also deliver the Council vision of wanting "citizens who actively engage" and endorse your value of being a Council "that empowers communities".

The Volunteer Centre was established 27 years ago. We are making Bath and North East Somerset an even better place to live, work and visit. We want to carry on with this important work and live beyond our 28th birthday, so please help us.

Thank you

Fiona Bell

Chair of Trustees, Volunteer Centre, Bath and NE Somerset

Keynsham and District Dial a Ride Funding.

Bleddyn Phillips

There is a perception that Keynsham and District dial a ride is an urban based charity which covers Keynsham and Saltford. In actual fact the "DISTRICT" covers a large rural area which stretches from Compton Dando to Marksbury, Timsbury, Publow, Pensford, Whitchurch village (within BNES boundary) Saltford, Corston, Newton Saint Loe as well as Keynsham itself.

Looking at a map of BNES, it is evident that we cater for a large rural area within BNES; it could be argued that it is the largest. We have proof of active membership in all rural villages we serve.

Currently we have over 1200 members, provide a service between 8am and 6pm, (to align with surgery times) 5 days a week; with additional trips at weekends when there is demand and a monthly pub lunch on Sunday. This service is provided by 1 manager, 1 administrator, 3 paid drivers and 7 volunteers. All our vehicles, except one are between 12 and 16 years old and as you would expect, incur increasing maintenance costs year on year to comply with maintenance and statutory regulations. As a result, providing this level of service is becoming unsustainable.

As can be seen in Appendix 2 funding application Table 1 Keynsham and District receives an average of £2.93 per passenger while Midsomer Norton Radstock receives £6.32, has less than half the members and provides a more limited service.

Therefore I respectfully request that the transport committee and those of you who represent the constituents of the rural areas covered by Keynsham and District dial a ride, review the apparent inequitable distribution of subsidy (which I understand is based on historical information) and is certainly not relevant to the current services being provided today.

Given the Dept of Health and Social Care Act 2012, I am encouraged that role community transport can play in the well being agenda, has been recognised by BNES. Using the Department of Health cost of social care programme Keynsham and District returns £15.36 for every £1 invested by BNES. However that is something for future development.

The question before you this evening is that the in-balance of funding needs to be addressed here and now. An approach towards a more level playing field would be a good start.

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As you have heard, the Volunteer Centre is a Community Charity that directly affects what we as a Council do, within the Bath and North East Somerset area. It fits in perfectly with the aspirations of this Coalition Government and the ethos of this administration....it provides a vital service for the Council and community, matching volunteers with the charities that need them.

Only a few weeks ago, as Chairman of this Council, I recognised the huge amount of work done by significant numbers of volunteers throughout our region not least of which was Special Award Winner - Mike Plows, the Manager of the Centre. He is only one of two paid employees at the centre. Unexpected but estimated numbers indicated - in excess of 300 people tuned up on that awards night.

It is well known that our officers consult with the Centre on a regular basis proving that the service they offer..... is needed, is relevant and necessary. As a council we are facing cuts in all directions but I would ask this Administration, in its final days, not to make volunteering a political ball to be batted back and forth but to see that the relatively small amount of money required to stabilise them over the the next 9 months is crucial.

The previous funding sources have stopped for the coming year and other 'promised' funding alternatives have not been realised. I would ask that you find the £10k needed to bolster the charity's finance until they report back to the Council in the Autumn of this year. The trustee team has been refreshed and bolstered but need time to develop a revised funding strategy, they are requesting the Council to further help in backing them... to tide them over. They are ready, willing and able to explore all creative alternatives to preserve this vital service for the community into 2016 and beyond.

27 years of experience, growth and results should not be allowed to atrophy by default....

I support the work that the Volunteer Centre does both as Chairman of this Council and personally. I believe we should work with this group to help the service survive and beyond, to thrive into the future."

Cllr. Martin Veal

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BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

RESOURCES POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday, 9th February, 2015

Present:- Councillors John Bull (Chair), Colin Barrett, Paul Myers, Charles Gerrish, Barry Macrae and Nigel Roberts

Also in attendance: Councillors Paul Crossley and Eleanor Jackson

NOTES from BUDGET ITEM

BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2015/16 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Tim Richens, Divisional Director Business Support, introduced the report. Panel members considered the comments from the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels made in the November meetings on the medium term plans. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Crossley (in place of Councillor David Bellotti, Cabinet Member for Community Resources) introduced the budget.

Panel members asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Macrae asked some questions about the PDS comments, Andrew Pate – Strategic Director for Resources, explained that no recommendations had come forward from these meetings to suggest a change in the budget and that the Cabinet member had taken these comments into account when setting the budget. He added that there are no outstanding issues arising from these comments. Councillor Macrae stated that he did not feel the comments useful in his consideration of the budget. There was some discussion around the rise in cost of entry to the Roman Baths, Councillor Gerrish suggested that this did not sit well with the surplus in Heritage Services.

Councillor Jackson (Chair of Housing and Major Projects PDS Panel) reported that her Panel had not made any formal recommendations but asked that the Panel's comments on the waterways and parking in the context of regeneration be noted. Regarding the budget papers presented by the Council Leader, Councillor Macrae asked about 'deprivation of liberty safeguards'. Jane Shayler (Divisional Director Adult Care, Health and Housing Strategy and Commissioning) explained that this meant keeping an individual in a place of safety against their will. She explained that a recent judgement had affected how the legislation is applied and the Council now has responsibility to undertake 'best interest assessments'. She reported that costs have doubled as a result of the judgement and assured the Panel that arrangements are in place. Councillor Macrae asked about the costs resulting from the Care Act and Welfare Support Team – he asked if officers were not aware of these things coming up half way through the year and expressed concerns that attempts to be prudent are overridden by these examples. Councillor Bull pointed to Appendix 2 which sets out how the shortfall is being made up. Tim Richens talked through Appendix 2. Councillor Crossley explained that the Care Act came into place in 2014 when budgets had been set and staff had done very well to cope.

Councillor Gerrish asked a number of factual questions on the budget papers which were addressed by officers. He raised the following points which Louise Fradd (Strategic Director – Place) said that she would follow up and report back on:

- Why is money being spent on a highways scheme in Sally in the Woods when similar work was carried out there recently (Appendix 1, Annex 3 – Highways Maintenance Programme);
- Ashton Way Car Park (page 74) - why are we paying for resurfacing work when contractors could also contribute.

Councillor John Bull stated that he welcomed the inclusion of an equivalent living wage in the budget. He also asked about the progress of the Governor's enhanced version (page 37) of the plan for Paulton Junior School. Tim Richens stated that he would find out and get back to Councillor Bull.

Councillor Macrae asked about the nature of the 'Equalities Work' in Kingsmead Square (page 74). David Trethewey (Divisional Director Strategy and Performance) explained that this would be work to make facilities more accessible or disabled parking spaces and was carried out by the Property Services so he could not give full details. Paul Crossley explained that 'Equalities Work' covers a variety of works and he would seek to get more details on this. He explained that this information used to be presented as a global figure and that there is more transparency in the figures now. Councillor Macrae indicated that this was a positive move. Councillor Colin Barrett was advised to speak to a property officer regarding the proposed work in Weston (page 74)

Councillor Macrae referred to pages 67/68 'Highways Maintenance Programme' and stated that he felt the work carried out in the City compared to Midsomer Norton was not balanced. The Chairman advised him that the schemes are decided on criteria in the Highways Department and that he is free to propose amendments to the budget. Councillor Gerrish stated that Highways decisions are clearer now.

Councillor Gerrish referred to page 92 'Further Potential Community Asset Transfers' and asked that the 'Paddock' in Keynsham be added. It was agreed that he would speak to the Strategic Director before this could be added to the list.

Councillor Macrae asked if cycle schemes and 20mph limits are the Cabinet's priority. Councillor Crossley answered that his administration is convinced that slower traffic promotes safety.

The Chairman thanked all those present for their contributions and informed the Panel that he would take their comments to the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday 11th February.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the comments from the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels from their consideration of the medium term plans at the November meetings;
(Councillor Macrae stated that he did not feel the PDS comments paper was useful in his consideration of the budget)
2. Note comments from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Crossley (in place of Councillor David Bellotti, Cabinet Member for Community Resources);
3. Highlight the following issues for the Cabinet to give further consideration to:
 - Ask the Cabinet to look at working up a scheme to improve the safety of the junction of the A367 and Bath Road at Peasedown St John using 106 monies
(Voting: 5 members for, 0 against and 1 abstention)