

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
- SEPTEMBER 2017

ANNEX 3

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. The time allowed for this agenda item will not exceed 30 minutes. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR JENNY HANNABY</p> <p>In relation to question 5 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Hannaby, Councillor Constance gave an undertaking to follow up on the suggestion that the Council extend its current maintenance Contract.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>In 2016 our previous Street Lighting Contractor terminated its contract with Oxfordshire, and as such the council negotiated an interim arrangement with Amey to ensure that emergency work continued to be undertaken. At the same time, the service has been investigating the potential to extend our current LED implementation programme replacement across all of our existing street lights. Initial modelling has shown that this would save approximately £1.4million a year on the council's energy bills.</p> <p>The contracting requirements for such a large scale replacement programme and the ongoing maintenance of an LED estate is significantly different to that required to manage the Councils existing Street Lighting stock. The service have therefore deferred procuring a new contract until such time that Cabinet have made a decision on investment in order that most the suitable and cost effective maintenance arrangements are in place for the future. It is hoped to bring a paper to Cabinet early next calendar year with a view to implementing new contracting arrangements before next winter.</p> <p>Given the extended period of the interim arrangement, the service is negotiating with Amey to provide an enhanced level of service to begin tackling some of the backlog of maintenance at a greater rate</p>

<p>2. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>In relation to question 7 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Howson, Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to include representations about funding for SEN transport now that the DfE was having a review on the Guidance in relation to SEN Transport.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION</p> <p>Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to include representations on funding for SEN Transport and continued to do so in ongoing consultations.</p>
<p>3. COUNCILLOR JOHN SANDERS</p> <p>In relation to question 10 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor John Sanders, Councillor Constance agreed to walk the route with Councillor Sanders to discuss the points raised in his question.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>City walk took place on 12 October and all agreed provision of bus stops and seats is adequate.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>In relation to question 11 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Pressel, Councillor Constance gave an undertaking to follow up with officers on how the Council worked with the City Council on the Botley Road improvements.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>£5 million grant funded from National Productivity Fund to improve cycling and Public Transport Services between Binsey Lane and Eynsham Road</p>

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED UNDER REPORT OF THE CABINET

COUNCILLOR ROOKE

In relation to paragraph 1 (Section 75 Agreement – Update 2017) (Question from Councillor Rooke to Councillor Stratford), Councillor Stratford undertook to provide Rooke with a written answer detailing what systems are in place to support staff through the process of the Care Quality Commission’s review of high DETOC figures in Oxon and should the result lead to a reduction in government funding, how will the Cabinet Member ensure that any loss to the pooled budget is geared in relation to the proportions of DETOC figures which are directly the responsibility of the County Council.

COUNCILLOR STRATFORD

The Care Quality Commission’s inspection into the interface within our local system and the governance in place for the management of resources began on 23rd October. The inspection involves site visits taking place on 6th & 7th November and 27th November – 1st December. We welcome the oversight that this will provide regarding how people experience health and social care services. There will be a focus on the experiences of people living with dementia as they move through the system, delayed transfers of care, and a focus on people over 65 years old. Given the relatively high numbers of people with delayed transfers of care in Oxfordshire we anticipate that locally some of the inspection will focus on this, and are looking forward to external challenge and support to make our system better.

We currently have a dedicated working group who are focused on the Care Quality Commission inspection and part of this group's remit will be to consider the impact on staff. This group has identified the need to support staff during the inspection process and this will include developing a comprehensive communications strategy to ensure staff are fully briefed ahead of the inspection. This communications strategy has already begun with specific briefings planned for staff who will be interviewed by the Care Quality Commission as well as more general communications for all staff (the first of which was sent on October 31st).

We expect the inspection to be a supportive process which will identify what is working well and where there are opportunities

	<p>for improving how the system works for people using services. One of our key messages for those staff who are interviewed by the Care Quality Commission will be for them to be honest about both our successes and challenges. Staff will be given the opportunity to discuss the inspection as part of their regular 1-2-1's and supervision before, during and after the inspection. We will also promote the use of the council's Employee Assistance Programme for those staff members who require extra support during this period.</p> <p>Overall around 40% of delayed transfers of care are the responsibility of the NHS, 20% are the responsibility of social care, and 40% are the responsibility of the NHS and social care. We are working together with our NHS colleagues: Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group as a commissioner; and Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust and Oxford Health Foundation Trust as providers, to solve the issues that have led to people being delayed in hospital. We do not think that any reduction in government funding would be of benefit to the people who are delayed. We currently have pooled commissioning budgets (the older persons budget, which incorporates the Better Care Fund is £203m, with £127m from Oxfordshire County Council and £76m from Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group). If there were proposals to reduce funding we have some ability to flex what we are spending and could potentially reduce spend to match any grant reduction, however much of the funding is on assessed needs of people, and would create a shared on-going pressure on the pool and Council as the actual spend would continue.</p>
<p><u>COUNCILLOR PRICE</u></p> <p>In relation to paragraph 1 (Section 75 Agreement – Update</p>	<p><u>COUNCILLOR STRATFORD</u></p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council and Oxfordshire Clinical</p>

<p>2017) (Question from Councillor Price to Councillor Stratford), Councillor Stratford undertook to provide Price with a written answer detailing what elements of the pooled budget are contributing towards the care and support directly related to the now permanently closed acute hospital beds and what the potential risks to the budget are now that the CCG now plan to close further beds.</p>	<p>Commissioning Group have long established pooled budget arrangements. There is overarching governance arrangements in place to jointly manage spend across service areas where joint working will lead to better and more efficient outcomes for people.</p> <p>Following a reconfiguration of arrangements, we now operate two pooled budgets: a pool for Adults with Care and Support Needs and a pool for the Better Care Fund. These budgets include areas of shared spend between the Council and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group and therefore meeting people's needs when they require acute care is excluded from these pooled arrangements.</p> <p>Following the closure of acute hospital beds, meeting people's needs when they require acute care remains the responsibility of the NHS; therefore, the pooled budgets are not contributing to acute care costs for people resulting from bed closures. These costs are met by the NHS for the duration that a person requires acute care.</p> <p>The Council becomes responsible for meeting the assessed needs of people once they no longer require acute care and we continue to have a shared approach to meeting these needs through the pooled budget arrangements.</p>
<p><u>COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON</u></p> <p>In relation to paragraph 2 (City Centre Transport Improvements and Experimental Queen Street Closure) (Question from Councillor Johnston to Councillor Constance), Councillor Constance undertook to provide Councillor Johnston with a written answer detailing whether there are any contingency plans in place should the government decide not to close Queen</p>	<p><u>COUNCILLOR CONSTANCE</u></p> <p>Contingency plan to agree with bus companies to reduce the number of buses by approximately half and monitor.</p>

Street.	
<p><u>COUNCILLOR HOWSON</u></p> <p>In relation to paragraph 2 (City Centre Transport Improvements and Experimental Queen Street Closure) (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Constance), Councillor Constance undertook to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer detailing why the Westgate Travel Plan did not feature in the report that went to Cabinet in July and explaining why having spent £400,000 on the Worcester street junction the Council are spending more money redeveloping that junction again, despite the fact that councillors were told last week that there is going to be a joint County and City study with consultants to look at the whole problem of transport, pedestrians and cycling within the City and the cost of that Study.</p>	<p><u>COUNCILLOR CONSTANCE</u></p> <p>Officers do not consider the Westgate Travel Plan to be of general relevance to the question of the closure of Queen Street to buses. Could Cllr Howson please clarify what aspect of the Westgate Travel Plan he considers to be relevant?</p> <p>The Worcester Street/George Street junction remains under review. The proposals consulted on earlier in the year were minor modifications in physical terms, so the changes made in 2014 would not have been “undone”.</p> <p>However, further consultation will be necessary before any changes are made and no decisions have been made yet about these changes. No decisions will be made ahead of the completion of the joint city/county centre transport strategy referred to by Cllr Howson. In the meantime, a bolt-down traffic island has been installed to enhance the cycle waiting area and give more protection to waiting cyclists.</p> <p>The city centre study will cost just under £80,000, with the cost shared equally between city and county.</p>