

CABINET MEETING 4th December 2013

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

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

Statements about issues NOT on the Agenda

- Cllr Jeremy Sparks
Re: A37 (Clutton) Speed Limit petition
- Rosemary Naish (Chair, Clutton PC)
Re: A37 (Clutton) Speed Limit
- Sheila Clarke (Co-ordinator, Timsbury Road Safety Group)
Re: Gritting Route, South Road, Timsbury
- David Redgewell (South West Transport Network)
Re: 2013/14 Budget Period, proposed public transport subsidies
- Robert Morgan
Re: Compliance with Council Policy by Officers of Planning and Property Services

Re: Agenda Item 17 (Advice and Information Services Strategy)

- Joe Scofield
- Lin Patterson

Re: Agenda Item 18 (Restructuring of Early Years Services)

- Cllr Liz Hardman
- Cllr Eleanor Jackson

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

M 01	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>In the light of the letter which I believe the Council has received from Christopher Wildman, Secretary of the National Taxis Association Region 8, will the Cabinet Member withdraw the plan to ban the use of Satellite Navigation by taxi and private hire drivers within Bath?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>The cabinet only comments on policy to licensing committee. I have no intention of withdrawing the comment from cabinet on this element that has gone to committee. They make their decision on January 7th.</i></p>		

M 02	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>In the light of the announcement by the Law Commission that it plans to publish a report and draft legislation on the regulation of taxis and private hire vehicles within the next four weeks, does the Cabinet Member agree that no further work should be undertaken to change the regulations in Bath & North East Somerset until there is time to consider the Law Commission's report?</p>		
Answer from:		Councillor David Dixon
<p><i>Our current policy is outdated and many excellent opportunities to improve standards and address current changes such as that to the criminal records bureau checks. The Law Commission report has been awaited for quite some time. Once that report is finally published there will need to be consultation on that with our local trade which can then be considered as part of the future reviews of the policy and general conditions to be attached to hackney carriage and private hire licenses.</i></p>		

M 03	Question from:	Councillor Liz Richardson
<p>Can the cabinet member please provide information on the overall annual revenue savings and/or costs associated with the introduction of the parish ranger scheme, including any additional staffing costs and capital costs of any new vehicles? Can the Cabinet Member also please provide what indicators will be used to measure the</p>		

success or otherwise of the pilot scheme, including costs and savings? Is the Cabinet Member also confident that a trial of only 3 months for a winter season will provide sufficient data of cost savings and customer service for the ranger service to be set up in the other 4 areas ready for commencing in April 2014?

Answer from:

Councillor Caroline Roberts

The Parish Ranger Scheme is a new initiative for Bath & North East Somerset Council and is one of ten corporate projects supported by the Council's "10 in 100" scheme. Despite the annual cost of the scheme (estimated at £125k), there will be no annual revenue savings or additional costs. It is intended that the service will be delivered within existing resources where possible. It is intended that there will be more effective and efficient delivery of existing support, which will allow additional activities to be undertaken with Parish Councils and local communities. In future, there is the possibility of employing two young people as apprentices to the Rangers for which funding would need to be identified.

We will review the success of the scheme with the Parish Councils prior to finalising any permanent scheme. The pilot scheme in the Chew Valley area is to test how the scheme will operate with the Parish Councils, the Councillors and the local community. The Council is piloting is the practicalities of service delivery in order that we can learn valuable lessons for when the Parish Ranger Service expands to the other four cluster areas in April 2014.

All work requests to the Ranger, whether from the Parish Council, the Ward Councillor or through "Council Connect" will be logged centrally and this will enable us to liaise with the Parish Councils on a regular basis to measure their satisfaction with the scheme. The Pilot scheme will run for four months in the Chew Valley area and although we appreciate that this is over the winter period we are confident that with the support of the Parish Councils and the local community there will be more than enough issues identified to assess the success and future needs of the scheme.

M 04

Question from:

Councillor Vic Pritchard

With the intention of forming an Integrated Transformation Fund by transferring funding from local NHS commissioners to the Council, will previous NHS contracts continue to be honoured, and if not where is the NHS portion of the money to be spent?

Answer from:

Councillor Simon Allen

In the June 2013 spending round covering 2015/16 a national £3.8 billion "Integration Transformation Fund" (ITF) was announced. This fund, established by the Department of Health, is to be held by local authorities and will include funding previously transferred by local NHS commissioners to the Council under Section 256 Agreements. Funding allocations for 2014/15 and 2015/16 are yet to be confirmed and detailed guidance about the use of this funding and transfer arrangements are to be published later this month (mid-December).

In order to access the ITF, each area is required to develop a local plan by March 2014. Plans for the use of the pooled monies must be developed jointly by the Clinical

Commissioning Group. Local Authority and be signed off by each of these parties and the local Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Local Government Association and NHS England issued a joint statement on 8th August 2013 which places emphasis on the opportunities provided by the ITF to “transform care so that people are provided with better integrated care and support... help deal with demographic pressures in adult social care... take the integration agenda forward at scale and pace... to align the ITF with the strategy process... support the development of the shared vision for services... support the aim of providing people with the right care, in the right place, at the right time, including through a significant expansion of care in community settings.”

Although detailed guidance is yet to be issued, it is reasonable to assume that the purpose of the ITF will be broadly in line with the purpose of the funding that currently flows into the local health and social care system and commonly referred to as “Section 256” funding. Section 256 funding is intended for use in addressing pressures in the health and social care system, including those arising from demographic change; reducing admission to and length of stay in hospital; and to fund community based interventions that prevent an escalation of people’s need and support them to live as independently as possible, in the community for as long as possible.

Bath and North East Somerset has a good track-record of investment of Section 256 funding in early intervention and preventative services and to achieve system change with the aim of achieving longer-term sustainability in the health and social care system. This should provide a sound foundation for the development and agreement of local plans for the use of the ITF, which will need to take into account services currently funded from Section 256 monies and other sources of funding that will be included in the ITF. Decisions in relation to commissioning intentions for 2015/16, including any necessary tendering or contractual implications, will need to be considered by both the Council and the CCG in light of the agreed plans.

M 05	Question from:	Councillor Victor Pritchard
New rules require providers of neuro-rehabilitation to register with UKROC. What provision has been made to ensure everyday working at each respective provider is monitored by UKROC?		
Answer from:		Councillor Simon Allen
<p><i>As the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, I do not have responsibility for the quality assurance of the providers of neuro-rehabilitation required to register with UKROC, which sits with the commissioner of these services, NHS England. However, I have sought advice from Dr Lou Farbus, Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Specialised Commissioning for the South West) within NHS England, Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire Area Team (SNSSSG area team) who has provided the following response.</i></p> <p><i>The UK specialist Rehabilitation Outcomes Collaborative (UKROC) has been set up through a Department of Health NIHR Programme Grant to develop a national database for collating case episodes for inpatient rehabilitation. In the first 5 years it will focus on neuro-rehabilitation and ultimately include data from all specialist Level 1 and 2 neuro-</i></p>		

rehabilitation services, across the UK.

Further information, including definitions of level of care required for registration on the database can be found at: <http://www.csi.kcl.ac.uk/ukroc.html>

As stated in the question, all providers commissioned to provide Level 1 and 2a neuro-rehabilitation should be registered with UKROC. Quality information is reported to NHS England and monitored by BNSSSG area team's quality surveillance group.

Dr Farbus's update report to the November 2013 Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on the re-provision of neuro-rehabilitation since April 2013 can still be accessed via the Council's website.

M 06	Question from:	Councillor Anthony Clarke
<p>As the Cabinet Member may be aware, the police in Bristol have recently launched a new operation to educate cyclists and motorists in Bristol on the proper use of the road, particularly in relation to obeying the rules at busy junctions. Noting the Cabinet report in relation to the Sevens Dials scheme, as well as concerns over cycling safety at other busy junctions in Bath and the wider area, does the Cabinet Member plan on entering into any discussions with the Police about launching a similar operation here?</p>		
	Answer from:	Councillor Caroline Roberts
<p><i>The West of England Road Safety Partnership (including representatives of Bath & North East Somerset Road Safety Team) have been liaising with the Police for some time over the roll-out of on-site events to educate both cyclists and motorists, about a better and safer understanding of how to share road space.</i></p> <p><i>The Bristol event was the first such operation and the Council's Road Safety Team is currently liaising with local Police to organise similar events in Bath & North East Somerset, which would seek to inform road users of techniques to avoid collisions on our busy roads. Through these operations we also hope to raise the profile of the Adult Cycle Training which is offered free to all Bath & North East Somerset residents by the Council.</i></p> <p><i>The Council's professional officers ensure that schemes such as the Seven Dials project are subject to design procedures, safety audits and post implementation monitoring to deliver safe and successful projects.</i></p>		

M 07	Question from:	Councillor Charles Gerrish
<p>I note the entry in the Medium Term Financial Plan as exhibited in the Planning Transport and Environment PD&s panel £1,325,000 to be spent on the Midsomer Norton Business Centre.</p> <p>I welcome the contribution from the Alcan 106 Agreement but ask, would it not be more appropriate to consider the work of the Midsomer Norton Economic Development Partnership who have discussed the location of the business centre being in the town centre in order to additionally support the regeneration of the retail core of the town?</p>		

Answer from:

Councillor Ben Stevens

There are a number of options for bringing forward additional employment space in Midsomer Norton, but no decisions have yet been made about the location. The Council will work with local partners, including the Midsomer Norton Economic Development Partnership to establish the most appropriate type of space, the best location and the deliverability of options.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

There were none