

CABINET MEETING 2nd February 2011

The following Statements and Questions had been registered by the time of publication.

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

There were 2 notices of intention to make a statement at the meeting. 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.

- Major Tony Crombie
Re: Potential New Leisure Centre
- Cllr Eleanor Jackson
Re: Budget (Agenda Item 14)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

01	Question from: Councillor Nigel Roberts
	a) What is the budget for promoting cycling and cycle works? b) What remains unspent this year? c) What plans are there to ensure this is spent this financial year?
	Answer from: Councillor Charles Gerrish
	<p>(a) Cycle Schemes included in 2010/11 Capital Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Two Tunnels, Bath</i> - The total cost of the scheme is £1.8 million. There is £200,000 capital funding this financial year, Links to School funding £222,000, Connect 2 funding £961,000• <i>Five Arches, Midsomer Norton</i> - The total scheme cost estimate is £694,000. There is currently £69,000 allocated within Capital Programme, £311,000 from Links to school funding and £250,000 Connect 2 funding has been awarded.• <i>Cycle Parking</i> - £5000. This is for cycle parking within the public highway and for The Take a Stand Scheme where small organisations can apply for a free cycle stand.• <i>Bath Cycle network</i> - £45,000. This is made up of a number of schemes including Churchill Gyrotory cycle link, Destructor Bridge Cycle route, The Avenue cycle contra-flow and works on the Claverton Down route.• <i>Bristol and Bath Railway Path/Bath Spa University cycle link feasibility study</i> - £10,000• <i>Farrington Gurney and Midsomer Norton shared use path feasibility study</i> - £5,000 <p>Cycle Training - There have been 608 school pupils trained to date and the expected total will be 11,000 by the end March 2011.</p> <p>Bike It - The budget to provide for a Bike It officer £60,000. The council contribute £15,000, Sustrans £45,000. The Bike It officer worked with 12 schools</p>

last year, and is now supporting those schools, whilst working more closely with a further 6 this year. Surveys averaging out the results from all 12 schools between May 2009 and June 2010 indicate that the number of pupils that cycle to school at least once or twice a week quadrupled from 5% to 21%, and for those cycling everyday the figures raised from 1% to 6%, whilst those reporting to never cycle to school dropped from 84% to 49%.

Sports and Active Leisure Initiatives

- SkyRide (Mass participation family cycling event) - £47,000 (£17,500 PCT funding)
- SkyRide Local (A series of small group cycle rides designed to get everyone cycling regularly in a fun and informal way) - £5,000 (joint funding with British Cycling)
- Somer Valley Wheels - £14,355
- Avon Valley Wheels - £2,385
- Aiming High for Disabled Children - £10,000 capital funding to purchase adapted cycles

b) and (c) combined answer:

The majority of capital programme budgets are expected to be spent by the end of March 2011. However, we have agreed an underspend of approximately £50,000 with the Two Tunnels Team because the project is progressing more slowly than anticipated. A request will be made to carry this over into the next financial year. Only £1,136 of the Sports and Active Leisure budget remains unspent.

02

Question from: Councillor Paul Crossley

The Consultation on Culverhay closure ends on the 26th of Jan. At the last Full Council I asked Cllr Watt to consider taking the final decision in public. He declined to do so. In view of the great public interest in this subject I ask you as Leader of the Council to use your power and prerogative to make the final Culverhay decision a Cabinet decision as opposed to a single member decision so that it is considered in public

Answer from: Councillor Francine Haeberling

In his previous response Councillor Watt, Cabinet Member for Children's Services explained why he proposed to make a single member decision concerning Culverhay School in line with normal council practice.

The Cabinet considered matters relating to Culverhay School in July, August and November last year. All of these meetings were open to the public. In addition there have been two 'Call-In' debates at specially convened meetings of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, again these were open to the public.

At each of these meetings Councillor Watt has presented the reasons for wide consultation, specific consultation and the decisions reached.

Past practice concerning school closures and amalgamation has been that following the required forms and periods of consultation, final decisions are taken by the Cabinet Member as single member decisions.

I acknowledge that this is an important matter, however, I believe that its

importance has been recognised through the extensive consultation and scrutiny that has taken place. If therefore remains appropriate for Councillor Watt to make a single member decision, the issue will not return to Cabinet.

Supplementary Question:

Does the Leader of the Council not think that since this is the first time that the decision would have a real consequence (that of closing a school), she should reconsider her response and should agree that the decision should be made at a public Cabinet Meeting?

Answer from: Councillor Francine Haerberling

No. It is existing practice for such decisions to be made by the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder.

03

Question from: Councillor Caroline Roberts

In the Bath Transportation Package expression of interest document the Council has indicated that it is 'minded' to contribute an extra £9.1 million towards the costs of the package. What is the anticipated source of this extra contribution?

Answer from: Councillor Malcolm Hanney

The provisions for Council contributions to the Bath Package costs are set out within the proposed Capital Programme for 2011/2012 to 2015/2016 and are fully funded through prudential borrowing for which full revenue provision is made within the Budget.

There is also further potential to utilise additional capital receipts should they arise in the future, for example as a result of any proposals for partnering with the Council's commercial estate, although the capital programme is in no way reliant upon such receipts.

Supplementary Question:

In the light of his reply, can the Cabinet member say how much money has been spent on advertising their intentions?

Answer from: Councillor Malcolm Hanney

I am not aware that the Council has spent any money on advertising this.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

There were none