

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

### **CABINET**

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

Thursday, 13th February, 2020

#### **Present:**

Councillor Dine Romero	Council Leader and Liberal Democrat Group Leader
Councillor Rob Appleyard	Cabinet Member for Adult Services
Councillor Tim Ball	Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning, and Economic Development
Councillor Neil Butters	Cabinet Member for Transport Services
Councillor Paul Crossley	Cabinet Member for Community Services
Councillor Richard Samuel	Deputy Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources
Councillor Sarah Warren	Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services
Councillor David Wood	Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Neighbourhood Services
Councillor Joanna Wright	Cabinet Member for Transport Services

#### **64 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **65 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

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

#### **66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Kevin Guy.

#### **67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Monitoring Officer issued a general dispensation for all Councillors with regard to their payment of Council Tax. She also issued a further dispensation with regard to any Councillors in receipt of specific services and invited them to make any such declarations.

Councillor Tim Ball declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to the social care budget item, being in receipt of a related service.

Councillor Sarah Warren declared an interest in relation to the schools and the music service budget.

Councillor Richard Samuel declared an interest in relation to the budget, being the holder of a bus pass.

Councillor Liz Hardman, in attendance at the meeting, declared an interest in her capacity as a Governor at Aspire Academy.

**68 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

**69 QUESTIONS FROM PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS**

There were 9 questions from Councillors and 1 question from a member 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 1 and are available on the Council's website.]*

**70 STATEMENTS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS**

Councillors Karen Walker and Sarah Bevan made a joint statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes and on the Council's website]* setting out their wish list for projects in Peasedown St John to be included within the forthcoming Council budget. They raised various queries about specific projects. In response to these issues, Councillor Jo Wright invited Councillors Karen Walker and Sarah Bevan to meet her and Councillor Neil Butters to review their issues. Councillor Richard Samuel noted the comments and queries from the Councillors. He explained that the budgets were built at portfolio level and subject to prioritisation. He responded that he would look into their queries and get back to them.

Ian Barrett, Chief Executive of Avon Wildlife Trust, made a statement *[a copy of which is attached to the Minutes and on the Council's website]* This statement was made at the Corporate Strategy item later in the meeting.

**71 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING**

On a motion from Councillor Rob Appleyard, seconded by Councillor Tim Ball, it was

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**72 CONSIDERATION OF SINGLE MEMBER ITEMS REQUISITIONED TO CABINET**

There were none.

### **73 MATTERS REFERRED BY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY BODIES**

Councillor Paul Myers, as Chair of the Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel, addressed the Cabinet about the Budget session that had taken place at the Panel on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. He reported that it was a good meeting. The Panel had suggested that, in future, some comparative figures be provided to enable them to more easily spot trends and set the figures in context. They were concerned about the £20k music service saving and how this would impact on families. He also raised points about localised flooding and road damage, the empty homes review and electric car charging points. He thanked officers for their input.

### **74 SINGLE MEMBER CABINET DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE PREVIOUS CABINET MEETING**

The Cabinet agreed to note the report.

### **75 BUDGET & COUNCIL TAX 2020/21 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK**

Councillor Paul Myers speaking as a resident of B&NES said that he felt let down by the lack of ambition in this budget. He understood the pressure the Council was facing but had expected this budget to take further the manifesto commitments. He commented that the Council Tax rise will hit the most vulnerable.

Councillor Vic Pritchard raised a query about why the Cabinet were not seeking a higher increase to the social care element of the budget which would then leave residual funding for public health.

In response to Councillor Pritchard's query, Councillor Richard Samuel responded that practice in the past had been to pass forward the public health grant directly to public health, but the announcement expected from Government on 24th February would inform whether this would take place. He did not expect a reduction but needed to have the details first.

Councillor Liz Hardman welcomed some positive aspects of the budget but expressed concern about the efficiency savings in Adult services and wondered if they were achievable.

Councillor Richard Samuel, in presenting this budget to Council, thanked officers, Scrutiny Panel members and the public for their contributions, in spite of the general election meaning that it had not been possible to do the usual range of engagement events. He described a change in direction and new investment areas in climate emergency, transport and housing. He outlined some of the highlights of the budget and explained a move away from cuts to staff and services partly from a Council tax rise, still resulting in the third lowest Council tax in the South West region. He acknowledged the current funding gap for 2021/22 and hoped to be able to close that gap by the Autumn.

Councillor Tim Ball commented that they had not inherited a good legacy with the Park & Ride issue and expressed surprise about the lack of ambition comments. He

commended this forward-looking budget, fully delivering on housing and development over the 4-year term, and one which would benefit all residents.

Councillor Joanna Wright welcomed the real changes in combatting rat running and congestion and was delighted in the focus on walking, cycling and low traffic neighbourhoods. She described the budget as one which was good for health, social justice and the environment.

Councillor Neil Butters supported this budget and thanked Councillor Samuel and Finance officers in bringing this budget forward. Councillor Butters described a steady state being maintained through Highways resurfacing schemes and state of the art gritters.

Councillor David Wood welcomed the extra investment this brought in for the residents of North East Somerset which went towards addressing the imbalance some North East Somerset residents felt.

Councillor Sarah Warren expressed her delight at the funding for climate emergency measures and improved capacity for citizen engagement. She hoped for positive news from Government the following week regarding Bath's Clean Air Zone.

Councillor Rob Appleyard highlighted the focus on prevention within the budget and the Adult Social Care Charging framework which would simplify processes at a very difficult time for people. He thanked key officers who had contributed to bringing this piece of work forward.

Councillor Paul Crossley highlighted the positive news about libraries. He commended the budget for identifying problems and building in early solutions such as the new staff member to address the Ash dieback problem, which would affect 95% of Ash tree cover in the area, offset in part by the replanting scheme. He also commended the Archway project which was coming on stream in this budget year.

Councillor Richard Samuel responded to various points made during debate and called upon his Cabinet colleagues to drive delivery forward.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that:

1. The Cabinet recommends Council approves –
  - a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2020/21 of £118.25m and the individual service cash limits for 2020/21 as outlined in Annex 1 of the report;
  - b) The savings and income generation plans outlined in Annex 2(i), priorities 2(ii), one-off allocations 2(iii), pressures 2(iv) in conjunction with the Equalities Impact Assessment Report in Annex 3 of the report;
  - c) An increase in Council Tax of 1.99% in 2020/21 (an increase of £27.88 per Band D property);
  - d) An increase of 1.99% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept is approved in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on

- this service. This is equivalent to an increase of £27.88 on a Band D property;
- e) The movement in reserves outlined in paragraph 5.5 and the adequacy of Un-earmarked Reserves at £13.5m within a risk assessed range requirement of £12.3m - £13.5m;
  - f) The Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4 to the report;
  - g) The Capital Programme for 2020/21 of £109.507m including new and emerging capital bids outlined in Annex 5(i), planned sources of funding in 5.7.2, and notes the programme for 2021/22 to 2024/25 and that any wholly funded projects coming forward during the year will be added to the Capital Programme in line with the Budget Management Scheme;
  - h) The delegation of implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 5(ii) to Annex 5(iv) to the relevant Director in Consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder;
  - i) The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocations and amendments outlined in Annex 5(v) of the report;
  - j) The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Annex 6 of the report;
  - k) The MRP Policy attached at Annex 7 of the report;
  - l) The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in 5.7.8
  - m) The Annual Pay Policy Statement at Annex 9 of the report;
  - n) The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21 shown in the following link: <http://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-01/Bath%20%26%20NE%20Somerset%20S13A%20202021%20v3.pdf> and referred to in 5.3.4;
  - o) The Adult Social Care Charging and Financial Assessment Framework at Annex 10 of the report;
  - p) The Direct Payment Policy at Annex 11 of the report;
2. 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 Charter Trustees of the City of Bath, and those of the Fire and Police Authorities.
  3. That Cabinet note the S151 Officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves outlined in section 5.6 of the report
  4. Authorise the Council's S151 Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency, to make any necessary changes to the draft budget proposal for submission to Council.

## **76 B&NES CORPORATE STRATEGY 2020-2024**

Ian Barrett, Chief Executive of Avon Wildlife Trust, was invited to make his statement at this point. (A full copy is available to view online and attached to the minutes). He welcomed the inclusion of the nature emergency in core policies. He described the loss of wildlife populations and ecosystems and called on the Council to declare an ecological emergency. Councillor Sarah Warren explained that the Cabinet were working hard to improve habitats and address ecological issues and enquired if Avon Wildlife Trust would work with them on this. Ian responded that the strength of the Bristol City Council approach was the partnership with other organisation such as key businesses and charities and welcomed this type of approach.

Councillor Dine Romero explained that they had taken their manifesto commitments and translated them into this strategy which she was pleased to present. They would continue to engage communities in taking this forward.

Councillor Richard Samuel explained how this strategy provided the context for the budget, which translated aspirations into reality. It is intentionally high level.

Councillor David Wood thanked Councillor Romero and officers for delivering this strategy which was clearly based on the foundation of the Liberal Democrat manifesto.

On a motion from Councillor Dine Romero, seconded by Councillor Richard Samuel, it was

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Thank those who provided feedback on the draft Corporate Strategy and agree to continue to work with local communities to ensure their involvement during the strategy's implementation and review;
2. Note the responses and agree the recommendations and next steps following the feedback on the draft strategy, as set out in the Corporate Strategy Engagement Report in Appendix Two;
3. Note and consider the responses from the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels also set out in the Corporate Strategy Engagement Report in Appendix Two;
4. Recommend that Council adopt the new Corporate Strategy 2020-2024
5. Recommend that Council adopt the new Corporate Delivery Programme 2020-2021.

## **77 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING, CASH LIMITS AND VIREMENTS - APRIL 2019 TO DECEMBER 2019**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced this item and explained that a good start had been made on his objective to have a closer fit between capital planning and expenditure so that budgets will balance at year end and there will be no need for draw down.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed:

1. To note the 2019/20 on budget position (as at the end of December 2019).
2. To approve the revenue virements listed for approval in Appendix 3(i) and to note those virements listed for information only.
3. To note the capital year-end forecast detailed in paragraph 3.14 of this report;

4. To note the changes in the capital programme including capital schemes that have been agreed for full approval under delegation listed in Appendix 4(i);
5. To remove from the Provisional Capital Programme schemes of £6.663m, detailed in Appendix 4(iii), to align to current delivery expectation.

**78 TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2019-20 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT (MID YEAR UPDATE)**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced this regular performance report. He explained that a very good presentation had recently taken place to members of the Corporate Audit Committee.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the Treasury Management Report to 31st December 2019, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Code of Practice.
2. Note the Treasury Management Indicators to 31st December 2019.

**79 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND TREASURY INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2020/21**

Councillor Richard Samuel introduced the Strategy statement which will be recommended to Council. He drew Members' attention to the Municipal Bonds agency which might make borrowing more complicated but may be a potential investment source in the future.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Recommend the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement (Appendix 1) to February Council;
2. Note the Treasury Management Indicators detailed in Appendix 1 and delegate authority for updating the indicators prior to approval at Full Council on 25th February 2020 to the Chief Finance Officer and Cabinet Member for Resources, in light of any changes to the recommended budget as set out in the Budget Report elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting; and
3. Note that any comments made by the Corporate Audit Committee at their meeting on the 6th February 2020 will be reported to Full Council on the 25th February 2020.

**80 HERITAGE SERVICES REVISED BUSINESS PLAN 2020-2025**

Councillor Paul Crossley introduced this report by celebrating the Council's success in the recent South West Awards with 4 nominations resulting in 4 gold wins. He

commended the excellent leadership and staff and praised the principles and aspiration of the service. He drew particular attention to the Inclusivity award.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Tim Ball, it was

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) that the Cabinet agreed to:

1. Approve the Heritage Services Business Plan 2020-2025;
2. Confirm that it wishes Heritage Services to continue to work to the business principles agreed by the Council Executive in 2004, as amended;
3. Confirm that it wishes to relocate the Fashion Museum with a supporting Collections Centre subject to a satisfactory business case being prepared.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed and Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

## **CABINET MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

### **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.

1. Councillors Karen Walker and Sarah Bevan - Budget allocation for Peasedown St John Ward
2. Ian Barrett (Chief Executive – Avon Wildlife Trust) - Nature Emergency under Corporate Strategy

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

<b>M</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Jess David
<p>What is the Council planning to do to alleviate the severe parking problems in Moorlands ward (including Hensley and Egerton Roads, Hensley Gardens, Bloomfield Park and Grove, Chantry Mead Road and parts of Englishcombe Lane), following the introduction of a residents parking zone in the Bear Flat area in May 2019?</p>			
<b>Answer from:</b>			Councillor Joanna Wright
<p><i>We need to make significant changes to the way people travel in our city in order to reduce pollution and improve the quality of life for our communities. This will involve the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods which will reduce the dominance of traffic in residential roads and the expansion of residents' parking schemes. This is an ambitious plan and we are currently drawing up a strategy to outline how we'll achieve this and involve communities in the process. We can no longer take the former approach of looking at a handful of roads in isolation, especially when it leads to traffic and parking problems being passed from one place to the next.</i></p> <p><i>Officers have recently received the results from the parking occupancy surveys which were undertaken in these roads in Moorlands last autumn, which will quantify the level of parking that typically occurs and what proportion of those vehicles are likely to be non-resident. That information will help identify what action we need to take. At the moment I can't provide detailed timescales as to when we will be able to consult on proposals to tackle this until we've finalised the strategy for the city as a whole, but we intend to have that strategy completed during the spring, which will set out how we intend to deal with these issues across Bath. In the meantime, once officers have checked the parking survey report they will send it onto the affected Ward Members.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, our Civil Enforcement Officers continue to regularly patrol this area and take appropriate action against vehicles parked illegally. I am aware that in some areas the road markings are a challenge, and this is being addressed to ensure that the restrictions, where appropriate, are clear.</i></p>			
<b>M</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Paul May

Bristol Council have finally recognised the ecological emergency in partnership with Avon Wildlife trust and six city partners. The cabinet members commitment and work has been well documented. This plan goes further into stopping wildlife habitats from being destroyed. Will you work with Bristol to investigate ways to stop wildlife habitats being destroyed and managing land in B&NES in a sustainable way as this initiative is relevant to the City of Bath and the countryside of North East Somerset?

**Answer from:**

Councillors Sarah Warren and David Wood

*Thank you for your question about the current Ecological Emergency. In the Climate Emergency progress report presented to Council on 10th October 2019 we acknowledged the Ecological Emergency in Section 3.6 and highlighted some of the actions B&NES is leading on to address this.*

*Bath and North East Somerset and Bristol along with South Gloucestershire and North Somerset have a strong working relationship and established the West of England Nature Partnership together with other partners (including Avon Wildlife Trust). This partnership is recognised nationally as a leading Local Nature Partnership and is featured as a case study in the government's 25-year Environment Plan. In 2019 the partnership launched the Nature Recovery Network which sets out a strong regional ambition. We also helped establish the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (which covers part of Wiltshire and the WoE) looking after the quality of our water environments.*

*B&NES was the first authority in the WoE to publish a Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013) and we have taken this forward into delivery with the Heritage Lottery funded Bathscape Landscape Partnership, the award winning Waterspace Programme, Get Bath Buzzing Pollinator Strategy and are developing a new programme linking health and natural heritage in the Somer Valley area. Our Parks Department are reviewing their sites to improve them for biodiversity and seeking opportunities for more tree planting*

*We are currently recruiting for a Tree & Woodland Officer to take forward our commitment for 100,000 new trees to be planted by 2023 and have provided the leadership to develop a WoE Green Infrastructure Strategy which will be published later this year.*

*The Environment Bill provides new opportunities for such a requirement for new developments to provide 10% Biodiversity New Gain.*

*It's important to engage our communities with this agenda and through our membership of the Natural History Consortium we will be providing citizen science opportunities through the City Nature Challenge and the Bath Festival of Nature.*

**Supplementary Question:** *(raised after hearing speech from Avon Wildlife Trust Chief Executive – Ian Barrett)*

It's clear that Bristol City Council are picking up the subtlety of distinction between an ecological emergency and a climate emergency; would the Cabinet Members agree that both aspects are really positive and would they support that concept?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Sarah Warren

*If the public have a deep enough understanding of this, declaring an ecological emergency would help.*

**M**

**03**

**Question from:**

Councillor Karen Warrington

One of your Administration's strategies is 'Prevention'; I appreciate that it focuses on Health & Wellbeing but would the Cabinet care to include regular unblocking of drains in the Prevention? We have had localised flooding in some rural areas, with homes flooded and this has caused anxiety within communities.

**Answer from:**

Councillor Joanna Wright

*There are a total of 30961 highway gullies across our whole road network in Bath & North East Somerset that are linked by a series of manholes and catchpits (4664 no.) through a maze of underground drainage pipelines. These gullies are visited at least once over a two year annual routine cleansing regime, at which time they will be cleared of debris and their silt traps (where present) sucked out leaving the gully fully operational. During routine cleansing any ironwork or underlying pipework defects will be identified and added to a planned works programme for repair. Gullies in high risk areas and main roads will be visited more frequently.*

*The gully cleansing programme is currently operated through our Highway Team Maintenance Contract with Volker Highways.*

**Supplementary Question:**

With regard to a number of gullies in the Chew Valley area being blocked and residents' concerns about whether these are being cleared annually - can the Cabinet Member give an assurance that those prone to flooding will be looked at?

<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Joanna Wright
<i>I'm aware that this is a real issue for people so will ask officers to follow up.</i>		
<b>M</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>Question from:</b>
		Councillor Paul Myers
I have received a number of communications from local residents concerned that lights are left on in the B&NES Offices all night in the Hollies in Midsomer Norton, at a time when the Council claims to be committed to Climate Emergency. Could something be done to switch lights off at night in the Hollies?		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillors Sarah Warren and David Wood
<i>The Council is committed to addressing the Climate Emergency and has identified tackling the climate and nature emergency as a core policy shaping our work.</i>		
<i>The Hollies is occupied by Virgin Care staff as well as Council staff. The Virgin teams work outside of standard office hours and can be in the office 24 hours per day 7 days a week, so as such the building is in use out of hours.</i>		
<i>In the unoccupied areas the lights should turn off automatically, the sensors are being checked to ensure that this is happening as it should. If there are any issues with these then they will be resolved as soon as possible.</i>		
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>		
Can the Cabinet Member explain whether all other Council buildings also have the lights off out of hours?		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Sarah Warren
<i>I will request that information.</i>		

<b>M</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Paul May
Residents in Whitchurch Village really appreciated your commitment to work with them regarding development post the JSP. Can you advise the current position in The WECA area regarding the four local authorities and will the new sub regional development plan start from the pre 2016 assessment of suitable sites?			
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Tim Ball	
<i>Full Council made a decision on 16th January 2020 to withdraw from the Joint Spatial Plan. The next step for the 4 Local Authorities is to agree the approach to sub-regional working to address strategic planning issues alongside progressing their Local Plan reviews. Both sub-regional work and Local Plan reviews will require up-to-date evidence. This will include a review of Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), as is required in the National Planning Policy Framework and other evidence.</i>			
<b>Supplementary Question:</b>			
Can the Cabinet Member please explain the situation should Bristol City Council not withdraw from the JSP?			
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Tim Ball	
<i>All Councils will withdraw automatically 3 months from the first Authority withdrawing (which was North Somerset in January).</i>			
<b>M</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Councillor Paul Myers
What progress has been made to date to ensure that local planning regulations relating to Listed buildings in the Authority can allow owners to address improved glazing energy efficiency in the light of the Climate Emergency?			
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Tim Ball	
<i>The Council's policy on energy efficiency and renewable energy with regard to listed buildings is set out in our Supplementary Planning</i>			

*Document (SPD) “Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Guidance for Listed Buildings and Undesignated Historic Buildings”. This document was published in 2013 and remains up to date in respect of windows in listed building and national legislation and guidance. It seeks to take a facilitative approach requirement by setting out how changes and adaptations can be made in the context of the Climate Change Emergency whilst also having regard to our statutory duty.*

*We have sought to ensure to make the SPD accessible to owners through links on various planning documents and in ensuring that it will be easily accessible on the Council’s new planning website, to be launched in the next couple of weeks*

*We have also introduced a pre-planning application category at our lowest fee in respect of secondary glazing, to enable owners to explore opportunities quickly prior to making an application (if needed).*

*A review of planning policy is now underway, and this will include revising the SPD to ensure that it is up to date with developing technologies and good practice.*

**Supplementary Question:**

Can the Cabinet Member provide further details about the timing of the review and revision of the SPD mentioned in the final sentence of his answer above?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Tim Ball

*Yes. At the Local Development Framework meeting on Monday, timelines were provided for this so I’ll supply those.*

**M**

**07**

**Question from:**

Councillor Paul May

Clearly, despite efforts made to improve the JLTP4 since it was consulted upon over a year ago, it is out of date in its shape and logic. When will the JLTP5 be prepared and will you consult with communities directly affected in Banes, before it is issued?

**Answer from:**

Councillors Joanna Wright and Neil Butters

*To transform our region, we will need to be flexible, agile and brave in our approach to the climate emergency. The Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP4) sets out to decarbonise and promote and transform cleaner and greener and sustainable forms of transport – cycling, walking and public transport but it is unlikely to be enough to be transport carbon neutral by 2030. It is a good starting point. As technologies evolve and lifestyles and future strategic and local development planning change, so the JLTP4 will not be set in stone and will remain under review. We will undertake an immediate review which will include further work to build up the evidence base and establish what will be required to reach the 2030 target and this will set the basis for the next JLTP.*

*Our focus at this time is to undertake the final amends to the JLTP4 for the WECA Joint Committee to consider for adoption on 20th March. Immediately after this a joint officer group from across the sub region will begin work to map out the review that will get us to a carbon neutral position by 2030.*

**Supplementary Question:**

Will it be possible for minor amendments to be made to the JLTP4 before submission to WECA on 20<sup>th</sup> March?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Joanna Wright

*Yes, we will be making amendments to the document.*

**M 08**

**Question from:**

Councillor Karen Warrington

There is £200,000 in the budget for residents parking and low traffic Neighbourhoods - can the Cabinet member please tell me how much is earmarked for the areas outside Bath?

**Answer from:**

Councillors Joanna Wright and Neil Butters

*The £200,000 is a revenue sum which will be used to employ additional officers to support the delivery of low traffic neighbourhoods across Bath & North East Somerset. The plan on where the LTNs will be implemented is yet to be developed and we are unable to provide the locality detail as requested at this time. One of the new roles will be dedicated to working with and engaging communities*

*and partners as the plans are developed and we look forward to working with ward Cllrs to help inform the delivery plans.*

**M**      **09**      **Question from:**      Councillor Karen Warrington

There is £150,000 in the budget for walking & cycling and, whilst I appreciate that there is money being made available from WECA, how much of the £150k allocation from B&NES is going to made available outside Bath?

**Answer from:**      Councillors Joanna Wright and Neil Butters

*There is £150,000 in the budget for Cycling and Walking Master Plan and scheme development. The intention is to develop a master plan for the whole of Bath and North East Somerset. It will encompass existing proposals and will provide an opportunity for aspirational schemes to be captured. In parallel we will continue to further develop schemes, such as the Keynsham to Bristol link and the North Road to Combe Down link.*

**Supplementary Question:**

Can we be sure that North Somerset and the Chew Valley area are included in the Cycling and Walking Master plan as there are currently very few safe routes?

**Answer from:**      Councillor Neil Butters

*Yes, the plan represents a large rural area. We will keep in touch as it develops.*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

<b>P 01</b>	<b>Question from:</b>	Nicolette Boater
<p>In the complex, uncertain and uncontrollable environment the Council operates in, strategic collaboration with diverse governmental institutions, businesses, and communities, realising co-benefits and avoiding adverse side effects will be critical to achieving its ambitions.</p> <p>Given this, in framing the Council's 4 year Corporate Strategy around just two "core policies" and thereby seemingly reducing the potential for multiple and strong connections between policy goals and prioritised activities, is the Cabinet mindful of the impact this might have on its ability to deliver its Strategy?</p>		
<b>Answer from:</b>		Councillor Dine Romero
<p><i>The new Corporate Strategy sets out a single new purpose for the council - to improve people's lives. Our core policies - addressing the climate emergency and giving people a bigger say - will shape what we do and how we do it. This simple and clear approach is reflected in the commitments set out in the strategy and the transparent and accountable framework for its delivery, which will require close collaboration with local partners and communities.</i></p>		

## **Statement to Cabinet 2020 – 13<sup>th</sup> February**

### ***2020/21 Budget – Will Peasedown St John be included?***

**Dear Panel Members,**

Each year we see millions of pounds being spent on numerous projects across the local authority.

All of which are carried out with the desire to invest in our communities and to improve the quality of life of our residents.

I'm grateful that the council uses a budget setting and discussion process that allows all councillors to contribute and make representations on behalf of their constituents.

It's for this very reason that I'm submitting this statement, and these items for consideration in the 2020/21 council budget.

Each week, I, along with my fellow ward councillor, spend time out in the community knocking on doors, meeting residents, and finding out what their desires and aspirations are for Peasedown St John.

This is their 'wish list' for the forthcoming council budget:

- *£25,000 for play park improvements in Eckweek Lane Play Area*

*We have now received information that works should be finished, once the consultation period with local residents had been completed.*

- *£50,000 for Resurfacing of Carlingcott road*
- *£50,000 for Lower Peasedown road resurfacing*
- *£50,000 to resurface Braysdown Lane*
- *£5,000 For VE Day Celebrations*

*Sarah & Myself received an email from the cabinet member Richard Samuel advising us that funds for events had been cut, by the previous administration, and there was no intention to reinstate funding for events.*

*The statement for Peasedown st John wish list was sent to Cabinet members and officers on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, asking them to consider our request.*

*According to the cabinet papers you have included Skinners hill as part of Peasedown St john, of which it is not, Skinners hill is apart of Camerton Parish.*

*You have allocated £160.000 to Peasedown st John Primary school for education, of which we are ready pleased to see*

*Just one question I am little confused.*

Children services: Re-phasing of £3.2m basic needs improvements schemes, £2.5m of which £2.3 relates to Peasedown st John?,

*But you have not included our requests for resurfacing 3 roads in our Parish.*

We would still like you to consider these financial requests from Peasedown St John residents for the 2020/21 council budget.

Yours,

**Cllr Karen Walker, Cllr Sarah Bevan**  
Independent, Peasedown St John

## Statement from Ian Barrett, Chief Executive Avon Wildlife Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust warmly welcomes the inclusion of the Nature Emergency in Bath and North East Somerset's proposed core policies.

The facts on what is happening to wildlife and ecosystems around the world are truly shocking

We've lost 60% of populations of wild vertebrates worldwide since 1970

We've lost 44m songbirds in the UK since 1960s (20%)

And 30m hedgehogs since the 1950s (95%)

In the West of England, we've lost 93% of our swifts and starlings since 1994

The insects that provide the basis of natural food webs are disappearing with falls of over 75%

We no longer see bugs on our windscreens when we drive in the summer

Populations of insect eating birds like the partridge and cuckoo have fallen by over 90%

This matters not just to wildlife lovers

Healthy ecosystems provide clean air and water and reduce flooding

75% of the crop types grown by humans require pollination by insects

- over 50% of the products in supermarkets are dependent on pollinators

Over half the world's GDP - \$44 trillion

is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services

And this is a problem that's accelerating

- Extinction rates are currently 100-1000 times the background level
- 1 in 6 species in UK at risk of extinction

It is no overstatement to say that we are facing an **ecological emergency** that we need to tackle to save our planet for people and wildlife

**The good news – as with climate change - is that it's not too late if we act decisively now to protect and restore ecosystems at home and abroad**

The ecological emergency is related to the climate crisis, but they are not the same.

Addressing the ecological emergency within climate emergency strategies is not enough.

The causes and solutions are different

- Climate change is primarily caused by the burning of fossil fuels  
**whereas**
- ecosystem breakdown is primarily caused by the destruction and fragmentation of habitats
- Tackling climate change primarily requires a move to renewable sources of energy  
**whereas**
- rebuilding ecosystems needs the rebuilding of connected habitats and reductions in pesticide use

We need to tackle both emergencies

We rely on functioning ecosystems for our air, water, health, quality of life, food and economy

So *if* we manage to transition to a zero carbon economy and fix the climate crisis, but our ecosystems collapse, we still face an existential threat to our future

The Council's draft strategy talks about the natural emergency, but the priorities and actions set out are all about carbon

This is only half of the solution

Avon Wildlife Trust calls on B&NES Council to take the opportunity of the inclusion of the nature emergency in its strategy to declare an ecological emergency

The Council is already doing a lot of work in this area that is currently under the radar

This is not a big step from where the Council is now

But leadership in this area will help to establish momentum nationally and regionally, bringing more focus to the action needed to save our natural environment for people and wildlife

This is not a call for Council resources

But leadership in this area will help us to secure the resources that are needed to ensure nature's recovery

We need a roadmap and an action plan for tackling the ecological emergency in B&NES

**Declaring an ecological emergency is a small step, but could provide a crucial rallying point for action to save our natural environment for people and wildlife**