

AMENDMENTS AND WRITTEN QUESTIONS – FULL COUNCIL – 29 JUNE 2016

AMENDMENTS

No amendments have been received.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

1. CABINET 12 MAY 2016

MIN NO 5 – STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR CONSULTATION

Questions submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for the Planning and Economic Regeneration

Did the Cabinet consider allocating finance to boost posts on social media when carrying out consultations?

Would they also consider using Parish Magazines, in Silverton our Parish Mag has a circulation of 400 and it is read!

RESPONSE

The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the Council's policy on consultation and public participation for planning related matters. It is currently in the process of being reviewed to reflect changes in the planning system and to reconsider the most effective methods of involving the community in the planning process. The draft review document is currently out for consultation until 18th July 2016 and is on our website here <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/media/205878/statement-of-community-involvement-consultation-draft-may-2016.pdf>. Individual Members are welcome to make representations as part of this consultation (to planningconsultations@middevon.gov.uk by 18th July midnight).

The document sets out minimum standards for consultation and does not prevent additional measures such as Parish Magazines being considered on a case by case basis dependent upon the site and issue in question. The consultation draft already identifies the use of social media. It is not proposed to allocate additional finance to social media. It forms one of a range of consultation methods that will be utilised, the cost of which is accommodated under the existing service budget.

2. CABINET – 12 MAY 2016

Min No 7 – FUTURE JOINT WORKING WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES

Question submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration.

Will any changes to the constitution be required to facilitate the joint working?

RESPONSE

At this point in time no changes to the constitution are specifically required (there already being provision for joint working within the constitution). However, the Cabinet is of course mindful that any future changes to the constitution in terms of governance will need to go through the Standards Committee and then on to Full Council.

3. CABINET – 12 MAY 2016

Min No 8 – REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN REPORT

Question submitted by Councillor Mrs J Roach and the response of the Cabinet Member for Finance

- a) The overspend of £417k is serious. What measures are going to be put in place to ensure that the Council stays within budget in the future?

RESPONSE

The revenue over spend of £417k for the financial year 2015/16 amounts to a 4.7% over spend against the net General Fund budget of £8.7m, or a 1% over spend against our gross revenue budget of £38mL. This over spend position was regularly reported to Cabinet and the 3 PDGs during the year – and in the main was as a result of 2 items outside of our control, i.e. the drop in value of glass recycling product – which reduced our recycling income by £54k and the GP surgeries refunds of circa £100k after a successful national rating appeal. In addition the Council made a number of redundancies in Customer First, Communications, Elections, Environmental Health, ICT and Leisure – this had an overall one-off cost of circa £350k – but was necessary in order to deliver necessary salary savings moving forward, so that the Council can continue to operate in an ever reducing funding envelope.

If you take these 3 items out of the 2015/16 outturn position the rest of the Council services actually under spent by £87k.

- (b) Should Council have been asked to approve a supplementary budget?

RESPONSE

As a Council we regularly report financial performance against budget and there was no requirement for a supplementary budget based on the above issues/decisions. The Council also continues to make an annual decision to hold a General Fund Balance (our reserves) at

25%, circa £2.2m, of our net spend in order to mitigate against one-off events, due to the relatively uncertain and challenging funding times that the Council is currently operating in.

(c) Referring to the Capital Programme - How are the plans for the market roof walkway progressing?

RESPONSE

With regard to the potential for a Pannier Market roof, officers are currently working up a scheme in consultation with the traders. A numbers of options are being considered which will be reported back to the Economy PDG at its next meeting.