

COUNCIL 13th JULY 2017

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

P	01	Question from:	Andrew Mercer
<p>Now that the east of Bath park and ride has been shelved, please state how much has been spent on the east of Bath park and ride to date and how much of this comes from the 500K released in January?</p>			
Answer from:		Councillor Mark Shelford & Charles Gerrish	
<p>Following the Council 2014/15 provisional budget approval of up to £5.2m for the development of an East of Bath Park & Ride; expenditure against this scheme has been approximately £1.13m to date; (of which £841,519 has been under the current administration, including £231,332 of internal fees and recharges); this also includes £30k from the £500k approved in January.</p>			
P	02	Question from:	Andrew Mercer
<p>Now that the east of Bath park and ride has been shelved, please state how much of this spending remains in the capital budget and will need to be written off?</p>			
Answer from:		Councillor Mark Shelford & Charles Gerrish	
<p>This expenditure is currently capital and at risk of revenue reversion, however should a further capital scheme or schemes be developed that give an alternative option (or options) the risk of revenue reversion will be reduced. It should also be noted that the expenditure undertaken so far has primarily been related to traffic modelling and feasibility studies which can therefore be used as evidence to support any alternative proposals that come forward related to addressing congestion, air quality and the economic benefits of reducing traffic entering the city from the east. The full resource implications are set out within the Cabinet report available on the Council website within the agenda for the 19th July Cabinet meeting.</p>			
P	03	Question from	Christine Boyd
<p>The last time B&nes scrapped a park and ride on Bathampton Meadows in 2011 they allocated a budget of 5.2m to be spent on 'ALTERNATIVES to park and ride on Bathampton Meadows.' Please confirm that the council has used this budget to fund park and ride on the meadows when it should have been used for alternatives.</p>			
Answer from:		Councillor Mark Shelford & Charles Gerrish	
<p>The Council 2014/15 budget gave provisional approval of up to £5.2m for the East of Bath Park & Ride, following this full approval was given for the amounts required to develop site options for consideration by the Council.</p>			
P	04	Question from:	Christine Boyd

If the above (qn P03) is incorrect, please specify the budget this has come from and when it was approved?

Answer from:

Councillor Mark Shelford & Charles Gerrish

Please refer to the above response.

P

05

Question from:

Dionne Pemberton

How much did the Modern Integrated Library & Customer Services video on BATHNES website cost to produce?

Answer from:

Councillor Martin Veal

£1,125 was the total cost for the video.

P

06

Question from

Dionne Pemberton

What is the total spend to date on promotional materials for the integrated library service (inclusive of 2 x posters in the library, website updates, design & production of printed materials & a video)?

Answer from:

Councillor Martin Veal

£7,930 is total spend to date.

P

07

Question from:

Fiona Powell

It is clear, even from the time of the public consultation, that access to East P&R site B could not have been from the A4 bypass without deviating from road safety standards. Why was this risk not fully bottomed out before almost £2m of public money has been spent on the wider project and who will be held accountable for this waste of money?

Answer from:

Councillor Mark Shelford

At the time of writing the Cabinet report in January 2017, officers believed it could be possible to achieve an acceptable junction design required by Highways England as specified in the technical standards. However, as explained in that report, additional technical work would need to be undertaken and that work has since been done and officers have concluded that they are not able to recommend that safe access can be achieved. It was necessary to do this work, to enable a conclusion to be reached.

P

08

Question from:

Fiona Powell

What are the planned timings for delivering the next Air Quality Action Plan?

Answer from:

Councillor Martin Veal

The formal consultation on the review of the Bath Air Quality Action plan will be launched within the next month. The consultation will last for 12 weeks (as required in the statutory guidance) before the plan is agreed, finalised and brought to Cabinet for a decision on adoption. Subject to the timings of the democratic process, it is likely that adoption will take place early in 2018.

P **09** **Question from** **Caroline Ambrose**

B&NES 2020 Corporate Strategy for 2020 states: "We want to make sure that residents' views and needs are at the heart of everything that we do. Sometimes in the past we have delivered services with limited engagement local people. We want to change this."

Residents group Save Bath Libraries have been asking for the Councillor for Communities to engage with residents for over six months. Our emails dating back to January are unanswered. Questions raised in public statements at council meetings dating back to February are still awaiting responses. Our petition of February 14th signed by 1% of the electorate has had to be escalated to the Council Leader to flag that residents are yet to have the council meeting which they were promised would take place prior to any subsequent consultation so that Councillors are able to understand and represent' views to council officers. In all this time, we have just had one meeting with the Council Leader to ask him when engagement will start if the Councillor for Communities does not engage and three months on, the Councillor for Communities has yet to meet with us. Can the Councillor for Communities explain why he has not engaged with residents?

Answer from: **Councillor Martin Veal**

Officers have been working on the draft Business case since consultation on the proposal for an integrated Library and One Stop Shop ended: during this period we have listened to concerns raised by the public in relation to the suggested venue. Answers have been provided for a large number of freedom of information requests as well as e-mails and letters.

The Council leader has agreed to a meeting with this group and this was held on the 11th July as part of the Bath Deserves Better meeting. It is important to stress that at this stage that our draft business case is not looking at the detailed design of a new modern library and one stop shop facility; it is merely consulting residents on their preferred option for its chosen venue. We have stated in responses to Save Bath Library group that it was always our intention to develop a detailed business case on the options available before entering the next phase of consultation and we are committed to further engagement at the appropriate time with a cross section of our communities to ensure we bring forward a design that is inclusive and representative of community needs.

P **10** **Question from:** **Caroline Ambrose**

Residents group Save Bath Libraries have a great list of ideas and options for Bath Central Library. Given the widespread public concern about the lack of consultation before December's announcement of proposals, will the Councillor for Communities guarantee to a deadline to meet with residents as a matter of urgency to ensure residents views and ideas are included in any list of options being worked on by Council officers?

Answer from: **Councillor Martin Veal**

On the 11th July 2017, Cllr Tim Warren met with members of Save Bath Library and provided details regarding the next phase of consultation and set out future plans for engagement on the new Modern library programme for Bath. These details are set to be debated at Cabinet on the 19th July and the details can be obtained from the published papers.