

# AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Council

Place: [Access the meeting online here](#)

Date: Tuesday 21 July 2020

Time: 10.30 am

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The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 13 July 2020. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718504 or email [kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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7 **Wiltshire Council's Response to the Climate Emergency (Carbon Reduction) and Business Plan Update (Pages 3 - 4)**

Extract minutes from the meeting of Cabinet on 14 July 2020 are attached.

8 **Statement of Community Involvement (Pages 5 - 6)**

Extract minutes from the meeting of Cabinet on 14 July 2020 are attached.

9 **Treasury Management Annual Outturn Report (Pages 7 - 8)**

Extract minutes from the meeting of Cabinet on 14 July 2020 are attached.

13a) **Notice of Motion No 21 -Walking and Cycling (Pages 9 - 12)**

A briefing note on the submitted motion is attached.

An amended motion intended to be accepted by the mover and seconder of the motion is also attached.

16 **Councillors' Questions (Pages 13 - 24)**

Questions from councillors, together with responses, are attached.

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 July 2020
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## **EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF CABINET 14 JULY 2020**

### **Update on Councils response to the Climate Emergency**

Cllr Richard Clewer, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts & Tourism, Housing, Communities presented the report which provided an update on the actions taken in response to the climate emergency and to include this priority as an addendum to the council's Business Plan 2017-2027.

Questions were received from Cllr Nick Murry and Bill Jarvis about the climate emergency.

The Leader acknowledged that the questions had received written responses which had been published on the Council's website prior to the meeting. He indicated that supplementary questions could be asked and these would receive a written response following this meeting.

Cllr Clewer commented on the three work streams, Wiltshire Council to become carbon neutral by 2030, making the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 and community engagement. He spoke in detail about the council's commitment to building 1,000 new council homes over the next 10 years to a zero carbon standard, the conversion of streetlights across Wiltshire to LEDs, Salisbury Reds three new electric buses for the city's park and ride services, the Council becoming a founder member of the Countryside Climate Network as part of UK100, and the need for a thorough review of the Council's Business Plan following local elections in May 2021.

Cllr Graham Wright, Chair of the Global Warming & Climate Emergency Task Group welcomed the appointment of the Head of Carbon Reduction, reported that the Task Group had a close working relationship with the Cabinet Member. The Task Group had considered the draft addendum to the Business Plan 2017-2027 and had submitted suggestions for improvement, these were reflected in the final version proposed.

Cllr Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrats indicated that he would have welcomed an opportunity to review the financial implications of the programme. Cllr Clewer explained that the Housing Board minutes contain the financial detail that Cllr Thorn referred to and further detail will become available as the programme progresses.

Cllr Wayman indicated that the road reallocation project linking Purton with Swindon's Lydiard Park detail at paragraph 32 of the report looked unlikely to proceed.

In response to comments and questions about solar panels at the Salisbury Park and Ride; cycle racks being included in the recovery phase for CATG funding; resources being deployed to the Carbon Reduction Team; and consideration of opportunities to build cycleways between communities; Cllr Clewer and Cllr Wayman reported that the use of energy from the solar panels at Salisbury Park and Ride had not commenced at this stage; cycle racks would be included in the recovery phase for CATG funding; the approved budget for the Carbon Reduction Team was £350,000; and the Council will continue to consider opportunities to build cycleways between communities.

### **Resolved:**

**1. That the Cabinet recommend Council to amend the Business Plan 2017- 2027 to include a Climate Emergency addendum as detailed in paragraph 8 and Appendix 1 of this report.**

**2. That Cabinet notes the actions taken in response to the climate emergency since November 2019.**

*Reason for Decision*

- 1. To ensure that the current Business Plan reflects the council's acknowledgement of the climate emergency and its commitment to addressing climate change.*
- 2. To provide Cabinet with an update on actions taken in response to the climate emergency.*

## EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF CABINET 14 JULY 2020

### Statement of Community Involvement

Cllr Toby Sturgis Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property presented the report which provided detail about how the Council will engage with the community and stakeholders on planning matters.

Cllr Sturgis explained that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a statutory document that must be reviewed every five years, the current version was updated in July 2015, and although it generally remains fit for purpose, further legislative changes have been made and needed to be considered, along with improvements to the format. Also, in the light of COVID-19, temporary arrangements for the SCI also need to be put in place to allow plan-making and decision making to continue by reasonably practical means while ensuring Government guidance about controlling its spread can be adhered to.

The Cabinet noted that the SCI would allow communities, stakeholders and the public to understand how to participate in planning matters and it has been written in a format to provide information about when engagement will take place, how it will take place and how comments made will be used. The SCI takes into consideration communication and engagement through social media and digital platforms, as well as more traditional methods and reflects the desire of the Council to encourage people to engage in place shaping for their communities through early engagement in plan making and on planning applications.

In response to comments and questions from Cllr Thorn about the inclusion of families with children who work as a hard to reach group and improvements to pre-application consultations undertaken by developers with local communities; Cllr Sturgis agreed to meet with Cllr Thorn to consider whether further clarification/guidance should be made in the SCI and agreed that pre submission consultation undertaken by developers is variable and Councils would need assistance from government to raise the standard.

#### **Resolved:**

- 1. Approves the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2. Approves the Statement of Community Involvement 'Temporary Arrangements' as set out in Appendix 2.**
- 3. Recommends to 21 July 2020 Full Council that the Statement of Community Involvement and Temporary Arrangements, as set out in (i) and (ii) above are adopted.**
- 4. Recommends that Full Council, delegates authority to the Director for Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property to: make amendments to (i) and (ii) in the interests of clarity and accuracy before publishing it on the Council's website; and determine when the Temporary Arrangements in (ii) cease to have effect.**

#### *Reason for Decision:*

*To ensure that a revised SCI is in place that meets legislative requirements, is up to date and fit for purpose. Alongside adoption of the SCI, temporary arrangements will need to be in place, until they are no longer needed, due to the COVID-19 situation to ensure community involvement continues to take place in a safe way.*

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## EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF CABINET 14 JULY 2020

### **Covid-19 Financial Update and Period 2 Budget Monitoring (*Treasury Management Strategy as an appendix*)**

Cllr Pauline Church, Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Commercial Investment presented the report which provided an updated forecast financial impact of COVID-19 and an early budget monitoring forecast position at the end of Period 2 (as at 31 May 2020) for the financial year 2020/21. The report also includes the final revenue outturn position for 2019/20, revision to the capital programme deferrals agreed at the previous Cabinet meeting (June) and the formal Treasury Management Annual Report

2019/20.

Questions were received from Chris Caswill about the Public Health and Environmental Health Teams.

The Leader acknowledged that the questions had received written responses which had been published on the Council's website prior to the meeting. He indicated that supplementary questions could be asked and these would receive a written response following this meeting.

Cllr Church reported that difficult decisions will still be required moving into the setting of the 2021/22 budget, given the reduction to the Councils base level of funding and income streams and future demand for services. However, the Councils financial position will be greatly improved with the recent announcement by the Government on a comprehensive new funding package. Although details of the allocations were still to be announced, the new funding together with the level of Council General Fund reserves, as well as the availability of earmarked reserves is likely to mean that the current forecast position for this financial year would now no longer completely exhaust all reserves held to deal with financial shocks, and no longer represent a potential section 114 notice situation.

Cllr Graham Wright, Chairman of the Wiltshire COVID-19 Response Task Group reported on the Task Group meeting held on 7 July 2020 welcomed the report to Cabinet. He noted that the financial situation was changing on a daily basis and thanked officers for their support during this time.

Cllr Ian Thorn, Leader of the Liberal Democrats asked about the Government financial commitment to recovery and commented on the section 114 situation. Cllr Church and the Leader reported that they were satisfied with the risks the Council holds and officers to mitigate these risks. They thanked officers for their help and support during this testing time. They acknowledged that financially the Council was working on a day to day basis, although current forecasts indicated that the Council will have a balanced budget.

#### **Resolved:**

##### **1. To note:**

**a. the final Revenue Outturn position for 2019/20 and the balance held in General Reserve and Earmarked Reserves;**

**b. the 2019/20 Capital Receipts Flexibilities usage for 2019/20 and delivery narrative for each project;**

**c. the Section 151 officer's summary of the impact of COVID-19 on the Council's 2020/21 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy;**

**d. the current budget is forecast to overspend by £36.753m by the end of the financial year;**

**2. To approve:**

**a. the transfer of the final revenue outturn underspend from 2019/20 financial year of £0.356m to the General Fund Reserve.**

**b. the £1.378m use of Capital Receipts planned for Fostering Excellence for 2021/22 to be re-directed to transform services supporting children and young people with SEN and disabilities in 2020/21 and 2021/22.**

**c. that the Area Board Capital Grants element of the capital programme that was deferred to 2021/22 at the previous Cabinet meeting be reversed and brought back into the 2020/21 Capital Programme.**

**d. to recommend to Full Council the Treasury Management Annual report 2019/20 including the Prudential Indicators.**

*Reason for Decision:*

*To inform effective decision making and ensure a sound control environment.*

*To inform Cabinet on the forecast impact upon the financial position of the Council due to COVID-19 and of the Councils overall position on the 2020/21 budget as at Period 2 (31 May 2020), including highlighting any budget changes.*



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**Notice of Motion No.21 – Walking and Cycling**

**From Councillors Brian Mathew and Graham Ross Henning**

**Members Briefing Note**

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**Note on Proposal 1**

Policies are already in place to ensure that walking and cycling carry a high priority across the Council's activities, reflected in the Business Plan, Local Transport Plan and Core Strategy.

MHCLG's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>1</sup> sets out Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied.

In the context of new development, para 110 of NPPF establishes the priority for sustainable travel, requiring that applications for development should:

- a) give priority first to pedestrian and cycle movements, both within the scheme and with neighbouring areas; and second – so far as possible – to facilitating access to high quality public transport, with layouts that maximise the catchment area for bus or other public transport services, and appropriate facilities that encourage public transport use;
- b) address the needs of people with disabilities and reduced mobility in relation to all modes of transport;
- c) create places that are safe, secure and attractive – which minimise the scope for conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles, avoid unnecessary street clutter, and respond to local character and design standards;
- d) allow for the efficient delivery of goods, and access by service and emergency vehicles; and
- e) be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations.

**Note on Proposal 2**

The Leader has very recently made changes to the council's Cabinet and Portfolio Holders to align with the recovery structure now being put in place within Wiltshire Council following COVID-19.

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<sup>1</sup>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/810197/NPPF\\_Feb\\_2019\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf)

### **Note on Proposal 3**

Wiltshire Council currently delivers a programme of Bikeability training, predominantly in primary schools, with a focus on children in Year 6 to prepare them for independent travel and transition to secondary school. Over 2000 children are trained in a normal year.

The Bikeability Trust, who manage the national scheme on behalf of the Department for Transport have recently announced the development of further Bikeability modules aimed at adults and families, which we are keen to deliver in Wiltshire. The council is awaiting the publication of the training delivery guidance and details of the Bikeability grant funding scheme to cover these modules.

The council is also working to expand the local team of qualified Bikeability instructors in order to increase our capacity to deliver training in Wiltshire, especially to meet the Government's recently announced ambition to offer Bikeability to every child. There is, however, a national shortage of qualified instructors and the training and induction of new instructors to enable them to deliver high quality training to the National Standards requires time. Instructor training centres are only just beginning to reopen, and newly qualified instructors are required to gain experience working alongside others before they can work independently.

COVID restrictions, including the closure of schools have meant that the training programme has been on hold since March, and restrictions on numbers and training procedures will continue to be in place for the foreseeable future to meet distancing and hygiene requirements. This will, of course have a significant impact on the delivery of training for both trainee riders and new instructors.

### **Note on Proposal 4**

The Council hosts the 'Connecting Wiltshire' website<sup>2</sup>, providing digital access to footpath and cycle route maps for the whole county. Any omissions can be reported to the Council.

### **Note on Proposal 5**

- a) The Council's Integrated Transport Block Programme offers an annual opportunity for cycle parking schemes to be funded.
- b) Police have no current plans to use these cameras – awaiting Home Office approval for enforcement purposes
- c) Policy is in place to allow consideration of 20mph speed limits, administered through the CATG system
- d) The Council is happy to consider incorporation of dual/cycle use within pedestrianised areas on a case by case basis.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/>

## Proposed amendment to Motion 21

Wiltshire Council

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### Notice of Motion No.21 – Walking and Cycling

From Councillors Brian Mathew and Graham Ross Henning

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To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with the constitution:

#### Council Notes:

That there has been an unprecedented increase in walking & cycling among all sections of the population during the COVID 19 pandemic.

That a major deterrent to taking up cycling among many is the perception that sharing the roads with fast motor traffic is not safe.

#### Council believes:

That following the short term COVID 19 work to re-prioritise road space for cycling and walking, Wiltshire could become a truly cycle-~~and~~, walking, and horse riding friendly county, into the future, reducing road traffic and pollution while improving public health.

That policy, planning and policing should support initiatives for cyclists-~~and~~, pedestrians and horse riders to make these activities safer and more enjoyable for commuting, shopping, exercise and amenity. Thus, it will be possible to attract more Wiltshire citizens and visitors to choose cycling-~~and~~, walking and horse riding over driving, to reduce health costs and road maintenance, and to help the county reach its climate emergency commitments to reach carbon neutrality by 2030.

#### Council Resolves:

- 1) That Wiltshire Council highways and planning departments should prioritize the requirements of cyclists-~~and~~, pedestrians and horse riders when planning works on Wiltshire's roads, bridleways and footpaths. That all planning applications must show clear evidence of integration of safe cycling and pedestrian routes with those of the surrounding street layouts, and that any infrastructure planning by the Council should place safe cycling as a high investment priority and move it up from its current medium priority, as set in the current Local Transport Plan (LPT3) to sit alongside walking.

- 2) That Wiltshire Council's Cabinet further supports these principles by the appointment of two 'Czars' from among current portfolio holders, with one for cycling and horse riding, and one for walking, to promote and facilitate change to both these activities, by listening to what area boards, town and parish councils and community cycling, walking, horse riding and environment groups have to say to them and by communicating and developing these ideas with cabinet members for health, transport and spatial planning.
- 3) That Wiltshire Council will expand its 'Bikeability' programme to all age groups, from 8 to 80, or if this is not possible develop a parallel system for adults, seeking funding from related retail outlets and the involvement of local qualified trainers and cycling groups.
- 4) Wiltshire Council will review with Sustrans and other cycling ~~and~~, walking and horse riding groups the digitally available footpath, bridleway and cycle route maps for the whole county.
- 5) That Wiltshire Council will with parish and town councils consider:
  - a) making widespread provision of theft-resistant cycle parking facilities sufficient for the demand.
  - b) reducing traffic speeds in urban areas.
  - c) the adoption of auto speed watch cameras
  - d) dual-use cycle/footpaths in pedestrianized areas and between towns and villages.

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## **Councillor Questions Update**

### **Questions Received**

1. A total of 8 questions from Councillors have been received since the last meeting of Full Council on 16 June 2020.
2. Details of the question submitted and the order they will be received at the meeting are shown at Appendix 1. Responses are included at Appendix 2.
3. Of the 8 questions received, 3 were deemed to be operational, however, the Chair considered it to be reasonable to include these questions on this occasion as councillors had previously been asked not to submit questions to staff during the Covid-19 response. Details of these questions are also shown at Appendix 1 and responses are included at Appendix 2.
4. A total of 5 non-operational question were received before the first deadline of 7 July 2020 and were therefore guaranteed a written response as attached to this report.
5. The Chairman will go through the questions and responses, as is customary, take them as read and giving the questioner an opportunity to ask one relevant supplementary question for each question submitted. In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution members were requested to submit their questions in priority order.

### **Proposal**

6. To receive the questions as detailed.

**Stuart Figini, Senior Democratic Services Officer**

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Appendix 1 - Councillor Questions Summary  
Appendix 2 - Questions received

## Appendix 1 - Councillor Submitted Questions Summary

Questions will be received in the order listed below as specified in the Constitution - so that every member who submitted a question has the opportunity to ask a supplementary prior to another member having the opportunity to ask a second supplementary.

Questions for Council (attached at Appendix 2)

Ref	Questioner	Date Received	Written or Verbal	Subject	Cabinet Member
20_16	Cllr Ian Thorn	29/6/2020	Written	Council Leader - Workloads	Cllr Whitehead
20_19	Cllr Stewart Palmen	6/7/2020	Written	Cutting of grass verges – (Operational) with response	Cllr Wayman
20_20	Cllr Ben Anderson	6/7/2020	Written	IT System's supporting remote working long term	Cllr Blair-Pilling
20_21	Cllr Edward Kirk	6/7/2020	Written	Residual and recyclable waste collected during the lockdown – (Operational) with response	Cllr Bridget Wayman
20_22	Cllr Mary Champion	6/7/2020	Written	COVID-19 Impact on Council buildings use and running costs (Operational)	Cllr Church
20_23	Cllr Tom Rounds	13/7/202	Written	Libraries during Covid	Cllr Blair-Pilling
20_17	Cllr Ian Thorn	1/7/2020	Written	Section 114 Notice	Cllr Church
20_18	Cllr Ian Thorn	1/7/2020	Written	Revised budget for 2020/2021	Cllr Church

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**From Councillor Ian Thorn, Calne Central Division**

**To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council**

**Question (20-16)**

How is the Leader of the Council finding the time to run Wiltshire Council during a pandemic, serve his residents in Urchfont and The Cannings, as well as the residents of By Brook?

**Response**

The election for the By Brook Division vacancy was postponed until 6 May 2021 by regulations made under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

There is no provision in legislation or in the Constitution for the allocation of a Member's divisional responsibilities in these circumstances. However, by convention this normally falls to the relevant Group Leader to decide to ensure that constituents are appropriately represented.

I do not think that it is a matter of time it is simply about looking at the most efficient way to react to the circumstances that face you at a certain time. And we have done that.

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**From Councillor Stewart Palmen, Trowbridge Central**

**To Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste**

**Question (20-19)**

During the Covid crisis many verges were left uncut and many of them developed into nice looking long grass and wildflower areas. Have we (Wiltshire Council) considered reducing the cutting, in places where safe to do so, to help improve the ecology of those areas while at the same time reducing the cost of the cutting? Town councils are already doing this (please see attached sign from Salisbury Town Council).

**Response**

The Council undertakes the cutting of a large quantity of grass which includes some highway verges and amenity areas within the built urban environment.

One outcome from the effects of the Covid situation was that amenity cutting of grass within urban areas was suspended for a period of time until operational adjustments could be made for the workforce. This led to many areas growing to a much longer length than has previously expected.

Prior to Covid the authority has been considering its mowing practices with a view to improving the ecological value of grassed areas. A number of public open spaces have been identified for a trial and now receive a reduced frequency of cut. To realise the full value of such areas it is not sufficient to simply reduce frequency of cutting, it is important that cuttings are collected and removed. This process reduces soil fertility and increases the diversity of plants. While the Council is committed to working to increase bio-diversity it does need to recognise that savings from reductions in cutting must be offset by additional costs related to the collection and disposal of cuttings.

The Council wrote to all the Town and Parish councils in December 2019 advising of the outcome of the wildflower consultation and continues to receive and assess the suitability of further locations to expand the current schemes. The list of sites can be found @ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-streetscene-enhanced-services>.



From Councillor Ben Anderson, Corsham Without & Box Hill

To Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for ICT, Digitalisation,  
Operational Assets, Leisure & Libraries

**Question (20-20)**

The impacts of Covid-19 have shown that we need our IT estate to support effective remote working in the long-term. Given previous major ICT outages (February 2020), and the inherent vulnerabilities facing IT systems such as Wiltshire Council's, what assurances can be given that our IT estate is sufficiently robust and will be properly supported long-term?

**Response**

ICT have been working flat out to make sure your information systems are as secure and reliable as they possibly can be. One aspect of resilience works that have been planned and are currently being executed is governed under a Programme called 99% (*aim being to ensure 99% compute availability*). This Programme has five key principles:

1. **Simplification:** We are replacing three aging backup solutions with one centrally administered solution. This solution is also more secure as it has physical separation of the data from the back up but can be accessed quickly when it is needed. This is called an air-gapped backup and it's the modern equivalent of off-site backup tape storage.
2. **Rationalisation:** Our server platform uses hundreds of virtual servers and databases – we are working to reduce and rationalise the numbers of servers to approximately half the existing number.
3. **Stabilisation:** We are making sure that our core systems are up to date and reliable. We will improve the use of existing facilities augmented with a targeted technology refresh to deliver stable ICT service. We will also look at our processes to ensure we have both systems and processes that support the business through any major incident and system loss.
4. **Efficiency:** We are introducing new and simplified system monitoring. This will provide ICT with insights into systems performance, but also allow users to see systems' performance for themselves and promote reactive fault resolution within ICT.
5. **Investment in Staff:** We are working to ensure our staff are trained to use all the tools across the technology platform and we will have a support structure aligned to our organisational needs.

This work places us in a much better position and will give us more secure, reliable ICT. Should there be a major problem If we have a disaster we will be better equipped to respond and recover quickly. It also makes us fitter for the uncertain future of working patterns post COVID-19.

Progress has been rapid following the ICT Outage in February 2020. We expect an air-gapped back up solution to be in place by August 2020, rationalisation of servers to be complete by October 2020 with new system monitoring to be in place at the same time. Stabilisation through updated systems and training for staff are both in progress and the full set of current activities will be complete by the end of this year, in December 2020.

Other aspects of work that has been undertaken, that are more visible to ICT Users and have enabled both Council staff & Police to access applications and therefore work remotely are the:

- Introduction of Microsoft Teams (Teams being a collaboration application that has enabled real-time video calls and provides our organisation (and affiliated org's e.g. NHS) with a secure workspace platform for real-time meetings, file and app sharing).
- Increased Internet bandwidth connections, required to facilitate staff connecting their PC's from home and then accessing (securely) other established cloud based applications (e.g. Liquid Logic).
- Increased remote working technology: Much of our application estate is hosted within our two data centres and to enable several hundred people to access these applications remotely from home, concurrently and reliably our 'Direct Access' capability required re-engineering and strengthening. (e.g. increased use of CITRIX technology)

We will continue to evolve our technology and systems in a way which is suited to public sector organisations in a post COVID-19 world, including maximising the capability of Microsoft Teams to offer telephony functions, improvements on collaboration as well as making cost efficiencies and simplifying infrastructure.

We are also continuing our strategy of acquiring Cloud based systems when this presents as a cost effective option as these are resilient and suited to modern patterns of work. Lastly when looking at Covid-19 Recovery, we will be developing capability in areas like process automation and data exploitation to ensure the services delivered by the Council, and the internal operation of the Council, is both effective and efficient, tuned to the needs of our communities and the staff who deliver, even though working patterns, the context and place of delivery may change.

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**From Councillor Edward Kirk, Trowbridge Adcroft**

**To Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste**

**Question (20-21)**

Has there been an increase in tonnages of residual and recyclable waste collected during the lockdown period?

**Response:**

The total tonnes of residual and recyclable waste collected during the lockdown period (April and May 2020) have been compared with an average of the tonnes collected in April and May 2018 and 2019.

This comparison shows an increase of 10% (1,754 tonnes) in residual waste managed during this period, whilst there were reductions in the tonnages of recycling (37%) and garden waste (13%). Overall, when all three material streams are combined this shows a 12% (4,780 tonnes) reduction in material collected in April and May 2020.

However, when the impact on *kerbside collected* waste and recycling is assessed, this shows an increase of 22% in the total tonnage of kerbside collected residual waste, recyclable and composting tonnages during April and May 2020.

During April and May 2020, the increases in kerbside collected materials were as follows:

- 26% increase in residual waste
- 27% increase in dry recyclables
- 8% increase in garden waste

It should be noted that the council implemented a new kerbside mixed dry recycling service from 9 March 2020, with the intention that the tonnes of recyclable materials collected at the kerbside would increase as a consequence of making the collection system easier to use and promoting the service to all residents. All waste collection services were maintained during the period of the lockdown.

A contributing factor to the increases in kerbside collected tonnage, and the reduction in overall waste arisings, will be that all household recycling centres (HRCs) were closed due to the Covid-19 lockdown between 24 March and 17 May 2020, and only partially re-opened from 18 May to 7 June, resulting in a reduction of 92% in materials managed at the HRCs.

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**From Councillor Mary Champion, Royal Wootton Bassett North**

**To Councillor Pauline Church, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement and  
Commercial Investment**

**Question (20-22)**

How has the Covid-19 crisis impacted on the use and cost of running the Council's buildings?

**Response**

The current budget monitoring forecast financial position includes maintenance savings of £0.187m and a utilities savings of £0.231m from buildings being closed April to June. As part of the planning of reopening buildings safely additional costs of £0.507m are forecast for items such as cleaning and materials for additional measures to reopen building and return to work which off-set the savings.

Budget monitoring for quarter 1 (period 3) is underway and the indication is that further savings are likely as some buildings remain closed in July with savings likely to increase by approximately £0.200m offset by further estimated costs for re-opening of approximately £0.400m.

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**From Councillor Tom Rounds, Calne North**

**To Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for ICT, Digitalisation,  
Operational Assets, Leisure and Libraries**

**Question (20-23)**

We closed our libraries as instructed to help prevent the spread of Covid-19, but what have they been doing to help our communities during lockdown, especially our vulnerable people and our children who have not been able to attend school?

**Response**

While our library buildings have been closed our library services has been busy supporting the health and wellbeing of our communities, vulnerable people and children. We increased the number of eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines to specifically help those with loneliness and home schooling. We made it possible to join our libraries online ensuring these services were available to new library members. Library memberships increased during lockdown. We moved our regular activities online including rhyme times, tea and chat sessions, author talks, using Facebook and the new Wiltshire Libraries YouTube channel. These activities generated over 98,000 online views.

We created 16 activity packs to support children learning at home, these have been downloaded over 1,000 times. We set up, and continue to deliver, a non-contact Home Library Service reaching 102 vulnerable residents in Wiltshire. We continued our Prison library service. Alongside all of this Library staff were redeployed to the Wellbeing helpline, distribution centre and other departments supporting the Covid-19 response.

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**From Councillor Ian Thorn, Calne Central Division**

**To Councillor Pauline Church, Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Commercial Investment**

**Question (20-17)**

What would be the last opportunity (date) to issue a Section 114 notice for this financial year?

**Response**

The last logistical date that the Section 151 Officer could issue a section 114 notice for this, and indeed any financial year, is the last day of the financial year i.e. 31<sup>st</sup> March.

It should be noted that it is only the Council's Section 151 Officer that can issue a Section 114 notice, not the Cabinet Member, Leader or Cabinet.

However, the recent announcement from Government, as reported in the Section 151 officer's commentary to Cabinet, is likely to greatly improve the Council's forecast financial position to the extent that it no longer represents a potential section 114 notice situation.

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**21 July 2020**

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**From Councillor Ian Thorn, Calne Central Division**

**To Councillor Pauline Church, Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Commercial Investment**

**Question (20-18)**

When will Wiltshire Council issue its revised budget for 2020/21?

**Response**

The response and ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant and long lasting impact on the Councils finances. It is imperative that regular update and monitoring of the budget is undertaken during this time, which is why the Cabinet committed to have regular reporting of the Councils financial position, which is then also subject to the COVID-19 scrutiny task group.

The reports have clearly and transparently set out the scale of the impact, as well as the assumptions, the uncertainty and risks the Council faces.

These updates will continue for the foreseeable future. The content of these reports, as with any financial year when a forecast overspend is reported, will include any management actions and/or Cabinet decisions that are required to mitigate and balance the budget will be put forward, and in turn these will also be subject to the scrutiny process.

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