**Appendix to Minutes of meeting on 29 June 2017**

**Questions raised during Public Question Time and answers provided:**

Q1 Item **7 Risk management update – ORG0043 Maintain a Sustainable Budget**
From Nigel Behan

"An early review of the 2017/18 Revenue Budget projections is likely to show a potential significant overspend in key services such as Children's Social Care, Adults Social Care and Learning Disabilities services as they continue to manage considerable increases in demand. The risk is that this trend will continue for at least part of the 17/18 financial year."

i) Can you identify the proportion of overspend in Children's Social Care (CSC), Adults Social Care (ASC) and Learning Disability Services (LDS) respectively based on current forecasts?

A This will be answered in detail in the quarter 1 report that goes to Cabinet on July 10th (papers issued on Monday) but in broad terms, Children's services overspend account for 60% of the overall, LD is around 30% and the remainder is within support services. With the exception of LD, Adult Social Care is not currently predicting an overspend.

ii) What difference in the financial forecasting of the "overspend" would there be if the additional 1% Council Tax (3% rather than 2%) increase had been made to the 2017/18 budget for Adult Social Care?

A The additional 1% would create additional budget of £2m, reducing the overspend by the same amount.

iii) Will SCC be able to rely on replenishing the Reserves by surpluses of the Council Tax Collection Fund (£5m) in future years?

A No, and nor does SCC rely on this. We do not budget for this or anticipate it. Having said that, it has been buoyant in recent years and provides a useful addition to our ability to manage council expenditure.

iv) "The Council continues to lobby for fairer funding for Somerset but Members need to be aware that many other councils face similar financial challenges." What actions has SCC taken to lobby for further funding since April 2017?

A Of necessity, through Purdah, there has been a quiet period in this activity. The phrase "continues to lobby" probably should say "will continue to lobby".

Q2 In the unaudited Statement of Accounts (2016/17) it states in the narrative report: "**Southwest One** The Authority exited from a significant contract with Southwest One early, and the services delivered through this contract were brought back in-house in November 2016. The Authority expects the costs to fall significantly now it has regained control of those services."

i) Now that SCC has left Southwest One will the final benefits/costs (suitably adjusted) be provided in full to the Audit Committee (providing a comprehensive summary of all financial movements and transactions over the lifetime of the contract and produce an exit Lessons Learnt Report)?

A No. This would be a significant piece of work and over the years we have provided a wealth of information on the benefits and costs related to this contract, and a "lessons learnt" report previously.

ii) Can an estimate of the significant fall in costs be supplied (and also the cost of equivalent SW0 services for comparison - suitably adjusted)?

A The MTFP in 17/18 assumes savings of £1.5m. This is roughly 10% of the previous cost of the SW One range of services under the contract. There is a very high degree of confidence that this saving will be made.