

COUNCIL 13TH JULY 2017

COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

M 01	Question from:	Councillor Joe Rayment
What is the estimated revenue reversion risk of any decision not to proceed with the East of Bath Park and Ride?		
	Answer from:	Councillors Shelford & Gerrish
<p>The resource implications are included within the report to Cabinet now available on the Council website within the 19th July Cabinet agenda. This sets out that, should a scheme not be developed, the expenditure to date which could be at risk of revenue reversion is approximately £1.1m, however some of the work undertaken as part of this expenditure may contribute to developing some of the alternative options set out in the Cabinet report thereby reducing the figure associated with this risk. It should also be noted that, as set out in the Cabinet report, 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.</p>		
M 02	Question from:	Councillor Joe Rayment
What provision has been made within the Council's budget to meet the costs of this revenue reversion?		
	Answer from:	Councillors Shelford & Gerrish
<p>The Council holds general reserves recognising that in year financial risks may occur. In the event of revenue reversion this would be a one off charge to the Council's revenue budget; if this could not be funded from existing revenue budgets there would need to be a recommendation to drawdown general reserves subject to Council approval.</p>		
M 03	Question from:	Councillor Joe Rayment
When one half of the public is women and one third of the Council is women, why do women only represent 10% of the B&NES Cabinet?		
	Answer from:	Councillor Tim Warren
<p>Members are appointed to the Cabinet based on merit and their availability to undertake the role. We are fortunate to have many talented councillors on the Council – both male and female - however I am sure you will appreciate that not all Councillors are in a position to commit all the time needed to undertake all the duties required of a Cabinet Member due to other commitments, or simply prefer to contribute to the Council in other ways. I do believe though that as political groups we should all do what we can to increase the overall gender balance on the Council and that the necessary support is offered those Members who wish</p>		

to take on greater duties within the Council.

M 04	Question from:	Councillor Joe Rayment
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You are quoted as saying “Some of those homeless do so (i.e. sleep in shop doorways) because it’s a lifestyle choice”. What evidence do you have that homelessness is a lifestyle choice when the latest rough sleeping count of 26 was conducted on a night when Julian House was full?

Answer from:	Councillor Martin Veal
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Unfortunately my comments were taken out of context. The reasons why people sleep rough are varied and often complex. In some cases the individual may have lost their home through no fault of their own and require assistance to find a new home at a price they can afford. However, at the other end of the scale there are individuals who sleep rough who, for a variety of reasons, choose not to engage with support services that are offered by the Council and our partners. Indeed I have also been advised that there are currently around 6 individuals who the Council is aware have homes but are sleeping rough. Of the 26 individuals identified as sleeping rough during the last formal homelessness count, I am informed that 23 of these individuals were known to the Council and had previously been offered – but declined – various support and help in finding shelter. It is important to note that this is not to lessen the problem but rather to highlight the complexities around the issue. No one should be required to sleep rough and we will continue to work with our partners to provide support and assistance to enable rough sleepers to secure a sustainable home.