

## Draft Minutes

of the Meeting of

## The Council

**Tuesday, 18th February 2020**

held in the New Council Chamber, Town Hall.

Meeting Commenced: 6.00 pm Meeting Concluded: 8.08 pm

### Councillors:

P David Shopland (Chairman)

P Richard Westwood (Vice Chairman)

P Marc Aplin

P Nigel Ashton

A Mike Bell

P Mike Bird

P Steve Bridger

P Peter Bryant

P Gill Bute

P Mark Canniford

P Ashley Cartman

P John Cato

P Caritas Charles

A Caroline Cherry

P James Clayton

P Sara Codling

P Andy Cole

P Peter Crew

P John Crockford-Hawley

P Ciaran Cronnelly

P Mark Crosby

P Donald Davies

P Paul Gardner

P Catherine Gibbons

A Hugh Gregor

P Wendy Griggs

P Ann Harley

P Karin Haverson

P Sandra Hearne

A David Hitchins

P Steve Hogg

P Nicola Holland

A Ruth Jacobs

P Huw James

P Patrick Keating

P John Ley-Morgan  
P Stuart McQuillan  
P Ian Parker  
P Robert Payne  
A Marcia Pepperall  
P Bridget Petty  
A Lisa Pilgrim  
P Terry Porter  
P Geoffrey Richardson  
P Tim Snaden  
P Mike Solomon  
P James Tonkin  
P Stuart Treadaway  
P Richard Tucker  
A Roz Willis

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

**Officers in attendance:** Jo Walker (Chief Executive), Lucy Shomali (Director of Development and Environment), Sheila Smith (Director of People and Communities), Nicholas Brain (Head of Legal and Democratic Services), Richard Penska (Interim Director of Finance), Sue Efford (Corporate Services), Lindsay Margerison (Development and Environment), Paul Morris (Corporate Services), Melanie Watts (Corporate Services), John Wilkinson (Corporate Services)

### **Chairman's Introduction**

Before opening the meeting, the Chairman welcomed those present and advised that this Council meeting was being live streamed on the internet. A recorded version would also be available to view on the Council's website within 48 hours of the meeting.

### **COU 125 Public Participation: Adoption of the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (JLTP4) (Agenda Item 1)**

The following speakers addressed the Council on the subject of the JLTP4:

Bruce Campbell, local resident and Chair of Tickenham Road Action Group addressed the meeting stating the group had reviewed the JLTP4 and strongly urging the Council to reject the Plan in its current form. He outlined key concerns in relation to insufficient consultation on the JLTP4 and to the proposed new roads linking Nailsea to the M5 Junction 20 which would significantly impact on traffic levels through Tickenham. He suggested the current JLTP4 was a short-term, tactical Plan rather than a robust strategic plan to guide the council's future transport development and, if approved, would lead to a needless waste of council and government resources.

Geoff Mills, local resident and member of the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG) Western Region, addressed the meeting stating that MAG was broadly supportive of both the objectives and the strategy and welcomed the acceptance within the Plan of the role that motorcycles had to play. He outlined MAG's key concerns in relation to the importance of good highway

maintenance and the need for adequate budget provision, and to the dangers posed by 'Smart Motorways' where the proposal was to remove existing motorway hard shoulders. He requested that an amendment be made to Section 7 of the report (page 66) to address the need to retain the hard shoulder.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their address. Their comments would be taken into account when considering the JLTP4 report later in the meeting (agenda item 14.1).

**COU 126 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37 (Agenda Item 4))**

None

**COU 127 Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 January 2020 (Agenda Item 5)**

It was noted that Councillor Parker had been present at the meeting on 7 January but was marked as absent.

**Resolved:** that subject to Councillor Parker being listed as present, the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

**COU 128 Petitions from Members: Councillor Bryant – Restriction of Parking in Sandcroft Avenue, Uphill (Agenda Item 3)**

Councillor Bryant presented a petition from the residents of Sandcroft Avenue, Uphill requesting that parking in the cul-de-sac be restricted to residents and their visitors, and that parking permits be issued to support this.

The petition was referred to the Director of Development and Environment.

**COU 129 Chairman's announcements (Agenda Item 8)**

The Chairman announced that an Extraordinary Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 12 May at 5.30 pm to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former long standing councillors who had been nominated by the group leaders.

He further announced that he was arranging for an all councillor group photograph to be taken immediately before the next Council meeting on 7 April 2020.

**COU 130 Forward Plan dated 31 January 2020 (Agenda Item 11)**

Councillor Davies presented the Forward Plan.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

**COU Question Time (Standing Order No. 18) (Agenda Item 13)**

131

Oral questions were directed to the members concerned and the summary notes and topics involved are contained in Appendix 1.

**COU Report and matters referred from the Executive – 5 February 2020**

**132 EXE 74 – Adoption of West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 (JLTP4) (Agenda Item 14 (1))**

Councillor Tonkin presented the reference from the Executive. He thanked the public speakers for their comments at the start of the meeting. He outlined the key comments received and the suggested changes to the JLTP4 in response to the issues raised, as follows:

(1) Nailsea, Backwell & Tickenham – following public consultation in March 2019 and this council's withdrawal of the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) in January 2020, the JLTP4 had been substantially updated. The amended JLTP4 did not support any new roads that addressed JSP growth in North Somerset and, in response to concerns relating to Nailsea, Backwell and the wider Clevedon, Nailsea, Bristol corridor, the wording had been amended to make it clearer that more work was needed to investigate required transport improvements. The schemes now included on the updated JLTP4 major schemes map were not JSP schemes, but schemes that addressed either existing transport connectivity issues or mitigated against growth from the current Local Plan. The updated map also aligned more closely with the wording of the major schemes in JLTP4 and removed the new road links of concern to reflect the need to do more work to understand and address the problems associated with these corridors.

(2) Smart Motorways – in response to concerns from the Motorcycle Action Group (Western Region) regarding future use of Smart Motorways on the motorway network references to Smart Motorways within the JLTP4 had been reviewed and textual amendments were proposed to recognise that the Department for Transport and Highways England were undertaking a review of the safety of Smart Motorways and that would inform any decision on the future promotion and use of this type of highway scheme.

(3) Airport and public transport – in response to concerns regarding the need to prioritise public transport improvements to Bristol Airport it was proposed to add wording to the airport chapter that would further prioritise public transport connectivity with the airport in the form of bus and coach improvements in the short term and high-frequency mass transit in the longer term, regardless of any decision to expand the airport.

At the invitation of the Chairman the Director of Development and Environment then gave a brief presentation illustrating the proposed changes to the JLTP4. A copy of the slides presented are filed on the Minute Book.

Members thanked the Executive Member and officers for listening to the consultation responses received and for making appropriate changes within

the JLTP4 to address them. In response to questions raised the Director of Development and Environment confirmed that work on the JLTP5 would start later in the year, in line with the programme for the new Local Plan.

In discussing the JLTP4 members raised the following issues: the need to adopt the JLTP4 as an interim document to replace the extant JLTP3, with climate emergency at its core; the process for putting forward proposed changes to the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Joint Committee and how to ensure these changes were adopted; the importance of prioritising the need for public transport schemes to address the problems of congestion across the district; concerns in relation to the knock-on effect on surrounding villages and the local road network of Bristol City Council's decision to restrict commercial vehicles in the city centre, and the likelihood of increased carbon emissions as a result of re-routing commercial vehicles; the importance of robust scrutiny around the JLTP, it being noted that both the JLTP and the Local Plan would be considered by the Strategic Planning Economic Development and Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel; the arrangements for ensuring those who had raised concerns as part of the consultation were informed of the changes made to address their concerns and the hope they would be re-assured by those changes.

In response to questions raised the Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed the final sign off would be by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) Joint Committee and that any changes agreed by Council would be incorporated into the document by the Director of Development and Environment. The decision of the Joint Committee would need to be unanimous in order for the JLTP4 to be adopted.

In response to the significant concerns expressed around the safety of Smart Motorways and in noting the proposed amendment to instruct the Director to add an addendum stating the Council was not in favour of Smart Motorways until evidence was forthcoming as to their safety, Councillor Tonkin as mover of the original Motion confirmed he was happy to take that on board.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Tonkin, seconded by Councillor Cartman and

**Resolved:**

(1) that the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP4) be adopted. In adopting the Plan the Council notes that the Department for Transport and Highways England are undertaking a review of the safety of Smart Motorways. Council has significant concerns in relation to the safety of Smart Motorways and instructs the Director of Development and Environment to add an addendum to the Plan stating that North Somerset Council is not in favour of Smart Motorways until evidence is forthcoming as to their safety; and

(2) that authority be delegated to the Director of Development and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Transport, to approve any required minor amendments to the JLTP4 prior to sign off by the West of England Combined Authority Joint Committee.

**COU Report and matters referred from the Executive – 5 February 2020**  
**133 EXE 75 – Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 (Agenda Item 14 (2))**

Councillor Cartman presented the reference from the Executive.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Cartman, seconded by Councillor Canniford and

**Resolved:**

(1) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix 1 of the report be approved, which includes the requirement to borrow up to £40.8m for the approved capital programme during the period 2019-2023 as funding for the approved capital programme (subject to confirmation of grant funding allocations), and highlights the need to potentially consider further borrowing of £98m in the same period for schemes that may be considered for inclusion within future capital programme reports;

(2) that the Prudential Indicators for 2020/21, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved; and

(3) that the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2020/21, as shown in Appendix 3 of the report, be approved.

**COU Report and matters referred from the Executive – 5 February 2020**  
**134 EXE 76 – Capital Strategy 2020-25 and Capital Budget 2020-21 (Agenda Item 14 (3))**

Councillor Cartman presented the reference from the Executive.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Cartman, seconded by Councillor Canniford and

**Resolved:**

(1) that the Capital Strategy 2020/21 to 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved; and

(2) that an increase to the capital programme of £25.770m for a range of transport, housing, school and social care schemes as set out in Section 5.3 of the report be approved, subject to confirmation of grant funding allocations.

**COU Report and matters referred from the Executive – 5 February 2020**  
**135 EXE 77 – Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Update and Revenue Budget 2020/21 (Agenda Item 14(4)) and Revenue Budget Update and Council Tax Setting 2020/21 (Agenda Item 15)**

The Chairman proposed that agenda items 14(4) and 15 be considered together as both made recommendations on the revenue budget.

Councillor Cartman presented the Executive reference and the update report. He referred to the difficult choices to be made within the limited resources available and stated that the MTFP reflected the priorities of the new administration. He highlighted the key issues within the report, referring to the proposed council tax increase of 1.99%, the Adult Social Care levy of 2%, the significant variances which would continue to be monitored, the ongoing deficit in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the increased costs to the council. He hoped the government would step in to provide further funding to address the deficit within the DSG but stressed that future funding remained uncertain. He drew members' attention to the table showing the revenue budget in paragraph 3.4 of the report, the council tax requirement as set out in paragraph 3.6, the precepts from other bodies as set out in paragraph 3.7 and the wide variation in local council precepts as set out in Appendix 3. He stated that putting together the budget had been a long and complex process and he thanked the Interim Director of Finance, the Head of Corporate Accountancy and the Finance Team for their work on this.

Detailed discussion on the budget proposals ensued during which the following points were raised: reference was made to the concerns of the Audit Committee at the proposed reduction of £10k in the budget for internal audit and the Executive Member agreed to meet with the committee to discuss how best to add value moving forward; members debated the financial position carried forward from 2018/19 and issues around the benefits and difficulties associated with long term strategic budgeting; concerns regarding the proposal to backdate the 100% empty homes surcharge without giving notice to homeowners to allow the opportunity to take action to avoid it; the impact of the leave buyback scheme on those teams that were already stretched and how this would work in those areas; the absence of the climate change and environmental implications paragraph within the finance reports and the importance of ensuring all reports reflected on these important issues; the financial implications and impact on other service areas of redirecting a significant sum within the budget to implementation of the cultural strategy; the crisis within the education sector and the hard work and dedication of teams in continuing to provide services despite the reducing resources available; the need to raise public awareness and to continue to lobby local MPs and the government for decent and fair funding for local government to safeguard vital frontline services; reference was made to the gender pay gap calculation and it was noted that North Somerset Council compared favourably with other councils; the importance of improved dialogue with residents on the budget setting process and the benefits of raising public awareness of the roles and restrictions placed on local government; the Police and Crime Panel precept and how this had been determined at the recent meeting of the Panel, with reference being made to there being no statutory cap on the increase of the police precept. It was noted that in future there would be regular reporting to Council from the Panel in the same way as there was from the Avon Fire Authority.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reminded members that Standing Order 22A required a named vote to be taken on the budget decision. It was noted that recommendation (1) of the Council report superseded recommendation (1) within the Executive reference (Minute no. EXE 77 (1)).

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Cartman, seconded by Councillor Davies and

**Resolved:**

(1) that the 2020/21 net revenue budget for North Somerset Council services of £160.030m be approved, which forms the Council Tax Requirement of £166.069m being the value including town and parish council precepts, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

(2) that a council tax increase of 1.99% for 2020/21 be approved;

(3) that an adult social care precept on the council tax of 2% for 2020/21 be approved;

(4) that the directorate gross income and expenditure budget allocations as detailed in the body of the report and as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;

(5) that the council tax charges for 2020/21 be approved in accordance with the formal Resolution as set out in Appendix 2, which provides for an average Band D council tax charge in respect of North Somerset Council services for 2020/21 of £1,432.50, plus special expenses, where such charges apply, giving an overall charge of £1,433.50, as follows (this represents an increase of 1.99% on the general level council tax, and a 2% charge in respect of an adult social care precept):

**COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION**

**The Council resolves as follows:**

- 1 It be noted that on 31st January 2020 the Council calculated the Council Tax Base for 2020/21:
  - (a) for the whole Council area as **79,185.1** [Item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")] and ,
  - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as in the attached Appendix B.
- 2 Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2020/21 (excluding Parish precepts and Special Levies) is **£113,511,841**
- 3 That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2020/21 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:



a	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils ( <i>Gross Expenditure</i> )	383,958,421
b	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act ( <i>Gross Income</i> )	264,406,944
c	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A (4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act). ( <i>North Somerset Council Tax Requirement, inc. special expenses, town and parish precepts and special levies</i> )	119,551,477
d	Being the amount at 3(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts). ( <i>Band D Council Tax for North Somerset Council including an average of special expenses and town and parish precepts</i> )	1,509.77
e	Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act (as per the attached Appendix C) ( <i>Area related expenditure, i.e. town and parish precepts and special expenses</i> )	Precepts 6,039,636.18 Spec Exp 79,190.00 6,118,826.18
f	Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish precepts relates. ( <i>The Band "D" amount for North Somerset Council excluding "area" related expenditure, i.e. special expenses and town and parish council precepts</i> )	1,432.50
g	The amount of Special Expenses (expressed in Band D)	1.00
h	The total Relevant Basic Amount for North Somerset Council	1,433.50

#### 4 Precepting Authorities

To note that the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area, as shown in the table below

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Police & Crime Commissioner	151.87	177.19	202.50	227.81	278.43	329.06	379.68	455.62
Fire Authority	49.96	58.29	66.62	74.94	91.60	108.25	124.90	149.88

- 5 That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table on the following page, as the amounts of Council Tax for 2020/21 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

- 6 The Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2020/21 is not determined to be excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.

and

(6) that the refreshed Pay Policy for 2020/21 be approved in accordance with the details set out in Appendix 5.

### **Named Vote as required under Standing Order 22A**

#### **For the Motion (33):**

Mike Bird, Steve Bridger, Mark Canniford, Ashley Cartman, John Cato, Caritas Charles, James Clayton, Andy Cole, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Mark Crosby, Donald Davies, Paul Gardner, Catherine Gibbons, Wendy Griggs, Karin Haverson, Sandra Hearne, Steve Hogg, Nicola Holland, Huw James, Patrick Keating, John Ley-Morgan, Stuart McQuillan, Ian Parker, Robert Payne, Bridget Petty, Geoffrey Richardson, Timothy Snaden, Mike Solomon, James Tonkin, Stuart Treadaway, Richard Tucker, Richard Westwood

#### **Against the Motion (1):**

Marc Aplin

#### **Abstentions (8)**

Nigel Ashton, Peter Bryant, Gill Bute, Sarah Codling, Peter Crew, Ann Harley, Terry Porter, David Shopland

### **COU Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions 136 relating thereto: Avon Fire Authority (Agenda Item 18 (1))**

Councillor Payne gave a detailed oral report on the meeting of the meeting that had taken place on Wednesday, 12th February 2020. The principal item on the agenda had been the setting of the revenue budget and the council tax for the coming financial year, and he provided a breakdown of the figures which resulted in a council tax precept for a Band D tax payer of £74.94, an increase of £1.46 from last year. He referred to the vital role of the Fire and Rescue Service in keeping communities, residents and properties safe and suggested that £6.25 per month provided amazing value for money. He referred to the ongoing squeeze on funding and the difficulties in protecting these vital frontline services.

The following matters were also considered at the meeting: the capital programme including a commitment to reinvesting for the future project, which included the replacement of three fire stations at Avonmouth, Bath and Weston-super-Mare as well as building repairs at Bedminster fire station. Also £11.6million was being invested in the fleet over four years, including seven new fire appliances; an update to the authority's service plan - the document was publicly available on the fire authority's website; an

update on risk reduction, focusing on prevention including reducing the risks to vulnerable people; the introduction of a new Building Safety and Fire Safety Bill, announced in the Queen's Speech; a prosecution date in respect of the Strachan & Henshaw case following a major fire in Bristol in December 2018, illustrating that the fire service did pursue legal enforcement where appropriate.

With reference to the fire authority precept it was noted that unlike the police precept, the fire authority was limited to an increase of up to 2% in the same way as the council. It was suggested that both authorities should be pressing for increases in total funding rather than percentage increases as both were low precepting authorities which resulted in them falling behind year on year.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

**COU 137 Reports on joint arrangements and external organisations and questions relating thereto: West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee (Agenda Item 18 (2))**

Councillor James presented the report and outlined the key issues. He encouraged members to complete the consultation on the bus and cycling strategy.

In discussing the report reference was made to the climate emergency plan and the hope this would receive a favourable response from Mayor Tim Bowles who was due to attend the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

**COU 138 Corporate Plan (Agenda Item 19)**

Councillor Davies presented the report. He stated the plan had been the subject of wide consultation and, once approved, would lead the council in its future budget and policy setting.

**Motion:** Moved by Councillor Davies, seconded by Councillor Canniford and

**Resolved:** that the attached Corporate Plan be approved, and officers be authorised to finalise the document for publication.

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Chairman

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## **Appendix 1**

### **North Somerset Council Council Meeting, 18 February 2020 Question Time (Agenda Item 13)**

#### **Question 1**

**From Councillor Richardson**

**To Councillor Canniford, Executive Member for Business, Economy and Employment**

#### **Car Parking Proposals**

Councillor Richardson referred to the furore caused by the parking proposals, stating he had received over 100 emails on this issue from the residents of Clevedon West. He asked Councillor Canniford if he could confirm the process and timetable for the consultation and decision on the proposals.

In response Councillor Canniford referred to the consultation undertaken to date to allow councillors to put forward their suggestions on what should be included within the public consultation. The public consultation had started today and would run until 31 March 2020. He reported that over 800 responses had been received today and all consultation responses received would be addressed. The statutory consultation would then commence in May and would run for around a month. The Executive would then consider the proposals and make a decision at its meeting on 24 June and he was proposing that an Extraordinary Council meeting be held on the same day to consider the proposals and make any recommendations as appropriate.

In a supplementary question Councillor Richardson asked Councillor Canniford if he could confirm when the proposals would be amended as a result of the consultation. Councillor Canniford responded that the final proposals were a matter for the Executive to determine but he wanted the proposals to be considered at full Council in the interests of openness and transparency.

#### **Question 2**

**From Councillor Bryant**

**To Councillor Davies, Leader of the Council**

#### **Skate Park in Portishead**

Councillor Bryant referred to the recent Executive decision to allow a skate park to be built on the Lake Grounds at Portishead. He stated that the conservatives had chosen to block this request over the past twelve years as evidence from the silent majority of Portishead residents was that they were opposed to this development as it was out of kilter with the rest of the facilities available on the Lake Grounds. He asked the Leader if he would kindly request Portishead Town Council to organise a Parish Poll specific to the construction of a Skate Park on the Lake Grounds, the result of which all councillors could sign up to.

Councillor Canniford, as Executive Member for Business, Economy and Employment, responded to Councillor Bryant stating that the decision for a skate park had already been taken and reminding Councillor Bryant that a parish poll had already been carried out and had shown overwhelming support for a skate park.

In a supplementary question Councillor Bryant stated that the parish poll had been carried out in 2017 and specifically asked the electorate in Portishead to vote for a skate park to be built within 15 minutes walking distance of the High Street, which pretty much covered the whole of Portishead without being specific. He therefore requested that Portishead Town Council be asked to run another parish poll requesting a skate park on the Lake Grounds.

Councillor Canniford responded in the negative.

### **Question 3**

**From Councillor Tucker**

**To Councillor Cartman, Executive Member for Finance and Performance**

#### **Income from Council Tax**

Councillor Tucker referred to the forthcoming debate on the budget and asked Councillor Cartman if he could comment briefly on the proportion of the council's income that was now reliant on council tax. The budget papers showed that £111m of the council's £160m funding, amounting to 70%, was coming from council tax this year. Back in 2010 two thirds of the council's funding came directly from the Labour government so he asked Councillor Cartman if he could confirm the council was now having to put more and more pressure on local council tax payers to carry the load.

Councillor Cartman responded that between 70% and 75% of council funding now came from local council tax payers with significantly reduced income from the government. He referred to the absence of any long term solution to address adult social care and referred to government promises made in the Autumn. He hoped the government would be true to their word and that additional funding would be forthcoming

### **Question 4**

**From Councillor Gardner**

**To Councillor Canniford, Executive Member for Business, Economy and Employment**

#### **Car Parking Charges**

Councillor Gardner asked Councillor Canniford that if the current car parking charges proposals were rejected at full Council, how would this be treated from a budget perspective. Would that mean there would be a budget variance that would need to be resolved by finding funds or savings from elsewhere.

Councillor Canniford responded that if there was a budget variance as a result of revised proposals then a decision would need to be taken at that stage as to how this would be covered.

**Question 5**  
**From Councillor Haverson**  
**To Councillor Tonkin, Executive Member for Planning and Transport**

**Banwell Bypass**

Councillor Haverson asked how much detailed planning existed for the Banwell bypass. She stated this was a development with huge implications for her ward, with positive impacts on one village and negative ones for others. She asked if it was true that the section bypassing Castle Hill had hit problems, adding its detailed planning would be dependent on the outcome of the new local plan. She was concerned that it seemed its route would need to be decided before it was known whether or not there would be a garden village near Banwell. Similarly, she asked if there was still an ambition to eventually continue through to the A38.

Councillor Tonkin responded that on a policy basis this was a protected route within the local plan. A planning application was anticipated within 12 months and there would be consultation at that time. The route had been included within the JLTP4 but had subsequently been removed following the withdrawal of the Joint Spatial Plan.

In response to a supplementary question he confirmed there would be full consultation with affected local residents throughout the planning process.

**Question 6**  
**From Councillor Westwood**  
**To Councillor Canniford, Executive Member for Business, Economy and Employment**

**Report on Car Parking Charges to Extraordinary Council Meeting**

Councillor Westwood referred to Councillor Canniford's response to an earlier question and asked if standing orders allowed for an Extraordinary Council meeting to take place on the same day as the Executive.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services confirmed they did.