



MINUTES OF COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday 14 September 2016 TIME: 10am

VENUE: Shire Hall, Gloucester

Present

Cllr Phil Awford	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson	Cllr Vernon Smith
Cllr Dorcas Binns	Cllr Richard Leppington	Cllr Lynden Stowe
Cllr Robert Bird	Cllr Sarah Lunnon	Cllr Klara Sudbury
Cllr Tony Blackburn	Cllr Steve Lydon	Cllr Mike Sztymiak
Cllr David Brown	Cllr Steve McHale	Cllr Ray Theodoulou
Cllr Chris Coleman	Cllr Paul McLain	Cllr Brian Tipper
Cllr Dr John Cordwell	Cllr Paul McMahon	Cllr Pam Tracey
Cllr Iain Dobie	Cllr Tracy Millard	Cllr Robert Vines
Cllr Bernard Fisher	Cllr Patrick Molyneux	Cllr Stan Waddington
Cllr Jasminder Gill	Cllr Nigel Moor	Cllr Simon Wheeler
Cllr Andrew Gravells	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen	Cllr Jack Williams
Cllr Tim Harman	Cllr Shaun Parsons (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Kathy Williams
Cllr Joe Harris	Cllr Alan Preest	Cllr Lesley Williams MBE
Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE	Cllr David Prince	Cllr Suzanne Williams
Cllr Colin Hay (Chairman)	Cllr Nigel Robbins	Cllr Roger Wilson
Cllr Jeremy Hilton	Cllr Brian Robinson	Cllr Will Windsor-Clive

Honorary Aldermen

Bill Hobman

Apologies: Honorary Aldermen Liz Boait, Bill Crowther, Paul Drake, Terry Parker, John Sewell and Gordon Shurmer.

Cllrs Jason Bullingham, Colin Guyton, Tony Hicks, Barry Kirby and Graham Morgan

56. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

57. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A copy of the declarations of interest is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

58. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Barry Dare, Garry Phipps, Robin MacDonald and Jack Newell Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to former Leader of the Council, Barry Dare, and former councillors Garry Phipps, Robin MacDonald and Jack Newell who had all sadly passed away in recent weeks.

Members paid tribute to Barry, Garry, Robin and Jack, noting their contributions to the County Council, their local communities and the wider county area.

Barry had been Leader of the Council from 2005 to 2010. A number of members said Barry was a mentor and friend who had a passion for life and was a great ambassador for Gloucestershire.

- b) Rio Olympics and Paralympics
The Chairman congratulated the athletes from Gloucestershire who had taken part in the Rio Olympics and Paralympics. The Olympic medal winners included:

Charlotte Dujardin (Equestrian) Gold and Silver
Pete Reed (Rowing) Gold
Matt Gotrel (Rowing) Gold
Alex Gregory (Rowing) Gold
Dan Norton (Rugby 7's) Silver
Carl Hester (Equestrian) Silver
Vicky Holland (Triathlon) Bronze

The list of Gloucestershire medalists at the Paralympics had not yet been published. The Chairman did, however, mention Andy Lewis from Lydney who had just become the inaugural Gold medallist in the Triathlon at the Paralympics.

- c) Gloucestershire Apprenticeship Awards
Amey, the Council's highways partner, was a finalist for the Employer of the Year (in the over 25 members of staff category) for taking on at least eight new apprentices every year. Since working with the Council, Amey had recruited a large number of apprentices and by 2017, 121 young people would have been recruited and trained representing 60% of the workforce.

- d) Heather Forbes
The Chairman advised that the All Party Parliamentary Group on Archives and History was honouring the work of Heather Forbes with a 'Lifetime Achievement Award'. She would be receiving a certificate at a special lunch in the House of Commons on 11 October 2016.
- e) Tour of Britain
The Chairman reported that the Tour of Britain cycle race had passed through Gloucestershire on Thursday, 8 September with members and officers taking the opportunity to view the race at Gloucester Quay.
- f) Chepstow Bridge and the Severn Bridge
The Chairman said that he had attended an event in Chepstow to mark the 200th anniversary of the Wye Bridge which was now the longest iron span bridge in the world. He also noted that 14 September 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of the first Severn Bridge.

59. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Six public questions had been received. No supplementary questions were asked.

60. CORPORATE PARENTING

Cllr Paul McLain, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Strategic Commissioning, presented the report. He encouraged members to attend the next meeting of the Children in Care Council on 28 October 2016.

Answering questions, Cllr McLain explained that there were a number of reasons why the number of children in care was rising. These included more activity by the Police and related agencies, children in remand being automatically categorised as children in care, decisions by the courts and the county supporting other parts of the country in taking unaccompanied asylum children. He said that a large number of extra social workers had been recruited, some of which were newly qualified and relatively inexperienced. He hoped that as they gained knowledge and experience there would be fewer referrals and they would be more confident in putting forward other options.

RESOLVED to note the report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Strategic Commissioning.

61. PETITIONS

a) Minor injury units at Stroud and Cirencester

A petition with more than 5,000 signatures had been received calling for Gloucestershire Care Services and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure that a 24 hour local urgent care service continued to be provided at the minor injury units at Stroud Hospital and Cirencester Hospital.

The Chairman explained that in accordance with the Council Constitution, the lead petitioner would be given 5 minutes to present the petition and this would be discussed by members for 15 minutes. The 15 minute Council debate could be extended at the discretion of the Chairman up to a maximum of 30 minutes.

The subject matter of the petition did not relate to the functions of the Council so the petition would be referred to Gloucestershire Care Services and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group along with the minutes of the Council debate.

John Bloxsome presented the petition on behalf of the lead petitioner, Debbie Hicks. Mr Bloxsome explained that the petition expressed serious concern regarding night time closures of the minor injury units at the hospitals in Stroud and Cirencester. He said that the accessibility and responsiveness of minor injury units was highly valued by local communities with over 17,000 contacts with the public in Cirencester and more than 16,000 contacts in Stroud.

The service was of particular benefit to more vulnerable people who struggled to travel to Gloucester Royal Hospital. Waiting times were shorter and pressure was eased on the already over-stretched A&E service in Gloucester. Mr Bloxsome called for appropriate pay and conditions for staff to address the staffing crisis in the NHS.

Cllr Joe Harris, who had been closely involved in organising the petition in Cirencester, explained that there was a tremendous strength of feeling over the issue amongst the public. He said that the overnight closure of the minor injury units was another example of the way in which the NHS was being eroded by cuts in funding. The most vulnerable people in society were most affected and he believed that the overnight closures would simply result in more calls to the ambulance service.

Cllr Lesley Williams, who had been involved in organising the petition in Stroud, thanked Debbie Hicks and John Bloxsome for bring the petition to the Council. She noted that five times the number of people who had completed the NHS survey had signed the petition. She believed that the overnight closures were part of a managed decline of the NHS with A&E waiting times at Gloucester getting longer and longer and the service under a notice of breach of licence by NHS Improvement.

Other members expressed serious concern at the closure of the minor injury units in Stroud and Cirencester. They were concerned at the way in which the consultation had been undertaken and the increasing pressure that the closures would have on A&E at Gloucester Royal Hospital. The overnight reduction in services at Cheltenham A&E had already been tremendous pressure on Gloucester Royal Hospital. The July 2016 waiting time had reached 5 hours in Gloucester.

A member noted that reassurances had been given only a year ago that the minor injury unit in Cirencester would continue but with qualified nurses replacing doctors. He said that local people felt undermined and cheated by the latest proposals.

Another member believed that it was right and proper for the matter to be brought before elected members as it was an issue that affected the whole of Gloucestershire. He believed that the continued withdrawal of local services would call into question the viability of the community hospitals across the county and he requested that the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee look at the issue.

- b) Cllr Klara Sudbury presented a petition (58 signatures) to Cllr Vernon Smith, Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood, relating to the condition of a footbridge running over Pilley Bridge (Charlton Park and College Division).

62. MOTIONS

Motion 776 – Waste recycling rates

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson and Cllr Klara Sudbury, the proposer and seconder of the original motion, accepted the changes highlighted below:

This Council notes the increase in overall waste volumes.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

This Council also notes that the overall county-wide recycling rate has for the last five years been well below the 53% target.

This Council would like to encourage a reduction in Gloucestershire's waste volumes and an increase in its recycling rates.

This Council therefore directs the Cabinet Member to request a report from the Joint Waste Committee to look at ways in which the county's recycling rates can be improved. Focusing on reducing, reusing and recycling this report is to be scrutinised at November's Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee before coming back to Council in December 2016.

This Council notes that recycling is the legal responsibility of district councils and agrees to continue working with them, in partnership, through the Joint Waste Committee to promote recycling and reduce waste.

In moving the motion, Cllr Hodgkinson stated that the county was falling behind its target for recycling with a current rate of 47% against a target of 60%. This meant 531kg per household was going to landfill each year against a target of 457kg. He noted that the performance by district varied dramatically with Gloucester recycling only 37% of waste. He believed that the County Council should be taking a lead in working with the district councils to encourage more reuse and recycling.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Sudbury stated that the County Council had a duty to do all that it could to recycle more waste. She said that she was concerned that the incinerator would mean that the Council would neglect its duty to reuse materials and fail to meet recycling targets. She was anxious that the County Council worked proactively with the district councils to improve rates of reuse and recycling.

A member referred to an Italian Province that was reusing and recycling 82% of its waste and she said that this was just one of many examples across Europe. She noted that if the same rate of reuse and recycling was achieved in Gloucestershire there would be a huge reduction in residual waste. She believed that there was scope to do so much more in the county.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou, the Cabinet Member who's Finance and Change Portfolio included waste, stated that the County Council was already working closely with the district councils to improve rates of reuse and recycling. He noted that cash payments had been made to the districts for some time to incentivise them to recycle more waste. Elected members and professional officers had been brought together under the Joint Waste Committee to take forward a range of initiatives. The recycling rate was expected to reach 56% in 2016-17 with the rates in each district ranging from 31% in Stroud to 60% in Cotswold. All of the districts had

increased their recycling rate in 2015-16 with the exception of Cheltenham which had seen a reduction of 1%.

Referring to the position in Stroud, Cllr Steve Lydon, Leader of Stroud District Council, stated that a key driver for the authority was reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and not chasing government cash for recycling. He said that Stroud District Council was working hard to maintain its record as the first carbon neutral council in the country.

A member noted the importance of ensuring that recycling schemes were easy for people to understand. He said that it was only in this way that participation rates would improve and recycling rates would rise. He stated that it would be so much better if there was a common approach across the county. He expressed concern that two of the district councils were still not members of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee.

Cllr Chris Coleman, who was the Cabinet Member responsible for Waste at Cheltenham Borough Council and a member of the Joint Waste Committee, stated that he had approached the joint committee with great deal of enthusiasm but he had become disappointed that individual local authorities were adopting different approaches. He noted that the recycling rate in Cheltenham had recently risen to more than 50%. He questioned whether the County Council had a genuine willingness to promote recycling with the incinerator being built at Javelin Park.

Cllr Brian Robinson, who represented the Forest of Dean District Council on the Joint Waste Committee, refuted comments that progress was not being made by the joint committee. He said that councils were working together on a range of initiatives and he referred to a recent example relating to food waste.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne, Leader of the Council, stated that the Javelin Park facility was sized to reflect a county-wide recycling rate of 70% and there was therefore a strong incentive to improve current rates of recycling.

In summing up, Cllr Hodgkinson stated that the County Council needed to take leadership in meeting targets. He said that he remained concerned about how much recyclable material might end up in the incinerator. He recognised that the timescale for reporting back to the Council was tight and there might be some slippage. He was anxious, however, that a report came back to members as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event before the end of the term of the Council.

On being put to the vote, the revised motion received unanimous support.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

RESOLVED that

This Council notes the increase in overall waste volumes.

This Council also notes that the overall county-wide recycling rate has for the last five years been well below the 53% target.

This Council would like to encourage a reduction in Gloucestershire's waste volumes and an increase in its recycling rates.

This Council therefore directs the Cabinet Member to request a report from the Joint Waste Committee to look at ways in which the county's recycling rates can be improved. Focusing on reducing, reusing and recycling this report is to be scrutinised at November's Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee before coming back to Council in December 2016.

This Council notes that recycling is the legal responsibility of district councils and agrees to continue working with them, in partnership, through the Joint Waste Committee to promote recycling and reduce waste.

Motion 777 – Meals on Wheels

In moving the motion detailed on the agenda, Cllr David Brown stated that the Meals on Wheels Service was critical to some of the vulnerable people in the county. He recognised that there were often teething issues when a new provider took over a contract but he was concerned that people were not receiving meals, wrong meals had been delivered and some meals were cold when they arrived. He said that a more robust monitoring process was required to ensure that any problems were addressed quickly.

Cllr Dorcas Binns, the Cabinet Member for Older People, assured members that action had been taken to address the concerns. She said that no complaints about the service had been received in August and late meals were down to just 1%, with no charge made if a delivery was late.

On being put to the vote, the motion received unanimous support.

RESOLVED that

This Council recognises the delivery of community meals to the homes of around 650 eligible older and vulnerable people is a vital service in Gloucestershire.

This Council notes that the current community meals service contract with apetito has been in place to deliver 'Meals on Wheels' from 1 April 2016.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

This Council also notes that apetito received 35 complaints in the first three weeks nearly all due to missed or late deliveries.

This Council is aware that with all new contracts there is a settling-in period, but after six months of delivery, this Council is disappointed that members are still hearing of complaints including food not arriving at all, food being delivered very early or late, wrong choices being delivered and drivers not knowing where clients live.

This Council therefore requests the Cabinet Member to work with apetito in adopting a more robust monitoring process, which includes the implementation of performance targets and for this data to be closely monitored by the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee through the publication of quarterly reports.

Motion 778 – Hate Crime

Cllr Klara Sudbury and Cllr Jeremy Hilton, the proposer and seconder of the motion, requested the changes highlighted below:

This Council is concerned by the reported rise in hate crime across the country following the EU referendum.

The Council therefore re-affirms its commitment to an inclusive, tolerant and diverse county. We welcome the many contributions made to our vibrant multicultural and multiracial community by people regardless of their background. We will continue to work to tackle hate crime and discrimination in all its forms.

~~*This Council also calls on the Government to guarantee to all EU nationals living in Gloucestershire that they have the right to remain in the UK indefinitely regardless of the outcome of the EU referendum and any subsequent Brexit negotiations.*~~

This Council also calls on the Government to act quickly to clarify the right to remain for EU Citizens living in Gloucestershire.

In moving the motion, Cllr Sudbury stated that by raising awareness of hate crime the Council was sending out a strong message that this type of behaviour would not be tolerated. She noted that the number of incidents reported had increased markedly following the EU Referendum on 23 June 2016 and the number remained higher than a year ago. Most of the incidents were race-related. She said that it was important for people to live in a society where diversity was celebrated. She hoped that the Government would act quickly to make sure that EU Nationals living in Gloucestershire knew that they would be able to stay in the county.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

In seconding the motion, Cllr Hilton noted the rise in the number of hate crimes following the EU Referendum. He said that he was concerned that some people now seemed to think that they had a right to make hurtful comments to non-UK residents. He believed that the Prime Minister should reassure people by making a statement that people living and working in the UK would be able to stay in the country.

A member stated that he was an immigrant who had left South Africa to escape Apartheid. He said that the UK was seen as a welcoming and friendly country and was better for the presence of others. He was deeply concerned that following the EU Referendum that there had been abuse and violence against immigrants.

Other members spoke in support of the motion and recognised that the Council had a role as a community leader to reinforce the message that this type of behaviour was unacceptable. They were appalled at how some people had behaved with incidents of homophobic related incidents rising alongside race related incidents.

The Leader of the Council recognised the need to be vigilant against hate crime at all times. He noted that Gloucestershire Constabulary would shortly be launching its 'No Excuse, No Tolerance' campaign to encourage people to report incidents.

A member said that any right-minded person would condemn hate crime. He stated that any EU citizens who were in the UK legally should be allowed to continue living in the country. He was concerned, however, that that the motion had been put forward for the wrong reasons by people who remained upset about the outcome of the EU Referendum.

The Chairman advised that he and the Vice-chairman attended Citizenship Ceremonies for people wanting to become UK Citizens. One of the key messages at the ceremony was about the importance of a diverse population. He noted that the UK had welcomed immigrants throughout its history and the diversity had resulted in a country that was seen as creative and innovative.

On being put to the vote, the revised motion received unanimous support.

RESOLVED that

This Council is concerned by the reported rise in hate crime across the country following the EU referendum.

The Council therefore re-affirms its commitment to an inclusive, tolerant and diverse county. We welcome the many contributions made to our vibrant multicultural and

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multiracial community by people regardless of their background. We will continue to work to tackle hate crime and discrimination in all its forms.

This Council also calls on the Government to act quickly to clarify the right to remain for EU Citizens living in Gloucestershire.

Motion 780 – Accident and Emergency waiting times

Cllr Tim Harman and Cllr Paul McLain, the proposer and seconder of the original motion, accepted the changes highlighted below requested by Cllr Iain Dobie.

This Council notes the recent decision by NHS Improvement to find Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust in breach of its licence, as a result of a consistent failure to meet Accident and Emergency waiting times.

This Council further notes the decision, taken in 2013, to downgrade Cheltenham Accident and Emergency Department at night, attributed to a shortage of specialist doctors.

This Council calls on the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee to urgently review this situation, and in particular clarifying:

- a) What role the night-time downgrading of Cheltenham Accident and Emergency may have played.*
- b) Whether its reopening could help solve the situation*
- c) Whether the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group are committed to fully reopening Cheltenham A&E through continuing to seek to recruit the necessary specialist doctors.*

In moving the motion, Cllr Harman recognised the value of having an A&E Department in Cheltenham. He said that the decision to make changes to overnight provision in August 2013 was not only having a serious impact on Cheltenham but also on the rest of the county with significant extra pressure on the A&E Department at Gloucester Royal Hospital.

Cllr Dobie, Chair of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, stated that the principal reason for the overnight changes at Cheltenham was the shortage of trained doctors. He said that the new Chief Executive of the Gloucestershire Hospitals' NHS Foundation Trust had reported to the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 September that the Trust had been successful in recruiting new A&E Consultants. He believed that now was a good time to review the position.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

In seconding the motion, Cllr McLain felt that it was right to challenge the assumptions made in 2013 in light of the events since then. It appeared that the changes had resulted in significant extra pressure on A&E in Gloucester.

Some members were concerned about the effects of austerity which they believed were downgrading the NHS. They referred to the difficulties in making appointments with GPs and the proposed overnight closures of minor injury units.

Other members recognised that there was a need to understand the issues in the light of the breach of licence relating to A&E waiting times. With the changes that had happened since 2013 they believed that it was a good time to review the position.

On being put to the vote, the revised motion received unanimous support:

RESOLVED that

This Council notes the recent decision by NHS Improvement to find Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust in breach of its licence, as a result of a consistent failure to meet Accident and Emergency waiting times.

This Council further notes the decision, taken in 2013, to downgrade Cheltenham Accident and Emergency Department at night, attributed to a shortage of specialist doctors.

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- b) Whether its reopening could help solve the situation*
- c) Whether the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group are committed to fully reopening Cheltenham A&E through continuing to seek to recruit the necessary specialist doctors.*

Motion 781 – Grammar schools in Gloucestershire

The following motion proposed by Cllr Richard Leppington and seconded by Cllr David Prince was not considered as there was insufficient time for the consideration of further motions.

This Council notes the Prime Minister's recent support for the UKIP policy to reintroduce grammar schools. We call on Gloucestershire MPs to support the creation of new grammar schools throughout Gloucestershire.

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

Motion 782 - Community Support Payments (Fracking) in Gloucestershire

The following motion proposed by Cllr Paul McMahon and seconded by Cllr Graham Morgan was withdrawn.

This Council notes that the Government have recently changed their 'fracking' policy to include a personal payment to households within the area of proposed 'fracking' sites.

This Council believes that this is fundamentally wrong, as it could lead to critical environmental decisions being taken away from communities as a whole. This Council reaffirms that the protection of Gloucestershire's environment is a key priority for this Authority.

This Council also notes its disappointment in the Government for abolishing the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

This Council asks that the Leader of the Council writes to Gloucestershire's six MPs and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to urge them to re-evaluate Government policy over the proposed Community Support Payments for fracking.

63. AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES (MOTION 759)

Following consultation with Group Leaders, the Chairman agreed at the briefing that this item should be deferred to the next full Council meeting to allow members to give proper consideration to any matters raised when the report was presented to the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2016.

64. IMPACT OF BREXIT ON GLOUCESTERSHIRE (MOTION 775)

The Chief Executive introduced his report which responded to the motion agreed by Council on 29 June 2016 relating to the impact of Brexit on Gloucestershire. He explained that it had been a very difficult report to write as it was impossible at present to assess the impact of Brexit. This was likely to remain the position until Article 50 was invoked.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, who had jointly proposed the original motion, recognised that it was a surreal position with the country nowhere close to leaving the EU. He said that he would like to see a complete list of EU funded projects in Gloucestershire including schemes that were in the pipeline. He believed that it would be useful if a mechanism was in place to provide regular updates for members.

Answering questions, Cllr Ray Theodoulou, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change and Chair of the Pension Committee, stated that interest rates had been at a low level for many years and it was not a Brexit issue. He said that in the aftermath of Brexit the stock market was rising, property funds had returned to their previous level and the in general terms the economy remained strong.

The Leader of the Council stated that there were many unknowns on what a post-Brexit UK would look like. The country remained in the EU and unless Article 50 was invoked ahead of the December Council meeting there was unlikely to be anything else material to report. He believed that it would be sensible to report to members as and when further information was available.

A member noted that a consequence of the Brexit vote had been a big devaluation in currency and increased money supply by the Bank of England. Many firms relied on importing materials from Europe and they were incurring significantly higher costs. All the forecasts for the economy showed markedly slower growth rates.

Another member called for members to be keep informed as there could be severe effect on firms that imported goods.

RESOLVED to note the report.

65. MEMBER QUESTIONS

Forty questions had been received. A copy of the answers was circulated and is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

The following supplementary questions were asked:

Question 1 - Cllr Iain Dobie stated:

So you are balancing the social care books; at yesterday's Health and Care Scrutiny Committee, it was reported that as part of the overall reduction in social care expenditure the budget for people with a learning disability would be reduced in this financial year. It is likely that health impacts may occur to this vulnerable population. In order for reductions to be achieved care packages must ultimately be reduced and these impacts must be considered. Do you think Gloucestershire County Council's Social Care books must be balanced by risking the health of the most vulnerable?

In response Cllr Dorcas Binns stated that the Council had been 'ahead of the curve' when looking at introducing the Living Wage and thanked the Finance Team for

their work. With regards to adult social care, she believed the Council was on the right path. She disagreed that there was a 'chronic overspend' and that the challenge in this area had been faced head on. It was important to ensure that the provision was good.

Question 2 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked for detail on the officer time spent on COXIT.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne responded that records were not kept on how much time had been spent.

Question 3 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson asked if a 'guesstimate' could be provided of officers time on COXIT.

In response it was again reiterated that records were not kept on the time dedicated to it.

Question 4 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that of the nine roads that had been shut for more than six months over the previous two years, one of them was the road referred to as the 'old A40' (Northleach to Compton Abdale). He asked when the member expected the road to be open.

Cllr Vernon Smith explained that he shared the member's frustration but that the correct processes including geological surveys had to be followed. He would ask senior officers to provide a detailed breakdown of the programme of work.

Question 5 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton explained that consideration should be given to the need for a new comprehensive school to serve north Gloucester area and asked whether the member agreed that disposal of land in this area should be held back until the Joint Core Strategy had been agreed.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou stated that consideration would be given by the relevant Planning Committee with regards to the use of land. Education Officers had confirmed that the site was surplus to educational requirements.

Question 6 – Cllr Jeremy Hilton suggested that based on housing projections within the Joint Core Strategy there could be capacity issues within schools and he asked whether a review of secondary school requirements over the long term was needed.

Cllr Paul McLain stated that the Council considered the short, medium and long term and reassured the member that officers were well versed on the projections and were in regular contact with schools. He would be happy to arrange a meeting

with Gloucester members to provide reassurance on how potential future growth could be met.

Question 8 – Cllr Jeremy Hiton asked whether the Leader of Council agreed that Brexit should mean Britain retaining its membership of the single European market.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne replied that the Government was yet to formulate its position and the member would have to wait and see how things developed.

Question 11 – Cllr Tracy Millard stated that she had not received the breakdown of pupils in year 6 secondary school allocations for all Gloucester primary schools in the last three years and asked when she could expect to receive the information.

Cllr Paul McLain replied that he would follow this up and ensure the member had the information as soon as possible.

Question 14 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether she could assume a response would be provided on GCSE and A level data for 2016 as soon as it was available.

Cllr Paul McLain agreed.

Question 17 – Cllr Lesley Williams expressed concern regarding the percentage of children eligible for free school meals who had achieved five or more A* - C grades at GCSE. She asked whether a report could go to Children and Families Scrutiny Committee, and asked what the member was doing to improve and how he felt about the figures.

Cllr Paul McLain stated that it was not up to him to decide what was on scrutiny's work plan. He stated that as part of the Gloucestershire Children's Partnership it had been identified that more efforts were needed to 'close the gap'. Over 90% of pupils attended Ofsted rated good or outstanding schools but there was a significant gap for a small minority. He referred to the use of the Pupil Premium by schools which was something that scrutiny had looked at and the role of parents in encouraging their children to do the best that they could.

Question 21 – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson stated that he had been surprised not to have seen the figures around deprivation previously. He asked what could be done in order to ensure that all councillors were able to see the figures regularly.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne explained that various measures for deprivation had been available for a considerable amount of time, he understood that all members were provided with individual profiles of their wards.

Question 22 – Cllr Iain Dobie referred to the first meeting of the new cross party County Councillor Cycling Group and stated that work on a cycle path running parallel to the Golden Valley was not planned until at least 2020. He asked whether the Cabinet Member would push to bring this date forward.

Cllr Nigel Moor replied that he understood that with regards to scheme of this nature, it was first priority and that he could not promise dates until after January 2017 when more detail would be available.

Question 23- Cllr Tracy Millard asked for specific details on consultants or consultancies contracted by the Council related to 'per year' and 'per department'.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou suggested that the member had a discussion with officers and that he would be happy to facilitate this.

Question 25 – Cllr Tracy Millard asked for more detail suggesting that external work had been carried out on the devolution bid.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne explained that the devolution bid had been developed by Leadership Gloucestershire and that mostly officer time had been used. Any additional work carried out had been externally funded through joint funds held by Leadership Gloucestershire which was ring-fenced outside of the County Council's budget.

Question 28 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether any families came back for support a third time.

Cllr Paul McLain stated that he would have to provide the member with a detailed response following the meeting.

Question 31 – Cllr Lesley Williams referred to the report for the item on Highways later in the agenda and noted the 95% SMART target related to 28 day repairs. She asked for clarification on this target suggesting it was 'setting us up to fail'.

Cllr Vernon Smith explained that this target was put in place for contractors in order to understand what the Council was looking for. He stated that to ascertain 100% was virtually impossible and that it had to be realistic.

Question 32 – Cllr Lesley Williams asked whether, now that UBICO was involved with Household Recycling Centres, was the Council still confident they were paying the Living Wage.

Cllr Ray Theodoulou stated that they followed the law.

Question 35 – Cllr Paul McMahon expressed concern about scrutiny recommendations in relation to the draft Minerals Local Plan not being accepted.

Cllr Nigel Moor explained that there would be a further opportunity to make representations on the Plan later this month when the consultation opened.

66. SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (SHE) ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman, Cllr Colin Hay, presented the report as he had been Chair of the SHE Panel over the last year.

Cllr Hay noted that Cllrs Jason Bullingham, Tracy Millard, Shaun Parsons, Ray Theodoulou and Suzanne Williams were also members of the SHE Panel. He said that a great deal of effort went into keeping people safe but this was often unrecognised. The number of incidents across the county remained small. He stated that there was now a much greater emphasis on security at Shire Hall and he reminded members to wear their ID badges at all times.

Cllr Lesley Williams expressed concern that 289 schools did not have sprinkler systems. Cllr Nigel Moor, the Cabinet Member for Fire, Planning and Infrastructure, undertook to provide a written response following the meeting.

RESOLVED to note the Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Annual Report for 2015-16.

67. SCRUTINY REPORT

The Chairman noted that it was the first scrutiny report that included information on the Police and Crime Panel.

Referring to the item on fracking discussed by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members noted that the committee was not opposing all fracking applications but believed that applications should not be supported unless specific conditions were met. Cllr Chris Coleman noted that different views were being expressed at the committee as to whether members could express a view on planning policies if they were members of the Planning Committee. He said that members would appreciate some advice around this issue.

Cllrs Tracy Millard and Chris Coleman, members of the Adoption Panel, were anxious that adoption panels with member involvement remained in place for the new regional arrangements under Adoption West. They hoped that the Children

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and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be scrutinising the proposals and they offered to meet with Cllr Paul McLain, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and Strategic Commissioning, outside the meeting.

Answering questions from Cllr Millard, Cllr McLain offered to provide a written response following the meeting relating to concerns she had with performance on re-ablement and health checks.

RESOLVED to note the scrutiny report.

68. CABINET DECISION STATEMENT

RESOLVED to note the Cabinet Decision Statement for the meeting held on 20 July 2016.

69. INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION STATEMENTS

RESOLVED to note the Statement of Individual Cabinet Member Decisions for the period 1 June to 31 August 2016.

70. HIGHWAYS PERFORMANCE REPORT

Cllr Vernon Smith, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Flood, introduced the report.

Answering questions, Cllr Smith advised that the questions in the survey were being revised and the matter would be raised with Shadows. He recognised the concerns regarding the validity of making comparisons with previous years if the questions were changed.

A member expressed concern that a recent press release had included inaccurate information regarding meeting targets.

Cllr Smith advised that the latest data was showing improvements in performance and he disputed that the press release was inaccurate.

Answering further questions, he said that the performance report would remain on the Council agenda and that he was working with Shadows in respect of the appointment of a consultant to review customer satisfaction levels. He noted the concerns of a member regarding the emptying of gullies in Cheltenham and he said

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that senior highways officers would be available to discuss those concerns after the meeting.

A member thanked Cllr Smith for providing the opportunity for the Shadows to be involved in the LGA Peer Review of highways.

Another member noted the importance of Cllr Smith attending meetings of the Highways Advisory Group.

RESOLVED to note the highways performance report.

The meeting ended at 3.25pm

CHAIRMAN