

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CABINET

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

Wednesday, 31st October, 2018

Present:

Councillor Tim Warren	Leader of the Council and Conservative Group Leader
Councillor Charles Gerrish	Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency, Conservative Deputy Group Leader North East Somerset
Councillor Vic Pritchard	Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Paul Myers	Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Regeneration
Councillor Karen Warrington	Cabinet Member for Transformation and Customer Services
Councillor Paul May	Cabinet member for Children and Young People
Councillor Bob Goodman	Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods
Councillor Mark Shelford	Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, Conservative Deputy Group Leader Bath

30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

31 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Senior Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the evacuation procedure as set out in the Agenda.

32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

34 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was none.

The Chair used this opportunity to announce that the Council was running an event called Young Stars Award. The Chair invited residents of Bath and North East Somerset to visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/ouryoungstars and nominate a child or young person who they feel has achieved something special, however big or small, which they feel deserves recognition.

The Chair also informed the meeting that item 20 (Aequus Shareholder approval of development business case proposal) would be deferred for next week. The Cabinet would be expected to make a decision on this item on 8th November 2018. The Group Leaders would be briefed on 6th November 2018.

35 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

There were 21 questions from Councillors and 10 questions from members of the public.

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

36 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS

Luke John Emmett made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes and available on the Council's website]* where he expressed his concerns on closure of the Arts Development Department, and the impact this might have to the cultural and financial economy of Bath and North East Somerset.

Caroline Ambrose made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes and available on the Council's website]* where she asked the Cabinet to clarify where, when and how Bath's public library services would be provided from January 2019.

Gerard Cooke made a statement as a Vice Chair of the Bristol and West branch of Equity (a union of more than 43,000 performers and creative practitioners). Gerard Cooke said that Equity has condemned phased closure of Arts Development Department. The closure would have severe negative impact for people who depend on public arts grants and especially on those who work in the industry. Gerard Cooke also said that the Council has failed to recognise the importance of arts in local economy and urged the Cabinet to reconsider closure of Arts Development Department. Gerard Cooke ended his statement by saying that it was vital to recognise that £1 invested in arts would bring between £2 and £7 back to the economy.

Councillor Dine Romero read a statement on behalf of Councillor Tim Ball where he expressed his concerns on the School Transport provision *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes and available on the Council's website]*.

Councillor Richard Samuel made a statement where he said that the Council was at a key point in its development of the policy towards the improvement of air quality. The consultation on Clean Air Zone would close in few weeks and the Cabinet would make the decision not long after that by taking into consideration residents' comments. Councillor Samuel congratulated the Council staff that was involved in

this work and highlighted that traffic displacement would occur, which would need to be resolved, and effective bus service requirements would need to be established. Also, there was a need for WECA Mayor to get involved and for the Council to ask central Government for a proper funding for this project, and under no circumstances allow central Government to collect 10% from the charges for vehicles entering the Clean Air Zone.

Councillor Dine Romero made a statement where she expressed her concerns on the closure of Arts Development Department. Councillor Romero said that these cuts were short sighted with consequences to the residents. Councillor Romero also said that a significant number of people can currently access schemes run by the Arts Development Department, and that its closure would also have a negative impact on visitors to the city.

37 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

38 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET

There were none.

39 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES

There were none.

40 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

41 WESTFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ron Hopkins (Vice Chairman Westfield Parish Council) read out the statement where he thanked Council officers for their support in preparing the Westfield Neighbourhood Development Plan over the last 3.5 years. Ron Hopkins also said that Westfield Parish Council was grateful for the Plan, especially as Westfield was one of the youngest Parishes in the country. Ron Hopkins invited the Council to continue to support Westfield in its development.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson, as Westfield Ward Member, also welcomed and thanked the officers and all of those involved in the Westfield Neighbourhood Development Plan. Councillor Jackson also thanked all volunteers who gave their time in organising events in Westfield. Councillor Jackson concluded her statement by saying that benefits of the Plan were already in the report, though the main benefit would be in creating community identity, in particular merging old community with the new.

Councillor Bob Goodman introduced the report by saying that he was pleased to bring this Plan for adoption. There had been a lot of time and effort put into creation of this plan which was one of the 7 already adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans, with 9 more Plans in waiting. Councillor Goodman also said that it would be important for community to have their say on this matter, and it would improve close working between the Parish Council and its residents.

Councillor Goodman concluded his comments by thanking everyone who was involved in creation of this Plan.

Councillor Bob Goodman moved the recommendations.

Councillor Karen Warrington seconded the motion by saying that the Plan would focus on the local community and how they want to develop the area. Councillor Warrington also thanked to all those involved in the process.

Councillor Vic Pritchard also welcomed the Plan by appreciating the amount of effort from all those involved in the production of the Plan. Councillor Pritchard also said that by having a Neighbourhood Development Plan, residents would be able to dismiss any attempts from new developers to persuade the community in approving their proposals.

Councillor Paul May congratulated the Ron Hopkins, Councillor Jackson and Westfield Parish Council on their part in bringing the Plan together which would be great credit to Westfield.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to make and bring into force the Westfield Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Development Plan for the Westfield Neighbourhood Area, in accordance with Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Housing and Planning Act 2016).

42 BANES NEW LOCAL PLAN OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Councillor Dine Romero made an ad-hoc statement where she expressed concerns by Saltford residents in terms of any proposals on the Green Belt area around Keynsham and Saltford. Councillor Romero also said that the Green Belt makes a significant contribution to residents and visitors. Councillor Romero asked the Cabinet to give an assurance that they would stand against developments in the Green Belt.

Councillor Paul Crossley made an ad-hoc statement where he said that setting a Local Plan that would suit everyone was never an easy task. Councillor Crossley also said that rents in Bath were so high that the term 'affordable' has become nonsensical. There was a need for a strategy that could be communicated with the locals MPs about changes required in the law that would meet the needs of our people. Councillor Crossley expressed his concerns on growing number of short terms rents in Bath; lack of social housing and the impact of new developments on the Green Belt.

Councillor Bob Goodman introduced the report.

The Council was reviewing its planning policy framework to ensure it was up-to-date

and responded to the key issues that the area was facing. The consultation document was a discussion document and sets out options. The results of the consultation would be used to inform the draft plan due to be published in 2019.

Key issues in the document;

- Options for greater controls over new student accommodation, with a greater emphasis on focussing new university related developments at the campuses.
- Relocation of Bath's Household Reuse and Recycling facility.
- Expansion and mix of uses of the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone.
- The introduction of new restrictions on the location of fast food takeaways to prevent them from opening near schools and youth facilities.
- A review of parking standards and provision for electric vehicles infrastructure.

The Local Plan must also reflect the requirements in the Joint Strategic Plan, such as:

- Rolling forward the District's housing requirements to 2036
- Set out more details on the new Garden Communities at North Keynsham (1,400 new homes) and South East of Whitchurch (1,600 homes). This would create exemplar, high quality communities to provide new affordable homes, jobs and infrastructure, eg the new Keynsham Link Road; Keynsham Station improvements and bus service improvements will help to relieve existing congestion and improve air quality.
- New housing sites, including affordable housing, in other towns and villages

Cabinet would also consider a report on Strategic Transport Options to ensure that new growth is properly aligned with necessary infrastructure.

The consultation would run from 12th November 2018 to 21st December 2018 and there would be exhibitions in Bath, Keynsham,, the Somer Valley and Whitchurch.

Councillor Bob Goodman moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tim Warren seconded the motion by thanking the officers and Members who had worked on the report. Councillor Warren agreed with comments from Councillors Romero and Crossley on the importance of the Green Belt and on the negative impact of short term rental homes. Councillor Warren concluded his statement by saying that we need houses for the residents of Bath and North East Somerset and again highlighted the importance of the Green Belt, in particular around the Keynsham area which would need to stay separated from Bristol.

Councillor Paul May commented that he was pleased that all parties had the same view in terms of the Green Belt importance and preservation, and congratulated the officers on producing the report.

Councillor Charles Gerrish said that he was also pleased that all parties had the same view in protecting the Green Belt though the Council had a duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities as part of the West of England Combined Authority. Councillor Gerrish highlighted the importance of the link road to Northern Keynsham development which would not only improve access to the development but also significantly reduce traffic from Keynsham centre. Councillor Gerrish also said that new estates would need to consider car owners' habits to park cars outside their

houses, and for that reason should consider building wider roads to avoid traffic congestions. Councillor Gerrish concluded his statement by inviting the public to engage in the consultation.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet:

- (1) Agreed the Local Plan Options consultation document for public engagement from 12th November to 21st December 2018;
- (2) Delegated authority to the Director, Development and Public Protection, to make minor changes to the document for clarification and accuracy prior to publication.

43 JOINT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

Councillor Richard Samuel made an ad-hoc statement where he said that the Joint Community Safety Plan lacked visible targets on how the crime would be reduced in Bath and North East Somerset. Councillor Samuel also said that he had huge respect for Council officers and Police, who were doing their best to reduce the crime, though that would seem to be difficult task down to reduced funding from the central Government. Councillor Samuel felt that Avon and Somerset Police, and Local Authority, have not considered in detail potential implications on increased crime in the area. Councillor Samuel concluded his statement by saying that the Plan has had some good areas of work though he had no confidence that much would be achieved in terms of crime reduction.

Councillor Dine Romero made an ad-hoc statement where she also felt a lack of confidence that the Plan would achieve much in terms of the crime reduction in the area. Councillor Romero mentioned a campaign by the Liberal Democrats Group to open a Police station in Bath, which would not only be used by the Police but also for joined up working between different agencies. Councillor Romero asked the Cabinet if they felt that there should be more substance in the Plan.

Councillor Bob Goodman introduced the report by saying that he has chaired the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG), which meets quarterly with a number of agencies involved, and that RAG have achieved progress in some areas. The Avon and Somerset Police have worked closely with the Council on production of the Joint Community Safety Plan which had three main themes: protect the most vulnerable from harm; strengthen local communities for improved outcomes; and, continue active work with the Avon and Somerset Police. The Plan as such was a magnificent milestone as it was the first document of that kind since 2012. Councillor Goodman also said that there was comparable low crime rate in Bath and North East Somerset area although he was concerned with an upturn in drug dealing. Councillor Goodman expressed his concern that the Police and Crime Commissioner funding would last until year 2020 though the Plan was set until year 2021, which could present a risk in the future. Councillor Goodman concluded his introduction by thanking Samantha Jones for her hard work on putting the Plan together.

Councillor Bob Goodman moved the recommendations.

Councillor Mark Shelford seconded the motion by saying that this was an important paper which has received a support from the Police. Councillor Shelford also said

that he would welcome Police presence on the streets and not just by having a Police station. Councillor Shelford welcomed that Police have been using bodycams when dealing with the perpetrators.

Councillor Paul May also welcomed the Plan and praised the joint working between the Youth Offending Team and the Police. Councillor May stressed importance of joined up work with other agencies in terms of crime reduction.

Councillor Vic Pritchard commented that crime figures for Bath and North East Somerset were lower than anywhere else in the country, and highlighted the importance of working together with other agencies on bringing the crime figures down.

Councillor Charles Gerrish commented that the Police were resolving the anti-social behaviour in Keynsham. Councillor Gerrish also said that victims of the crime should be involved by working with relevant agencies. Councillor Gerrish concluded his statement by saying that quite often some issues get inflated by social media.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed the Joint Plan and recommend it to full Council for adoption.

44 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2018/19 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT (MID-YEAR UPDATE)

Councillor Charles Gerrish introduced the report by saying that the Prudential Code and CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires regular monitoring and reporting of Treasury Management activities. This report has outlined details of performance against the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Plan 2018/19 for the first six months of 2018/19. The average rate of investment return for the first six months of 2018/19 was 0.63%, which was 0.14% above the benchmark rate. The Council's external borrowing as at 30th September 2018 totalled £182.8 million. A short term loan for £2.5 million matured during the quarter and new long term PWLB annuity borrowing for £10 million was arranged during the quarter to maintain appropriate cash flow balances. The Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as at 31st March 2018 was £247.1 million with a projected total of £434 million by the end of 2018/19 from self-investment and re-phasing of capital programmes. The current revenue forecast was for an underspend of £495k, mainly related to external interest savings from re-phasing of capital spend.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendations.

Councillor Paul May seconded the motion by praising Councillor Gerrish and the relevant officers for their work.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed that:

- 1) The Treasury Management Report to 30th September 2018, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice, is noted;
- 2) The Treasury Management Indicators to 30th September 2018 are noted.

45 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Councillor Richard Samuel made an ad-hoc statement saying that over the last 3 years there were further cuts central Government funding to Local Government. Overall, there was £16bn of cuts to Local Governments across the country, and those cuts have had significant negative impact on Local Authorities such as Bath and North East Somerset. There were no real solutions on how this problem would be resolved yet there were more cuts to arts services, waste services, youth services, public services, etc. Councillor Samuel concluded his statement by expressing concern on further unprecedented cuts to the Council.

Councillor Joe Rayment made an ad-hoc statement where he held responsible central Government administrations for the cuts over the last 8 years. Councillor Rayment also said that the austerity was not over, despite what the Chancellor has said in his speech, and further cuts would cause reduction in more services provided by the Council. Councillor Rayment concluded his statement by saying that he saw proposals by the Council to lobby the central Government to get funding from other places, though this would not be enough to help the current and future situation.

Councillor Paul Crossley made an ad-hoc statement where he said that cuts in funding to Local Government were performed over decades and not just over the last 8 years.

Councillor Charles Gerrish introduced the report by saying that Local Government had suffered cuts in funding from different administrations. This strategy spans five years although there was only certainty of the level of Government funding for next year at present. The recent consultation paper has outlined that several funding streams were to be reviewed for 2020/21; these included Fairer Funding, Business Rate Retention, New Homes Bonus, and Better Care Funding and these changes would pose a significant financial risk for B&NES in 2020/21. Despite the uncertainty the Council would still need to plan its finances for the medium to longer term and therefore the Strategy was based on best estimates at this stage. The Council has had a good track record in savings delivery with £55.4m delivered between 2013/14 to 2017/18 and, a further £17m expected in this financial year – a total of £72.4m over six years. These estimates showed that the Council would need to find a further £50.3m in savings over the next five years. In essence the Council would need to reduce net spend by approximately 44.5% (15.2% of gross spend) over the next five years. The current plans identified, delivered, and would continue to deliver, a high number of efficiency savings and therefore the scope for delivering further large savings from efficiencies was limited.

Councillor Charles Gerrish moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tim Warren seconded the motion by saying that the Council were in difficult times with a huge pressure on the budget. The Council did not choose to make these cuts, but something had to be done. Councillor Warren also said that if the cuts were not made in services such as Arts Department or similar then other services would suffer.

Councillor Paul May said that we have to live with allocated resources. Councillor May highlighted that children services were under significant pressure and for that reason the Council would need to get the best from assets that we have.

Councillor Vic Pritchard reminded the Cabinet that 80% of Council's budget was for children and adult social care.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

46 THE GREAT SPAS OF EUROPE

Councillor Vic Pritchard left the meeting at this point (5.50pm).

Councillor Rob Appleyard made an ad-hoc statement by saying that Liberal Democrat Group fully endorsed the submission of the Great Spas of Europe nomination to UNESCO. Councillor Appleyard also said that this was a good piece of work which was supported by a number of previous administrations and which would bring quite a few benefits to Bath.

Councillor Paul Crossley made an ad-hoc statement where he thanked Tony Crouch for his dedicated and hard work on submitting Bath nomination for the Great Spas of Europe. Councillor Crossley also hoped that UNESCO would agree that Bath deserves to be recognised as one of the Great Spas of Europe.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson made an ad-hoc statement by saying that this was an extremely important report which would give everyone a boost, and which would bring more tourists to Bath. Councillor Jackson also said that Brexit and fracking may have detrimental impact on future status of Bath.

Councillor Paul Myers introduced the report by thanking all previous Cabinet Members for Economic Development, no matter what party they have belonged to, for their part in supporting and promoting Bath as one of the Great Spas of Europe. Councillor Myers also said that, if Bath was recognised as one of the Great Spas of Europe it would gain global recognition.

Councillor Paul Myers moved the recommendations.

Councillor Mark Shelford seconded the motion by saying that this was quite important for Bath and surrounding areas, and thanked Councillor Myers for his contribution.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed endorse the submission of the Great Spas of Europe nomination to UNESCO.

47 STRATEGIC TRANSPORT CONSULTATION OPTIONS

Councillor Neil Butters made an ad-hoc statement where he said that the Liberal Democrat Group was in favour of the consultation on the Strategic Transport in the area.

Councillor Mark Shelford introduced the report by saying that the Council would revise its planning policy framework to ensure it was up-to-date and responds to the key issues that the District was facing. The Transport Studies have developed the strategic infrastructure identified to support/facilitate growth in the WoE Joint Transport Study. The Transport Studies were a crucial next step in developing a new Local Plan, clearly setting how the Strategic Transport Infrastructure would be provided to support growth in our area.

The Transport Studies would be consulted on as part of a district wide consultation in conjunction with the Local Plan, in particular on Hicks Gate Roundabout, A4 to A4175 East Keynsham Corridor Study, and South East Bristol and Whitchurch Package.

Key issues would be: Identification of key transport challenges and transport objectives in the areas of interest; Identification and shortlisting of potential transport options to address the challenges and objectives; concept design and initial costing of shortlisted options; desk-based assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts, and value for money of the options; and, initial assessment of financial and delivery case of the options.

The consultation would run from 12th November to 21st December 2018 and there would be exhibitions in Bath, Keynsham, the Somer Valley and Whitchurch. The results of the consultation would be used to inform the preferred route options that would be safeguarded in the draft plan due to be published in 2019.

Councillor Mark Shelford moved the recommendations.

Councillor Tim Warren seconded the motion by saying that working along and together with other Local Authorities within West of England Combined Authority was possible and that big mass-transport system was promising.

The rest of the Cabinet welcomed the report and detailed appendices and suggested that communities would need to be engaged in proper manner, and results of the consultation be open for detailed scrutiny.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet:

- 1) Agreed the Strategic Transport Studies consultation documents for public engagement from 12th November to 21st December 2018;
- 2) Delegated authority to the Director Environmental Services to make minor changes to the document prior to publication.

48 YOUTH CONNECT PUBLIC SERVICE MUTUAL

Councillor Eleanor Jackson made an ad-hoc statement where she said that young people across the area would be able to access youth services if this report is adopted, and urged the Cabinet to support the Strategy which would provide support to young people who need it at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Dine Romero made an ad-hoc statement where she said that proposals looked good on a face of it, though the report has been driven by cuts from the Council, which were due to reduction in funding from the central Government. Councillor Romero expressed her concern about the longevity of the project, in particular if it would be the subject of future cuts or be taken over by another provider. Councillor Romero concluded her statement by asking the Cabinet to publish the business plan before making the decision, and that the decision should be made in public.

Councillor Joe Rayment asked what would be, in unlikely event, if the decision to establish final approval of the project was not delegated to the Corporate Director.

Councillor Rayment also felt that workers should be sitting on the Board of Trustees for Public Service Mutual.

Councillor Paul May said that last year there was a £500k cut in the budget with £517k left for the service. Councillor May asked if the approved document would be commercially sensitive and subject to scrutiny.

Maria Lucas, Monitoring Officer of the Council, responded that the relevant Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel would be able to scrutinise the business case though it would have to be in confidential/exempt session.

Councillor Paul May introduced the report by saying that it would come back to the Cabinet if the risks were unreasonable for Corporate Director to approve the project. The project would eradicate any flexibility for further budget cuts, and it would be a dedicated youth service project. There was an effective work with a number of agencies and also with a number of voluntary services across the area. The project was set to move the agenda forward in reasonable way and the Council would support the staff as much as it could.

Councillor Paul May moved the recommendations.

Councillor Karen Warrington seconded the motion by saying that she was pleased that people could run their own organisation though she expressed slight concern in the due diligence of the project.

Councillor Tim Warren welcomed the report by saying that this would be an excellent opportunity for the staff to take on the project and that he had confidence that the project would be successful.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

- 1) Confirm in principle its support for Youth Connect becoming an independent Public Service Mutual, subject to further due diligence/assurance;
- 2) Delegate to the Corporate Director, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, and the Section 151 Officer the final approval to establish the Public Service Mutual and the allocation of transitional funding to support its establishment;
- 3) Note that a further report may come forward for approval for funding when the "due diligence" process has been completed.

49 AEQUUS - SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL OF DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS CASE PROPOSAL

This item would be considered on 8th November 2018.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

Chair _____

Date Confirmed and Signed _____

Prepared by Democratic Services

CABINET MEETING 31st Oct 2018

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.

Public:

1. Ron Hopkins (Vice Chairman Westfield Parish Council) – Westfield Neighbourhood Plan
2. Luke John Emmett - Arts Development Department
3. Caroline Ambrose – Libraries
4. Gerard Cooke – Arts Development Department

Councillors:

1. Councillor Eleanor Jackson - Westfield Neighbourhood Plan
2. Councillor Tim Ball (statement read by Councillor Dine Romero) – School Bus Services
3. Councillor Richard Samuel – Clean Air Zone
4. Councillor Dine Romero - Arts Development Funding
5. Councillor Eleanor Jackson – Youth Connect

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M 01	Question from:	Councillor Eleanor Jackson
<p>A £15 million fund is now open to bidders to enable the public sector to build homes. The latest funding round of One Public Estate, a partnership between the Local Government Association (LGA), the Office of Government Property within the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), will see the programme place particular emphasis on unlocking surplus public land for housing supply.</p> <p>New and established partnerships are invited to apply. This year's fund comprises £12 million in grant funding with £3 million allocated as a "recyclable" grant to be returned to the programme within three years and reinvested in future projects.</p> <p>One Public Estate, which was launched in 2013, now works with 318 local authorities in 76 partnerships on 450 projects to transform local communities and public services. By April 2020, current partnerships are set to release land for 25,000 homes, create 44,000 jobs while raising £615 million in capital receipts and cutting costs by £158 million.</p> <p>In view of the above statement on the Planning Portal website, is the council planning to access these funds in any shape or form, given the shortage of affordable homes in Bath and NE Somerset Council?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Paul Myers
<p><i>The Council is part of a One Public Estate (OPE) Partnership with Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. We will be bidding as a partnership to OPE round 7. The maximum any one partnership can bid for is £500,000.</i></p>		
Supplementary Question:		
<p>I was hoping for more specific reply considering the growing need for affordable housing in the area?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Tim Warren
<p><i>I suggest that you (Councillor Jackson) and Councillor Myers talk to each other in person.</i></p>		
M 02	Question from:	Councillor Liz Hardman
<p>1) How are you monitoring the Council's contract with Action for Children to provide the Bath West Children's Centre service?</p> <p>2) How many families is Action for Children working with? How does this compare</p>		

with First Steps who previously provided the Bath West service?

3) What feedback do you have from families about the quality of the service they are receiving from Action for Children? How does this compare with the feedback received when First Steps was providing the service?

Answer from:

Councillor Paul May

1. *The Bath West Children's Centre Service contract is monitored under the commissioning framework which includes:*

- *Quarterly Performance Reviews on activity, quality and outcomes*
- *Annual Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Verification (this process has just commenced for Action for Children in October 2018 and includes assessing the service against safeguarding and early help quality assurance standards).*

Action for Children have supported between 80-85 families across quarters 1 and 2 which is in line with their service specification to continue to support the same number of families as were supported under the previous contract.

2. *As part of the contract management framework, feedback from families regarding the quality of the service received is regularly sought through case studies and on-site visits.*

3. *We are currently in the process of undertaking the annual safeguarding and quality assurance verification audit and have so far interviewed 10 parent/carers who were all very positive about the quality of the Bath West Children's Centre service. All reported how much they valued the opportunity to discuss any issues with the staff and it was evident that through engaging with the service, families are achieving positive outcomes in terms of health, parenting, increased safety and reducing isolation.*

M 03

Question from:

Councillor Robin Moss

I would like to ask the Leader of the Council the following questions:

1. Are you aware that, as a result of the huge increase in demand for its services, Bath Foodbank's current warehousing facility is becoming inadequate - both in terms of size and from a health and safety viewpoint - and that in any case the lease is unlikely to be renewable at the end of the current term?

2. Given that B&NES is by far the main source of referrals to Bath Foodbank, what help will the Council offer to Bath Foodbank to enable it to identify suitable premises?

3. In view of the dependence of this Council on the Bath Foodbank, what assessment has been undertaken of the impact of any potential significant reduction of service on the welfare support scheme?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Warren

I very much value the contribution of all our local foodbanks including the Bath Foodbank, Somer Valley Foodbank and Keynsham Foodbank. The Council has been in touch with the Bath Foodbank through its business growth team and is working with them to find suitable premises.

Supplementary Question:

Would you approve that as we agreed to be a pathfinder for Universal Credits we do have moral responsibility with consequences; and, I would hope that the assistance that we are giving to Foodbanks in identifying the premises includes those that are owned and controlled by B&NES Council?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Warren

I am sure that Councillor Moss is aware of our budgetary positions though we will do what we can.

M 04

Question from:

Councillor Robin Moss

1. As you are aware, I asked a series of questions about the numbers of disputes over payment for social care. Your answer was that there are none currently. As I asked the questions in response to a resident who is in dispute over payments for social care would you like to review that answer?

2. When I raised this discrepancy with officers, concerning a dispute they were aware of, they said that they would email me with an explanation, which has yet to arrive. Do you believe this is acceptable?

3. What steps will be you be taking to ensure that answers to questions will be accurate in the future?

Answer from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

The answers given in September which were in relation to property disputes are accurate and still stand in respect of the specific questions that you raised at that time.

In the normal course of business, the Council receives queries and challenges in respect of client contributions, whether directly from clients, their representatives or as questions from MP's or Councillors, but these do not always lead to a formal complaint or dispute. It should be noted that the calculation of client contributions is set out in regulations and is quite clear about how contributions should be calculated which is based on information provided directly by the clients themselves.

The Council currently has 6 cases where it is engaging with clients who are challenging the assessed charges. There are a further 3 where the Executors are challenging the debts accumulated by former clients. For completeness we have a further 13 cases where clients are currently refusing to pay or engage with the Council at all. With nearly 2000 clients successfully assessed, this represents a very small percentage of clients who are in any form of dispute with the Council. However none of these cases fit the

criteria quoted in the previous set of questions and it would not be appropriate to expand on any of individual cases in a public meeting. Officers have offered a meeting with you to understand any specific concerns underlying your questions and to seek to provide appropriate assurance.

Supplementary Question:

Could you explain the discrepancy here – you have given an answer in September 2018 that there were zero disputes; how does that equal with your answer today that the Council currently has 6 cases of clients challenging charges, 3 cases of executives challenging charges and 13 cases of people refusing to pay or engage with the Council?

Answer from: Councillor Vic Pritchard

I think that answer given for the question you asked before was an appropriate. We identified further scope but it wasn't in relation to question you have asked at time. We were fully honest in giving you appraisal of everything and anything, so you have full disclosure now.

M 05 **Question from:** Councillor Robin Moss

1. With regard to parking & charging policies, what measures are in place to ensure that essential workers, such as health & social work professionals, are not disadvantaged in being able to park while fulfilling their professional duties?
2. Are you aware that health professionals in Radstock have received parking tickets as their appointments with patients have overrun?
3. Are you aware that social workers in Keynsham have received parking tickets as there appear to be errors & discrepancies in how charges are collected?
4. Would you agree that a parking strategy needs to balance the needs of residents & professionals while discouraging 'commuter' parking?
5. Will you be reviewing the current parking regime to ensure it is fit for purpose?
6. Will you consider reimbursement where essential workers have prioritised their patients & clients over the need to feed parking meters?

Answer from: Councillor Mark Shelford

The Council's staff travel policy is currently being reviewed in order to ensure that it is fully fit for purpose, modern and efficient; that all staff are treated equally and fairly based on the requirements of the job that they do and that Council business travel is fully in line with the Council's relevant public policy, for example on air quality and carbon reduction. It is not possible for me to comment on the individual cases raised concerning parking tickets.

M 06 **Question from:** Councillor Paul Crossley

In the light of the announcement by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to encourage Local Councils to apply for consideration for a new 'Garden Community' site, has the Cabinet got any plans to investigate whether B&NES

should make a submission?	
Answer from:	Councillor Bob Goodman
<i>The Council is responding to the MHCLG Garden Communities Prospectus, and will seek to ensure that the North Keynsham and Whitchurch Strategic Development Locations are officially recognised by the government as Garden Communities. This would assist in securing funding to enable their development and help to achieve the delivery of the policy objectives as set out in the Local Plan Options document. The Council is also a member of the Town & Country Planning Association (TCPA) New Communities Group.</i>	
Supplementary Question:	
How did Councillor Goodman decide that two extensions to existing Garden Community are classified as new Community?	
Answer from:	Councillor Bob Goodman
<i>I will provide an answer in 5 clear working days.</i>	
M 07	Question from: Councillor Rob Appleyard
Could the Cabinet member please provide a summary of Community Infrastructure Levy income in the last 2 years? What projects have been funded in this period? What funds are committed, and to what projects?	
Answer from:	Councillor Bob Goodman
<i>I will provide an answer in 5 clear working days.</i>	
M 08	Question from: Councillor Sue Craig
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that CCTV cameras in Kingsmead Square are not currently operational and the reasons for this? 2. Is it the case that a software upgrade is required? 3. If so, what are the costs related to this software licence? 4. Do all CCTV cameras across the city require the same software upgrade? 5. Were ongoing software costs factored into future budgets following the installation of CCTV? 6. Have any investigations been undertaken regarding alternative software which could be used for the cameras we have or options for alternative cameras? 7. When will the CCTV cameras in Kingsmead Square and across the city be operational? 	
Answer from:	Councillor Mark Shelford
<i>I can confirm that the CCTV cameras in Kingsmead Square are currently fully operational.</i>	

All B&NES CCTV cameras are currently fully operational and no upgrades are required. If Councillor Craig has information about suspected software failures then if she provides the detail we will investigate and respond.

M 09 **Question from:** Councillor Andrew Furse

Can the Cabinet member please confirm whether he believes current CCTV provision is adequate?

Answer from: Councillor Mark Shelford

We believe CCTV is adequate in its current form. There are always requests to extend CCTV coverage, however this needs to be balanced against legislation which includes the Human Rights Act, Data Protection Act and the Information Commissioners Office and available resources. Our CCTV is currently monitoring 24/7.

M 10 **Question from:** Councillor Tim Ball

Can the Cabinet Member confirm whether the Council will be offering a Christmas Tree collection service this year?

Answer from: Councillor Bob Goodman

I will provide an answer in 5 clear working days.

M 11 **Question from:** Councillor Paul Crossley

There are a large number of major road schemes under way around Bath at present. This is causing a lot of congestion and tailbacks. In view of the Cabinet's desire to implement a Clean Air Zone will the cabinet member start by putting signs up at congestion hotspots such as Widcombe Parade requesting drivers to turn their engines off whilst at a standstill?

Answer from: Councillor Mark Shelford

*The Council is concerned about the impact of idling engines and willing to consider any measures that help improve the environment for our residents and visitors. The Council should only erect signs in accordance with the Traffic Signs and General Directions Regulations, which are legally enforceable. The requested sign would only be advisory and at present there is no scheme in the programme to provide such signage, which would also require an increase in the revenue budget to fund future maintenance of these signs. However, I have asked officers to explore further opportunities as part of our work on improving air quality.
The scheme to improve Widcombe Parade has been particularly successful in reducing traffic and congestion.*

M 12 **Question from:** Councillor Richard Samuel

In May I submitted a petition from residents in my ward seeking the introduction of a

resident's parking scheme in the Brunswick St/Kensington Gardens area of Walcot Ward. I have now been told by officers that a decision has been made to delay processing any applications because of potential impacts of the introduction of the Clean Air Zone.

Will the Cabinet Member clarify exactly what the Council's policy and approach now is to the introduction of new RPZs and why the petition has not been progressed?

Answer from:

Councillor Mark Shelford

The Council has published information on the Parking services pages of the public website which sets out clearly the requirements for the introduction of Resident Parking Zones (RPZs) across the district and in the first instance the Ward Councillor should canvass public opinion, and only if, over 50% of the residents in the proposed zone support a scheme would the project be considered further.

As a result of RPZs needing a Traffic Regulation Order, a scheme design and signs and line to be installed there is a considerable investment needed to introduce an RPZ . At present the capital programme which funds these schemes is fully committed for 2018/19. However, all Members have an opportunity to consider the content of future programmes of work as the Highways and Transport Capital Programme is subject to consultation and approved at the annual Budget setting meeting.

Additional funding is also being sought via the Clean Air Fund to allow further consideration and review of schemes where necessary as a result of the proposed introduction of a class D CAZ. However, as no decision has been taken to date on the CAZ this is not confirmed.

Supplementary Question:

Does the Cabinet accept that an additional parking regulation will be required in areas that will sit just outside the Clean Air Zone once it is declared?

Answer from:

Councillor Mark Shelford

This is a very good point. We are looking at the whole business of the RPZ and how it will be affected with the Clean Air Zone. We are looking at that matter to find the best and most effective solution.

M 13

Question from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

Earlier this year a detailed report was presented to you from the Camden Residents Association setting out suggestions about traffic congestion and pollution could be better managed in Camden.

Can the Cabinet member say what he has done with the report since its presentation?

Answer from:

Councillor Mark Shelford

Since that time the Project Team for the Clean Air Plan have been engaging with the

Association which has resulted in amendments to the proposed boundary for the Clean Air Zone in the Camden area. Discussions, as recent as 24 October 2018, are ongoing and positive.

M 14

Question from:

Councillor Dine Romero

Now the Council has cancelled the dedicated coach marshals and plans to disperse coach drop off points around the city, what efforts will be made to ensure that these drop off points, some of which are in residential areas, will not become parking areas for coaches?

Answer from:

Councillor Mark Shelford

The proposed drop off points around the city are still subject to the statutory Traffic Regulation Order Process. If the proposals are agreed and the new restrictions have been implemented, the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers will regularly monitor the additional locations as part of their existing patrols.

Coaches using the locations that are not in compliance with the restrictions will be encouraged to move on to the appropriate layover locations, with enforcement action taken where necessary. For long stay parking (over 1.5 hours) this will include the new 24 hour coach parking facility adjacent to Odd Down Park and Ride in addition to daily parking available at the First Ltd bus depot on Western Island.

In line with existing policy and practice, should regular monitoring of these locations by Officers on foot and electric moped indicate an increasing number of contraventions, resource will be allocated and diverted accordingly to ensure a balance is maintained so that other areas of the city are not adversely affected.

Where frequent abuse of these locations is identified by the same operators, the Council will continue to provide evidence to the area Traffic Commissioner for consideration against operator licence obligation.

Supplementary Question:

Will any consideration be given to other facilities at these drop-off locations, such as toilets etc?

Answer from:

Councillor Mark Shelford

Very good point. We don't have a specific answer yet as we are still looking for the best solutions. For information, Park and Ride at Odd Down does have toilets.

M 15	Question from:	Councillor Shaun Stephenson-McGall
<p>With regard to the Bear Flat Resident Parking Scheme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the Cabinet Member feel that the impact of these proposals on neighbouring areas has been fully considered and taken into account when making this decision? 2. Does the Cabinet Member consider that the parking stress levels were properly stated in the evidence for the single member decision? 3. Does the Cabinet Member believe that the decision taken in conformity with the Aarhus convention on Public Participation in Decision-making given that UN Case Law of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee has concluded: “The [Traffic Regulation Order] TRO1 provides direction on how traffic would be organized in a certain area. It is not an act permitting a specific activity, but has general application to all persons that are in a similar situation and unlike a plan or programme, it creates binding legal obligations. As such, it is an act within the scope of article 8 of the Convention.”? (United Kingdom ACCC/C/2010/53; ECE/MP.PP/C.1/2013/3, 11 January 2013, para. 83.) 		
Answer from:		Councillor Mark Shelford
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>When considering an area for a possible residents’ parking scheme we do have to consider where the boundary should lie. However, if we were to extend the boundary far beyond the area where the current parking problem exists then it’s unlikely that residents in those streets without a commuter parking problem will be in support of such a scheme. Officers advise me that in their experience of working in other areas and in other authorities, when they have tried to put forward schemes to include areas where no problem exists but they try to anticipate future issues, residents in those areas reject the proposals which ultimately prevents or delays the scheme going ahead in the streets where residents do support it. Should the Bear Flat scheme go ahead and parking issues then occur in other roads they can be considered to become part of a future residents’ parking scheme.</i> 2. <i>The study undertaken by consultants on the council’s behalf was a thorough analysis of the level of parking occupancy on a number of days and I am satisfied that this provided the evidence required to justify the proposed scheme.</i> 3. <i>The Council’s procedures are in conformity with its legal obligations.</i> 		
M 16	Question from:	Councillor Paul Crossley
<p>In the light of the sudden changes to the board of Bath Tourism Plus, can the Cabinet member point me to where the advert for a new Chair was posted, what job specifications were listed as essential/desirable etc. and how many applications were</p>		

received before deciding on the current Chair?

Answer from:

Councillor Paul Myers

The current chair was appointed to the Board as a Director following an external advert in the summer of 2017. 15 CVs were received and a shortlist of candidates were interviewed by the previous chair of the company and a Council Director. The Council's Senior Management Team in a shadow holding company role authorised the appointment of this additional Director in August 2017. The Company's Articles of Association provide that each director is appointed for a fixed term of 3 years and may be reappointed only once (a maximum of 6 years). The previous chair had served for the maximum number of years and was no longer eligible for re-election as a director. The Articles of Association provide that the Chair shall be appointed by the Parent i.e. the Council. The shareholder group was consulted in May 2018 and recommended the appointment of an existing board member (the current chair) to the Leader in his role as sole shareholder. The Company Secretary, at the direction of the Council as Parent, subsequently appointed the current chair.

Supplementary Question:

Will the Cabinet Member, or the Leader of the Council, be involved in the job specification advert, and in the selection of the Chief Executive for Bath Tourism Plus?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Warren

I will provide an answer in 5 clear working days.

M 17

Question from:

Councillor Dine Romero

What is the Council doing to involve local creative and high-tech industries in policy making and consultations?

Answer from:

Councillor Paul Myers

Local creative and high tech industries are an important part of our local economy. We engage proactively via our Businesses Growth team's visit programme and through a variety of forums, such as the B&NES Initiative, local Chambers of Commerce, Creative Bath, Tech Spark, Invest Bristol and Bath, Federation of Small Businesses and Bath Digital festival. As individual companies they are able to respond to Council consultations through our consultation portal and directly through the Business Growth team.

M 18

Question from:

Councillor Dine Romero

What efforts have been made to support the Bath Studio School and prevent the

closure which was announced on 22 October? If this school does close, will there be adequate secondary school places for Bath children going forward?

Answer from:

Councillor Paul May

The studio school was set up in 2014 as part of the previous coalition government policy of creating 14-19 technical schools via a bid by the adjacent Aspire Academy, now part of the Wellsway MAT. Following the success of that bid, we worked with the new school from before it opened, to try to ensure its success as an additional educational offer in the local system. For example we have offered our community influence to widen engagement with businesses in the area, promoted the new Studio School option to parents, made sure they have been involved in all headteacher meetings and briefings we hold, they have been an active member of the Schools forum and we have been participating in discussions about their low admission numbers and exploring future options.

The closure proposals are as a direct result of low take up of places at this school due to parent choice to continue sending their children to other schools in Bath. This has affected both the educational and financial viability of the school, which could ultimately impact on the resources available to other pupils across the MAT. The school's results have been disappointing and there is little prospect of applications increasing.

The closure proposal will allow existing students to complete their current key stage before any closure takes place.

The council has no direct responsibility for opening, operating or closing Academies and have to accept any decision made by the RSC in this respect.

We had a peak figure of applications for year 7 places in Bath last year which have been coped with by expanding existing secondary school places in the city with close cooperation with all City schools.

We have also engaged with the DfE Schools Adjudicator's consideration of the catchment admissions policy of Beechen Cliff. There is clearly sufficient capacity in Bath to meet the needs of all pupils requiring secondary school places if parents use the five options available to them on the application form. The loss of places in year 10 upwards at the Studio School will not impact adversely on Year 7 admissions.

Pupils in B&NES are fortunate that the schools mostly perform highly in the area thanks to the majority of schools and academies being Good or Outstanding and our role continues to support LEA schools plus promoting the highest school standards by cooperation with MATs via the new School Standards board.

Supplementary Question:

Does Cabinet Member agree with me that we do need mainstream secondary school in South West of Bath serving children in that area, and maybe offer alternative qualifications such as T levels?

Answer from:	Councillor Paul May	
<p><i>The closure of the school is quite clearly an issue for the Wellsway MAT and regional schools commissioner. They made it very clear that the closure of the school is an exercise that they do first. The BCA Academy site is something that we need to talk to parents about. If there are opportunities to do in different way then we will engage with regional schools commissioner and the Wellsway MAT. I don't think that the case for additional school in Bath is there because of the area coverage, but we could look at other educational solutions in Bath. I am more than happy to give further information as the time goes on.</i></p>		
M 19	Question from:	Councillor Tim Ball
<p>Can the Cabinet Member comment on whether the current SEND budget is being well spent where it is used by the secondary academy school?</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member comment on the growing number of pupils, who are either SEND pupils or on the autistic spectrum, that are either being officially excluded or unofficially sent home and asked to stay home by secondary academy schools?</p>		
Answer from:	Councillor Paul May	
<p><i>The SEND budget supports children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, with funding for each pupil being allocated through a statutorily prescribed assessment process linked to their Education, Health and Care Plan. For the pupils with more severe or specialist needs, the Plan will support them in a Special School environment.</i></p> <p><i>Mainstream schools similarly receive funding for individual pupils from the SEND Budget via Education Health Care Plans (EHCP). The funding is there to support identified needs and deliver the outcomes in the EHCP. For the majority of parents and carers with a child with an EHCP in B&NES, the experience is a positive one, as evidenced by our recent survey with parents and carers asking about the quality of the support they receive in our schools.</i></p> <p><i>https://www.rainbowresource.org.uk/pages/web-site-information/you-said-we-did</i></p> <p><i>However, we do know that some parents feel dissatisfied with the support they receive. The local area commissions independent advice & support for parents/carers who may be in disagreement with a school, or the local authority.</i></p> <p><i>We also have the EHCP annual review process. Parents and carers with the school and the local authority can review the plan, and raise any concerns regarding the provision that is being put in place by the school.</i></p> <p><i>We believe the majority of our children are well supported, and therefore we consider that the majority of SEND finance is well utilised. Where we learn that funding is not being spent on a child's needs, either via the parent or through the annual review process, we take action to address this matter with the school. As a service, we monitor concerns regarding schools and look for patterns or trends in complaints that are</i></p>		

concerning or repetitive.

Councils across the South West and nationally are struggling with the SEND budgets due to growing demand, parental expectations, complexity of cases and the high costs of dealing with specialist cases outside of the area. Some of these pressures are compounded by a lack of available special school places locally (including as a result of children from outside B&NES being placed in our local schools).

We have some excellent specialist providers locally and are working with them constructively to expand local provision. We have invested over £1 m of capital in local schools and the college to create more capacity. The government has provided nearly £0.5 m to help this initiative.

There are considerable issues locally, regionally and nationally but by increasing the base budget by an additional £2.3 this is a clear outward sign of this conservative council's commitment to the most vulnerable people in our area.

Nationally, school exclusions have risen, as they have in B&NES. Within this, there has been an increase in exclusion of pupils with SEND, both on a fixed term and on a permanent basis. The local authority has highlighted this issue with schools and addressing rising exclusions is a priority for the school standards board.

The SEND team has also re-issued guidance to schools on the process for managing exclusions for children who have SEND and provided advice and guidance in following the correct procedures.

Schools should not be un-officially excluding pupils by whatever means. When the LA becomes aware of un-official exclusions, we will intervene and provide the school with the correct advice and support the parent to challenge.

M 20

Question from:

Councillor Tim Ball

1. Can the Leader comment on the democratic deficit in the WECA area whereby Bristol City Council has six councillors on the WECA Scrutiny Committee, South Gloucestershire has three and Bath and North East Somerset has only two?
2. Can he also comment on whether he feels it is correct for Bristol to hold both the Chair and Vice Chair positions on the WECA Scrutiny Committee?
3. Will the Leader work to improve the balance on the WECA Scrutiny Committee so that it is not dominated by one Council, which has the ability to block all votes?

Answer from:

Councillor Tim Warren

1. *I do not agree there is a democratic deficit.*

The Order setting up the Combined Authority requires that:

“ s.4.—(1) The combined authority must— appoint such a number of members of each of the constituent Councils to an overview and scrutiny committee, so that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils when taken together;”. The Councillors were allocated on this basis as set out in the Scheme for a Mayoral Combined Authority for the Area of

Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire agreed at the Council meeting on 26th June 2016.

- 2. The Council resolution was that: "A sufficient level of support must be given to the Scrutiny and Audit roles of the new Combined Authority to allow it to be fully effective and independent from the executive. The membership of Scrutiny and Audit roles of the new combined authorities must be chosen in a way that ensures fair representation for all political groups across the region and equal representation of all authorities, should appropriately reflect the scrutiny roles that members hold on the individual authorities, and must be chosen in a clear and transparent manner." WECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee voted and agreed on its Chair and Vice Chair at its first meeting on 22nd September 2017.*
- 3. As far as I am aware there have been no such incidents. The purpose of the WECA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to review and scrutinise decisions made by WECA and to make reports or recommendations to WECA on matters in the area or WECA responsibilities. Any concerns that the councillors are acting to the advantage of their council and are not considering the best interests of the whole of WECA should be referred to the WECA Monitoring Officer. The Parliamentary Order establishing the WECA and its Constitution provide for effective governance and fair representation of each constituent authority. As a Leader of Bath and North East Somerset I will always make sure that the interest of our residents are fully recognised.*

M 21

Question from:

Councillor Richard Samuel

In the report Modern Libraries options for Bath Appendix D: Site Issues Summary, approved by the Cabinet on 19th July 2017, the following statement appeared:

"Planning

1. The Podium designation is a Library so any change of use to offices (under option 3) would require planning permission.
2. Similarly under option 3, planning permission would be required to change part of Lewis House to a library.
3. Option 4 will also require a change of use application as the library and OSS within the Podium will constitute a mixed use. In addition, any material external changes to either of the buildings under either option will also need planning permission.
4. Although the design process has not yet started, discussions are ongoing with the planners to ensure their requirements are included in any scheme."

Can the Cabinet member explain:

1. Why the advice provided by officers and approved by the Cabinet has now changed?
2. When and by whom was the decision to ignore the previous advice was made and on what basis?
3. How much was paid to CSJ Planning Consultants to provide advice on whether to seek a certificate of lawful development in respect of Bath Central library rather than seeking full planning consent as previously approved by the Cabinet?

Answer from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

The statements made in the July report were correct at the time and reflect the various options that were then under consideration, from which option 4 was selected. Regular dialogue has been undertaken with Planning as the project moved into the design stage from when the aforementioned report was written based on early concept ideas. It was inevitable that until design and operational usage of the space was worked up by the project team, formal final advice could not be given which is the stage the project is now at and is following due process.

Spend to date on CSJ Planning Consultants is £2,500.

Supplementary Question:

In the light of your answer that £2,500 of public money was spent and authorised by the Cabinet Member to avoid the full planning application in respect of Bath Library – does the Cabinet Member consider that spending that money to avoid public scrutiny represents good value for money from the Council's dire financial position?

Answer from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

The money (£2,500) was not spent to avoid public scrutiny. We had 3 rounds of engagement on design and development of Bath Library. This was an unavoidable amount of money to make sure that the Council was on the right track and that planning application was not needed. The final design is mostly books and it hasn't changed to what we have currently.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

P 01	Question from:	Sarah Moore
<p>Please can the cabinet member for Highways confirm that the road restructuring costs for North Way, Redland Park (road section to rear of Day Crescent) and Poolemead Road are included in either the council's budget for next financial year, or have been requested for inclusion in the Metro Mayor's budget for the same period, if responsibility has been passed over to him?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Mark Shelford
<p><i>Officers have been requested to draft a proposed programme of resurfacing and reconstruction for consideration by myself. The development of a proposed programme is currently underway and at this point in time I cannot confirm which schemes will be recommended for approval. The approval of the programme will, as in previous years, be decided by Council at its annual budget setting meeting.</i></p> <p><i>I can however confirm that isn't part of the Metro Mayor's budget. The work being requested would normally be funded from the Structural Maintenance Block grant from the Department for Transport.</i></p>		
P 02	Question from:	Sarah Moore
<p>Please can the cabinet member for Neighbourhoods confirm what is happening with the litter bins he has promised Twerton, despite locations being suggested, no bins have been put in place and the litter issue is not improving?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Bob Goodman
<p><i>Following meetings with the local councillors I have agreed to provide bins, these will be scheduled in November, unfortunately due to administration it has taken a little longer than we would like.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. High St Twerton - bin to be installed by mid November.</i> <i>2. Poolemead and Shaws way - bins to be installed by 2nd Nov.</i> <p><i>The Cabinet member encourages all members of the community to take their litter home if they don't have access to a bin, and to recognise that litter dropping is antisocial and pollutes our environment causing harm to our watercourses and wildlife. Recognising the seriousness of the pollution caused by littering the Council is increasing its</i></p>		

enforcement against those who continue to choose to drop litter.

P 03 **Question from:** Caroline Ambrose

1. Please provide a breakdown, per library, of the £798k per annum savings for the whole Modern Libraries Programme?
2. Please provide an up to date breakdown of the savings pa which can only be achieved by relocating the One Stop Shop from Lewis House to within Bath Central Library?

Answer from: Councillor Karen Warrington

1. *This was covered in previous Cabinet Q&A:
The majority of savings will come from a reduction in staffing resource across the whole of customer services; the reduction represents around 20% of the overall establishment. This will be achieved by implementing new ways of working and bringing the two services together. It is anticipated this will be done through natural turnover in staffing numbers.*
2. *Achievement of the savings is dependent on the whole programme delivery, in all locations, due to the way the staff resources operate.*

P 04 **Question from:** Andrew Grant

1. Please provide the latest costings breakdown for relocating the One Stop Shop from Lewis House to within Bath Central Library?
2. Income opportunities of up to a £m were identified to council for Bath Central Library in its present layout. Please provide a breakdown of the income to be delivered at Bath Central Library post the co-location?

Answer from: Councillor Karen Warrington

1. *Refer to the published business case. The costs have been refined over the design period but they remain within the provisional capital allocation. A breakdown of costs remains commercially sensitive information whilst we seek competitive tenders for the work.*
2. *It is anticipated that income will be generated from the numerous newly created spaces in the Podium which will be additional to existing provision and better equipped than at present. The income has not been factored into the costings at this stage as we are reviewing our events and activities policy and protocols as part of the programme. The council is keen to ensure that all spaces are well used and that the events and activities support the universal offers and our corporate priority outcomes. We continue to monitor and seek opportunities for both national and local grant or BID funding opportunities where appropriate/we may be eligible.*

P 05	Question from:	Mari Levant
<p>1. Where will Bath Central Library be sited throughout 2019?</p> <p>2. What will the opening hours be for the combined One Stop Shop and Bath Central Library in 2019?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Karen Warrington
<p>1. <i>Two possible alternate locations have been identified in central Bath in order to allow the library to be decanted, thus minimising the required duration for the works. Both alternate locations are subject to the conclusion of technical reviews and commercial negotiations. If these locations are ultimately deemed unsuitable, the refurbishment works will be undertaken in two phases within the existing library space.</i></p> <p>2. <i>This was covered in previous Cabinet Q&A:</i></p> <p><i>At this stage there is no plan to change Library opening hours which include both Saturday and Sunday opening times in Bath.</i></p>		
P 06	Question from:	Dionne Pemberton
<p>1. At least three times this year Bath Central Library has been closed Sunday due to staff shortages/illness. Given that council still need to make staff cuts, can Councillor Warrington confirm that the library will be open on Sundays? Currently council staff at the One Stop Shop has Sundays off, as the OSS is closed. However, given that most children visit the library on the weekends can we have assurance that Sundays will find the doors open?</p> <p>2. Regarding the temporary library that BANES will need to lawfully provide to residents, and that Council need lawfully provide a 'comprehensive and efficient service' during refurbishments to the Podium, when does Councillor Warrington plan to let council and residents know the location of the temporary library, and has the cost of relocating the library to a temporary home for up to a year been factored into the £3M costs of co-location?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor Karen Warrington
<p>1. <i>This was covered in previous Cabinet Q&A:</i></p> <p><i>At this stage there is no plan to change Library opening hours which include both Saturday and Sunday opening times in Bath.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Both a temporary Library and a phased approach has been factored into the programme plans and when planning stage has been finalised the public will be advised fully of the detail, location and timings in line with normal communications to give notice of any change.</i></p>		
P 07	Question from:	Andy Halliday

1. Please can you make public the revised access report prepared for the proposed integration of OSS into the Podium library, specifically in respect of access for wheel chairs users, and also the fire evacuation routes for the potential footfall increase, in respect of the latter please advise the liaison with Waitrose landlord and the, site manager for O+H property owners company?
2. Please confirm the details of wheel chairs and partial sighted/blind persons groups who were consulted in respect of changes that might occur if the integration of OSS into the Podium library does happen, relating in particular to the revised entrance, layout of the purpose built Library space, and access and signage for the proposed book press locations?

Answer from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

1. *Early consultations took place with both Building Control and Access specialists to advise and inform the design team (Architects, M&E and Structural Engineers). Access to and use of buildings is currently in the process of being updated.*

As with any project of this nature, a Fire Strategy (which includes fire evacuation routes) has been prepared in liaison with the Building Control Officer/consultant and this has been incorporated in the design that is currently out to tender. A formal application for building regulations approval will be made when the contractor is appointed and before work commences. We continue to liaise and share proposals with the landlords on all relevant matters.

2. *See response above.*

The design team are experienced in the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the differing needs of all the various groups. Additionally individuals with disabilities formed part of the invited group to work with us on the design of the new space. Other special interest groups were specifically engaged throughout the design process as the council is committed to meeting the needs of the whole community.

P 08

Question from:

Gill Kirk

1. In 2016/7, what was the forecast cost of the Podium library works until completion (planning, consultation, survey, build, and ancillary activities) for each financial year until reopening, and the current re-forecast costs for each financial year until completion?
2. What were 2016/17's associated forecast Podium library staffing redundancy/other costs for each financial year, and what are they now?

Answer from:

Councillor Karen Warrington

1. *Refer to the published business case. The costs have been refined over the design period but they remain within the provisional capital allocation. A breakdown of costs remains commercially sensitive information whilst we seek competitive tenders for the work.*

2. *Refer to the published business case and to previous Q&A provided*

The majority of savings will come from a reduction in staffing resource across the whole of customer services; the reduction represents around 20% of the overall establishment. This will be achieved by implementing new ways of working and bringing the two services together. It is anticipated this will be done through natural turnover in staffing numbers.

P 09	Question from:	Mary English
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1. I would like to ask about the £3Million 'loan' for the library re-formatting, re-organising and altering. How long will it take to pay back?
2. And how are you planning to do that, where will that money come from?

Answer from:	Councillor Karen Warrington
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1. *The payback period for the capital investment was identified in the published business case.*
2. *The borrowing costs have been factored into the business case.*

P 10	Question from:	Sophie Hooper Lea
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1. How many full time equivalent (FTE) QUALIFIED librarians are employed by B&NES at Bath Central Library at the moment and how does that compare with the number of FTE qualified librarians at the time of the first B&NES announcement on 16 December 2016 that Bath Central Library was moving? How many FTE qualified librarians will be employed in the integrated library/OSS once it opens?
2. How many full time equivalent (FTE) staff will work in the new, integrated Bath Central Library/OSS, and how does that compare with the number of FTE OSS staff and the number of FTE Bath Central Library staff at the time of the first B&NES announcement on 16 December 2016 that Bath Central Library was moving?

Answer from:	Councillor Karen Warrington
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Staffing levels have been and will continue to be maintained in both locations to ensure all the appropriate skills and professional experience is available to support service delivery.

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Statement from Luke John Emmett on 31st Oct 2018

I am here today to talk about the short-sighted closure of the Arts Development Department, and the hugely detrimental impact this will have to the cultural and creative ecology, and financial economy of Bath and North East Somerset.

Firstly I would like to personally thank both Ann Cullis and Peter Salt for their many years of service to cultural organisations and individuals in this area. Their knowledge, advice and guidance have helped so many, including myself, and will leave a huge knowledge gap within the Council if this administration chooses to get rid of their posts.

I would like to know what impact studies have been done on these cuts? Has this administration carried out a detailed impact assessment? Do you know how this will effect individuals and businesses working within the cultural industries? What will be the long term impact of these cuts? What impact will this cut have on cultural tourism? Has a viability study been done on your suggested replacement service? Investment in the arts brings back more money into the economy – for every £1 invested it brings back a return of between £2 and £7. How will these cuts effect Bath's economy? How will this cut effect Bath's relationship with the Arts Council and future funding bids from creative companies?

Under UN Convention B162 on the rights of a child it clearly states that the best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children. Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities. The arts service helped fund projects for young people who fall within B&NES most disadvantaged communities. Have any young people been consulted about these cuts? Have these cuts gone through any young politicians or youth parliament? Have any schools or educational institutes been consulted?

Bath is a World Heritage City. Point 20 of the city's world heritage plan states the Council should "support the ongoing coordination of Bath's cultural offer and the identification of funding to support this". This has been adopted as Council policy. How does this administration plan to fulfil this obligation without any investment in the arts and without a dedicated arts development team in place to do so? Will failing to observe this damage the city's World Heritage Status?

If you allow these cuts to go ahead, the detrimental impact of them will be felt across the city for generations to come. You will irreparably damage people's livelihoods and negatively impact tourism, particularly long-stay tourism in the city and therefore the city's economy. People will not wish to visit a city that is devoid of culture and entertainment – to encourage long-stay visitors the city needs a thriving cultural scene.

These cuts are the final nail in the coffin for arts and culture in Bath. This administration will be remembered for silencing the arts in Bath and destroying a once vibrant city.

Best wishes

Luke John Emmett

Creative Director/Founder

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STATEMENT TO CABINET: CAROLINE AMBROSE, FOUNDER THE BATH NOVEL AWARDS

I'm here to call upon the leadership to clarify where, when and how Bath's public library services will be provided from January 2019.

For a city with a population of 90,000 residents, Bath is already about to become one of the worst public library services in the country. By cutting back to just one library, our city's public library service is five times below the national level of one public library for every 18,000 residents.

Bath Central Library's role in delivering the council's legal obligations to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library services has never been more essential.

Despite a decade of underfunding and backwards thinking about libraries, people use the city library as much as ever. Council has sacked the librarians, reduced the opening hours, cut bookstock and replaced almost half the workforce with unpaid volunteers but despite all of this, residents still use Bath Central Library to the tune of half a million physical visits every year.

And yet, with just 61 days of 2018 left, the leadership seems to have no plan or clear idea where, when and how people's needs will be met from January. Building works are planned to start in the New Year to turn most of our modest one floor library into an integrated council services hub at a public cost of £3.5million.

At Council's CTE Panel on September 17th resident Sophie Hooper Lea asked council to confirm the timings of the upcoming library integration, including work is expected to start, if and when the library would need to move to a temporary location, when work is expected to be complete and the when the new integrated library would open.

Council's response to this was "The preferred option is to secure a temporary location for the library for the duration of the works in order to minimise the construction period and therefore the disruption to the public. We are actively looking for a suitable central location. The current plan is that work will start on site early in the New Year and complete during July/August 2019."

When is the leadership going to announce the arrangements for 2019? Has a temporary location been secured? If not, what is the plan? Will cabinet put people before political pride and postpone the works? If not and the leadership is going have a got at pulling off a reduced service within the live building site how will that work legally? Spatially? Financially? Operationally? Legally? And from a public safety point of view?

Council has had well over a year to get arrangements in place and with time all but run out an announcement is considerably overdue. Will the leadership commit to making a proper public announcement within 5 days about where, when and how Bath's public library services will be delivered throughout 2019?

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Statement from Councillor Tim Ball to cabinet 31st October 2018

School transport.

It is ironic isn't it that all the warnings that were given about School transport and closing schools and the knock on affect that this would have were either deliberately or through total incompetence not recognised by this administration.

Many parents are at wits end trying to ensure that their children get to school and back safely.

I gave more than one warning about not tinkering with the 20 bus service that ran though Twerton to the university but what happened it was removed and a u2 Bus was put on in its place that through the last few months has failed to get the children safely to School and back in good time.

It is understood that a good bus service is needed to get students to university and back but not at the expense and safety of the young children that this council is responsible for.

It is not acceptable for children as young as 11 are left at a bus stop for hours on end and not arriving at school till sometimes 11am and then buses leaving them behind in the evenings when going home.

Children travelling to Bath Studio School and Ralph Allen have suffered under this administration and many parents have started to rely on local taxi providers as the buses can't be relied upon.

It is noted that in the last two weeks buses have started to run more regularly, but again the knock on affects are that there are now Bus wars at the junctions of Wedgwood Road and Kelston View in Twerton where the u2 and the 5 meet.

Children also crossing the city to St Marks are now being caught up in road works madness.

The failure of the Bath Studio School can be related in some way to the appalling public transport system that this council administration has created through its own incompetence.

My message to this cabinet is time to go back to School and learn all over again as your current ability is questionable on how public transport should be run.

Marks out of 10 for this is 4 for effort and 2 for deliverability.

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