

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet Capital Assets Committee

16 September 2014

Item No. 5 - Public participation and Questions from Councillors

Question from Mr Andrew Hall, Martingate Centre Ltd

Question

As the Committee will be aware, the Council is seeking to revoke its decision to sell the Corsham Mansion House and Library. A sale would produce a significant capital receipt and avoid any further costs and public liability.

As stakeholders in the town, we are concerned that this important listed building is not allowed to degenerate any further. The Council does of course have a statutory responsibility to maintain it.

We estimate that the Mansion House alone needs £100,000 spent before this winter for urgent repairs, and a budget of over £1,000,000 to refurbish it prior to use.

We note a return to central funding of £124,000 (ref Capital Monitoring report presented to this meeting, section 4) following a capital underspend.

In the absence of a sale process designed to achieve best value, could the Committee confirm whether the above underspend can and will be allocated to the Mansion House, and if not when and where will the required funding be raised?

Thank you.

**Response from Cllr Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning,
Development Management, Strategic Housing, Property, Waste**

This matter will be considered by Cabinet in due course. Cabinet will consider whether the council should retain or sell the Mansion House and Library in the light of all the information, including especially the emerging Strategic Economic Plan for Wiltshire and the outcome of future Government bidding rounds. In the meantime the council will take all necessary steps to meet its maintenance responsibilities for the building. Any maintenance costs will be met from within existing resources.