

SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON COUNCIL

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WRITTEN ANSWERS TRACKER 2021/22

Date of Cttee	Scrutiny Cttee Request for information	Decision Maker /Directorate Responsible	Response to request for information	Date response of	Scrutiny Officer Comments/Update
07/07/21	Q) <i>Outturn Report - Can the Finance team provide a comparison with this year's outturn and last years on debts written off?</i>	Cllr Ross Henley/Finance			Understood this information can be provided.
07/07/21	Q) <i>Performance Report – Extensions to Planning applications due to phosphates – further detail on how many had had multiple extensions?</i>	Cllr Mike Rigby / Planning	We don't hold that information and I am not clear of the relevance of whether they have had multiple extensions. The more pertinent information is the number of applications which are currently held in abeyance due to the need to provide measures to mitigate the impact of development on the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site. As Rebecca reported to Planning Committee we currently have approximately 100 applications equating to approximately 2,300 dwellings and 13 sites awaiting the	01/09/21	A verbal update was given to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee by Alison Blom-Cooper during the committee meeting on 3/11/21.

			discharge of conditions equating to approximately 450 dwellings.		
01/09/21	<i>2021/22 General Fund Financial Monitoring as at Qtr1</i> Q) Collation of parking income was requested along with the projected shortfall with comparison to pre pandemic levels.	Cllr R Henley & Cllr M Rigby / Finance/ Parking	Awaiting response. (<i>Check details of Qtr2 monitoring</i>)	10/11/21	Finance Business Partner currently checking with Stuart Noyce (may be a delay due to leave commitments)
01/09/21	<i>2021/22 General Fund Financial Monitoring as at Qtr1 –</i> Q) Appendix A compared to the budget agreed in February was considered, with a requested for further information in comparison to the detail of the variances.	Cllr R Henley / Finance	Paul Maclean has asked Cllr Buller to contact him direct so that he can fully understand the query and provide a satisfactory response. - First email was 07/09/21 - To be followed up.		Paul Maclean – can provide a detailed written response. Email fwd on. Emily Collacott and Paul Maclean.
01/09/21	<i>2021/22 – HRA Financial Monitoring as at Q1</i> - There had been a revenue forecast overspend of £610k, with the recommendation setting out £869k, information relating to the variance in the figures was requested.	Cllr F Smith / Housing	The amount of £869k has been moved from HRA earmarked reserves to the HRA general reserves therefore increases the level of general reserves – this figure is not included in the Q1 year-end forecast	10/11/21	Information provided by Emily Collacott and confirmed by Kerry Prisco. Email dated 10/11/21
3/11/21	<i>Innovation District Update –</i> A request was made for the full report from the EIBC study. During the meeting Chris Hall agreed to supply a redacted version due to commercial sensitivity.	Cllr M Kravis/ Development & Place	Chris Hall will redact the report and then make it available to members.	8/11/21	The redacted version of the report was published as part of the Executive Committee report for the Executive meeting held on 17 th November.

01/12/21	<p><i>Corporate Performance Report Q2 – QA) It was questioned whether an ecologist had been appointed to work on phosphates.</i></p> <p><i>QB) It was questioned how soon it is possible for an incoming call to be answered whether the wait time for calls to be answered included the automatic messaging at the start of the call.</i></p> <p><i>QC) It was questioned how many quality employment opportunities had the Council attracted in the last few years, in terms of productivity what was the percentage increase and in which sectors.</i></p> <p><i>QD) It was questioned whether the average relet time of 44 days under homes and communities was normal.</i></p> <p><i>QE) It was asked whether the asset management and completion of leases earlier than expected could be elaborated upon and clarification given.</i></p> <p><i>QF) Fly tipping was raised as being a big issue and it was questioned what was being done to address this.</i></p> <p><i>QG) Planning applications had been delayed due to phosphates, there were over 120 applications waiting to be decided so why does the report claim a high level of success. It was asked if officers could give a date for when these applications would be coming forward and say how many of the applications waiting were likely to go forward.</i></p>	Cllr R Henley / Various Officers			
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	<p>QH) It was raised that a feasibility study for Employment Land in West Somerset was mentioned in the report, and it was asked why a feasibility for the whole of the district was not being undertaken. It was asked where the budget for this study was coming from and whether it was revenue or capital funds.</p>				
01/12/21	<p><i>2021-22 General Fund Financial Monitoring as at Q2 -</i> Q) An update was requested on how well asset management under External Operations and Climate Change was performing compared to previous years.</p>	<p>Cllr R Henley / External Operations</p>			