

Cheltenham Borough Council Council Minutes

Meeting date: 16 October 2023

Meeting time: 2.30 pm - 3.35 pm

In attendance:

Councillors:

Matt Babbage (Chair), Paul Baker (Vice-Chair), Glenn Andrews, Victoria Atherstone, Adrian Bamford, Garth Barnes, Ian Bassett-Smith, Angie Boyes, Jackie Chelin, Ed Chidley, Barbara Clark, Flo Clucas, Mike Collins, Iain Dobie, Stephan Fifield, Bernard Fisher, Wendy Flynn, Tim Harman, Steve Harvey, Rowena Hay, Martin Horwood, Tabi Joy, Paul McCloskey, Emma Nelson, Richard Pineger, Julie Sankey, Diggory Seacome, Smith, Izaac Tailford, Julian Tooke, Simon Wheeler, Max Wilkinson, Suzanne Williams and David Willingham

Also in attendance:

Paul Jones (Executive Director of Finance, Assets and Regeneration), Claire Hughes (Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer), Gareth Edmundson (Chief Executive) and Kim Smith (Elections Manager)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Beale, Britter, Fifield, Holliday, Jeffries, Lewis and Oliver.

2 Declarations of interest

There were none.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July were approved as a true record.

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 28 September, will be considered at the meeting on 11 December.

4 Communications by the Mayor

The Mayor began by welcoming the newly-elected Member for Prestbury ward, Councillor Stan Smith.

He said that everyone would be aware of the horrific recent attacks on Israeli citizens and unfolding tragedy in Gaza, and share a sense of deep sadness at the loss of innocent life and hope for all those in the region. He invited Members to stand and join him for a moment's reflection.

5 Communications by the Leader of the Council

The Leader also welcomed Councillor Smith, and shared the following:

- the newest statistics from our efforts to reduce carbon emissions at CBC show a 15% decrease on last year. More statistics will follow at Council in December;
- the Appointments and Remuneration Panel has appointed an interim Head of Climate to continue to drive our ambitious climate agenda;
- CBC has increased fines for litter, fly-tipping and graffiti to the maximum on-the-spot fixed penalties allowable under a recent change in regulations, to send a clear message on these anti-social activities;
- there are now around 60 families using the Feed Cheltenham Leisure Passes; families are excited to have free access to leisure activities, particularly swimming;
- the final design for the Montpellier Gardens public toilets has now been signed off by MDUK as compliant with Changing Places requirements. The procurement for a construction contractor will go live in the next couple of weeks and a decision brought back to Cabinet or full Council if required;
- the final draft statement of accounts for 2021-22 has been presented to Audit, Compliance and Governance Committee, and it is expected that an unqualified audit opinion will be issued by Grant Thornton, allowing the team to move onto the audit for 2022-23 in the new year;
- preparations for setting the 2024-25 budget are starting; CBC's settlement from central government will be based on the Autumn Statement which isn't due until the end of November. The team will therefore need to make a number of assumptions on funding levels to ensure that the draft budget proposals can be taken to Cabinet in December in advance of the consultation period.

She went on to explain that on 17 October, Cabinet would be considering recommendations that CBH be wound up and management of the housing stock be brought back to CBC:

- she said CBH was set up as an Arms' Length Management Organisation (ALMO) to allow greater access to central government funding to meet the Decent Homes standard, a Labour government initiative set targets to bring all public sector social housing up to standard by 2010;
- when government funding came to an end in 2016, CBC and CBH worked successfully in partnership, investing in existing stock, building new housing,

establishing a resilient housing revenue account and, most importantly, focussing on high tenant and leaseholder satisfaction;

- responding to recent challenges, the partnership has protected and cared for communities in Cheltenham, and the role of CBH in Cheltenham is one to be celebrated;
- however, with new financial challenges and an updated regulatory framework, it is now time to review CBH's future, to ensure the council can deliver a housing service in full alignment with its strategic priorities and ensure it is in the strongest possible position to deliver for Cheltenham's communities. The most important consideration will be the tenants, and the report is very much about strengthening tenant participation and the improvement board.

She ended with the following items:

- she sits on the Western Gateway partnership as district representative for all districts in Gloucestershire, and recently welcomed a delegation of seven to Cheltenham, visiting Golden Valley, the MX, and meeting various stakeholders. The Western Gateway has identified cyber as a real strength right across the region, promoting and amplifying what is already happening to create further jobs and growth. As home of GCHQ, Cheltenham has a central role in driving further growth. Following their visit, the Director of Western Gateway emailed to say how impressed he was with the scale of Cheltenham's ambition, and pledged support to maximise the impact of everything being delivered in Cheltenham.

She ended by reminding Members that it was Recycling Week, and encouraged Members to share.

6 To receive petitions

There were none.

7 Public Questions

There were no public questions on this occasion.

8 Member Questions

Eight Member questions had been received. The written responses were taken as read.

1. Question from Councillor Diggory Seacome to Cabinet Member Economic Development, Culture, Tourism and Wellbeing, Councillor Max Wilkinson

We were promised last year, before the installation of the ice rink, that mains electricity, or at least work starting on providing it, was to be installed. This has not happened. When is that likely to happen?

Response from Cabinet Member

Thank you to Councillor Seacome for the question. He raises an important issue. Cllr Seacome is a close follower of matters in Imperial Square and of discussions at this Council. Therefore, he will know that it is correct to say that this authority is seeking to install electrical power sources for events. However, the position stated on the ice rink for this year, and until electrical infrastructure is installed, was to not use traditional diesel generators and instead pursue alternative energy supplies. That is exactly what we are aiming to do this winter, by using an HVO fuel and battery method. This innovative solution is being provided by a locally based company at the leading edge of its field. This technology will make a substantial cut in event emissions compared to a traditional diesel generator. The emissions will, of course, be measured and reported on after the event, but the amount of HVO fuel used will be reliant on the weather. Crucially for local residents of Imperial Square, the hyperlocal air quality impacts of a diesel generator will be vastly reduced too.

We are extremely pleased to have moved away from the traditional diesel fuel option which most outdoor events regularly rely upon. It is a huge step forward for the Council's climate goals and one which we will look to build on. Work is underway to understand how we may be able to increase the fixed power supply to Imperial Gardens using the funding secured through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Hydrock, an engineering design company, have been appointed to work with the Council and National Grid to develop a design and specification for any required infrastructure. A proposal for any required infrastructure to deliver the power required to support events in the gardens is expected to be provided to the Council early in 2024 when Members will be able to take a decision on the wider risks and benefits of proceeding.

Supplementary question

At the end of the ice rink period, can we have statistics for the improved form of fuelling?

Response from Cabinet Member

Yes

2. Question from Councillor Tabi Joy to Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Street Services, Councillor Iain Dobie

In terms of brown bag garden waste collection, why are some streets are qualified for and why some aren't qualified for, and is it an iterative process where more streets may become qualified?

Response from Cabinet Member

The Council's main garden waste service is a borough wide brown bin collection service from the kerbside. However, in some roads residents have little or no space for a wheelie bin and the garden bag service is offered only to these residents and serviced using a different vehicle. I am keen to see this service reviewed to ensure we are minimising our carbon emissions. Details of our garden waste service are available on the website [Brown bin garden waste collection | Garden waste | Cheltenham Borough Council](#)

3. Question from Councillor Tabi Joy to Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Street Services, Councillor Iain Dobie

Could garden waste bags be collected from CBC and CBH sites in addition to the Municipal Offices?

Response from Cabinet Member

I am committed to working with residents to ensure our services meet their needs within the available resources we have. Any specific requirements should be discussed with officers who I am sure will be more than willing to help. Regulations around how and where waste is stored need to be adhered to.

CBH sites such as the St Paul's Community Hub can subscribe to the garden bin subscription service and officers have been in discussion with the Hub about this.

4. Question from Councillor Tabi Joy to Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Street Services, Councillor Iain Dobie

Previously Ubico have collected fly-tipped items from unadopted alleyways, but that seems have recently changed. Has the contract for fly-tipping with Ubico changed, and if so, might this be subject to further adjustment in the near future?

Response from Cabinet Member

I am keen to ensure we tackle fly tipping across the borough and I am not aware that anything has changed recently, nor are officers. The neighbourhood team seek the removal of fly tipping on private land, which includes unadopted lanes, by the land owners or culprits. There will be particular issues with each individual alleyway I am sure and no doubt these are not new issues but the same ones that keep cropping up every now and again. If Councillor Joy has any specific examples could she please let me know and I can investigate for her.

5. Question from Councillor Julian Tooke to Cabinet Member for Finance and Assets, Councillor Peter Jeffries

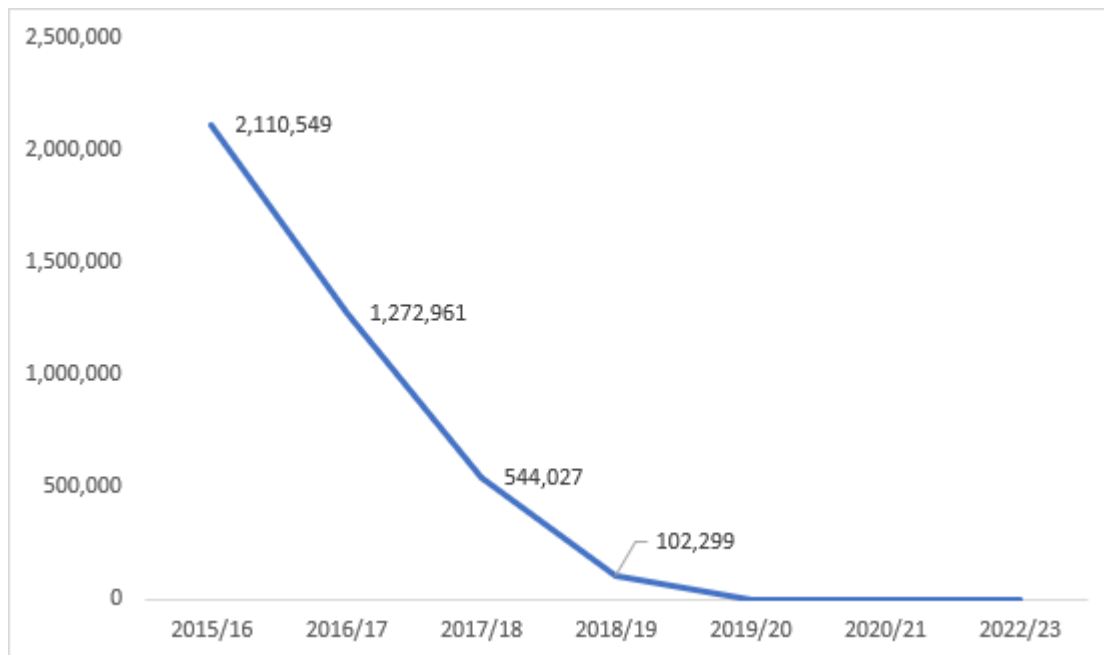
Since May 2015, please can you quantify how much the revenue support grant (direct guaranteed funding from central government) has been reduced per annum and also, if it had increased by inflation every year, how much we would have expected to have received from central government between May 2010 and now (so we can quantify the funding gap).

Please can you also quantify much of this funding gap, CBC has been able to make up via increases in council tax and business rates.

Response from Cabinet Member

I would like to thank Councillor Tooke for his question. In the 2015/16 final budget, this Council received £2.110m of revenue support grant from the Government which

in the years since has reduced to nil. The profile of the reduction is demonstrated in the graph below:



Since 2010, the Council has received £13.919m in revenue support grant from the Government. In the 2010/11 financial year alone we received £1.689m. Had this level of funding been maintained and increased with inflation, this amount would have been £25.285m, a gap of £11.366m.

This gap has been made up through Council Tax growth (£1.9m), business rates growth (approx. £2m) and the remaining £7.3m has been delivered through increasing commercial activities, savings and efficiencies in the base budget.

Supplementary question

Congratulations to the administration for maintaining services despite the swingeing government cuts. The council is not averse to commercial risk in order to do this. Could the council have achieved what it has in maintaining services without taking commercial risk.

Response from Leader

Thanks to Councillor Tooke for his supplementary question, which I will answer in the absence of Councillor Jeffries.

As Cabinet member for Finance and Assets, I brought a commercial investment strategy to the council in 2016. With government funding disappearing year on year, we needed to change tack and become a commercial council that was risk aware but not risk averse if we were to continue to not cut services. To that end, we were very successful in as much as before the pandemic, we were on course to become self-sufficient from government funding. I firmly believe that had we not gone on this journey, then my answer to you now would have been a resounding no – I do not believe that without taking commercial risk we would still be delivering the same level of non-statutory services as we currently are.

In fact, the eminent auditors, Grant Thornton, mentions Cheltenham in one of their publications. Since 2015, we have increased our commercial income by £4.2m over that period which equates to a real increase of £2.5m once inflation has been applied. To put that in context, that is almost as much as our business rates baseline threshold of £2.8m.

6. Question from Councillor Tim Harman to Cabinet Member for Waste, Recycling and Street Services, Councillor Iain Dobie

The Government has increased the maximum on the spot fine people who litter graffiti from £150 to £500 and for fly tipping from £400 to £1000.

According to Gloucestershire Live Gloucester City Council in 2021/22 issued 1,514 fines compared with 18 by Cheltenham Borough Council .

Can he cabinet member explain this difference or does he feel that Cheltenham has no problems with Litter, Graffiti and Fly tipping ?”

Response from Cabinet Member

The Cabinet Member for Customer and Regulatory Services recently agreed to increase the level of Financial Penalty Notices in line with new legislation recognising the need to take a robust approach to ASB and environmental-crime.

CBC cannot comment on the accuracy of the number of FPNs reported by Gloucestershire Live. Gloucester City Council outsource their litter enforcement to a commercial company who will, no doubt, set income targets for their officers. This will drive and influence the approach taken by the city council to maximise the number of FPNs issued and income generated from it.

In Cheltenham, the number of litter FPNs issued by officers are:

2021 – 51 2022 – 26 2023 – To date – 5

Other FPNs

Graffiti - 2021 – 15 2022 – 0 2023 – To date – 0

Fly tipping - 2021 – 62 2022 – 56 2023 – To date – 19

A large part of the decrease in litter FPNs is attributable to officers undertaking a lot of education in accordance with the Corporate Enforcement Policy that encourages engagement before enforcement in most cases. For example, historically a lot of FPNs were issued to food delivery drivers who dropped a lot of litter and cigarette butts when waiting for work to come in. Neighbourhood officers working with them has resulted in substantial improvements that means officers did not need to issue FPNs.

We take action in accordance with our Corporate Enforcement Policy. Where there is credible evidence of offences, Neighbourhood Officers will take appropriate enforcement action. Issuing FPNs are not always the most appropriate. For example, particularly in cases of fly tipping and graffiti, the council might pursue a prosecution as the most appropriate course of action instead of issuing a FPN.

There are also certain limitations in the legislation where, for example, issuing FPNs is complicated where an alleged offender refuses to provide council officers with name and details. However, officers will take action in all cases where they have credible evidence and the information they need. Where necessary, officers will call on support from the police to assist but this is dependent on available resources.

Supplementary question

Thanks to the Cabinet Member for his detailed response. Does the council need to do more than it already does to combat litter, graffiti, and fly-tipping?

Cabinet Member response

We can always do more. The fact that I have just taken a decision to increase the fines for fly-tipping and graffiti, and impose the maximum on-the-spot fine possible for litter shows that we are very serious about this. A new graffiti policy was introduced earlier this year, which included the removal of offensive graffiti in double-quick time.

The reason why Gloucester City Council issues so many fines is that it pays a sub-contractor to carry out the work, and in fact issues more fines than all the other Gloucestershire councils put together. Anything larger than a 5p coin is regarded as litter and an offence under legislation, but this is not the way CBC wants to go. The aim is to educate people to keep the streets clean, then warn them; if they continue to offend, a fixed penalty notice will be issued. CBC takes the matter absolutely seriously, and everyone agrees that we want to see less of this type of anti-social behaviour.

7. Question from Councillor Emma Nelson to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

We have recently lost at least three key senior and experienced CBC Officers in the Director for Climate Change, Executive Director Place & Communities and the Planning Enforcement Officer.

- What steps are CBC taking to recruit to fill these positions?
- What is the CBC Succession Planning Policy and how confident are they that it is working?
- What was the annual cost of each of their positions? And what is the forecast annual cost of Interim Management to cover these positions?
- Are there any other expected / known departures of senior Officers coming anytime soon, and if so, who and when?

Response from Cabinet Member

Thank you to Councillor Nelson for the question. Matters of staffing are ultimately a matter for the Head of Paid Service who is ultimately responsible for making recommendations on the organisational structure for approval to members. As highlighted at the recent A&R committee, following the LGA peer review the Chief Executive highlighted to the committee that he was proposing to review the senior positions in the organisations in light of the report to ensure they were fit for purpose.

In addition, I understand that if the Cabinet Report relating to Cheltenham Borough Homes is approved by Cabinet on the 17 October this will require a further review of senior positions. Therefore, it is expected that like for like replacements for posts of Executive Director for Place & Communities and the Director for Climate Change will not be recruited to. The combined full year cost of these two posts is £250k (£140k and £110k respectively). A cross-party A&R sub committee recently appointed to an interim position to oversee the Climate agenda, the cost of this interim cover is forecast to cost £85k.

With regard to planning enforcement, I understand we are actively seeking to recruit a Planning Enforcement Officer on a contract basis. Employing a contractor gives an opportunity to review the organisation and resources for this function

CBC does not have a succession planning policy but the organisation actively looks to invest in and develop staff. The Council's record on apprentices and the recruitment of graduates via the national LGA scheme is evidence of the Council's commitment to develop talent.

While there are national and acute shortages of qualified staff across different disciplines in local government – planning being particularly challenging, CBC continues to look at ways we can promote the Council as a great place to work and explore how we advertise jobs and attract talent. The Council has also expressed an interest in joining a national LGA initiative to look at how we can improve local government recruitment.

With regard to further staffing departures, I am not aware of further departures but as with any organisation normal churn of staffing is expected. National staffing shortages have made the recruitment market more competitive so this does create a risk of creating a higher churn if staff are successful in being promoted to roles outside the Council. However, as confirmed by the LGA peer review, Cheltenham has been highlighted as having a positive organisational culture and remains an attractive and welcoming place to work.

Supplementary question

The council promotes CBC as a great place to work. Does it measure the state of morale among staff and if so, is it good or could it be better?

Response from Leader

The council undertakes staff satisfaction surveys on a regular basis and publishes the results. I will get back to you with the most recent outcomes. I'm not sure when the next review is due, but this is certainly something we measure.

8. Question from Councillor Emma Nelson to the Leader, Councillor Rowena Hay

Glos Live recently reported that Gloucester City Council effectively lost out on £220k S106 funding due to expiry of time limit to spend.

How much is currently held by CBC under S106 and what are the expiry dates

against each lump sum? I tried to find this on the CBC website but couldn't.

Response from the Leader

Thank you, Councillor Nelson, for your question. Officers regularly monitor our situation with regards to our position on s106 contributions held, including expenditure. Indeed the Council publishes an annual report setting out the position as part of Cheltenham Borough Council's annual infrastructure funding statement for community infrastructure levy and section 106 [IFS22_App 2_Infrastructure Funding Statement.pdf \(cheltenham.gov.uk\)](#). The next Cabinet report on this is scheduled for the 5th December 2023.

Currently £2,325,402.72 is held following the completion of s.106 agreements but all of this has been committed to schemes within timescales set out in those agreements. Therefore, there is no danger of the Council being required to repay any money back.

9 Interim Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations

The Executive Director for Finance, Assets and Regeneration introduced the report, saying that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England completed its review, with the order made on 18 July 2023, and changes coming into effect on 02 May 2024. The council has a statutory duty to review its polling districts, places and stations, and make sure that these are accessible to all. The consultation exercise is now complete and the recommendations ready to be put forward. He thanked everyone who shared their views, and Kim Smith and the elections team in particular for finding an alternative polling station for Battledown ward, following local concern about the closure of Holy Apostles school for the by-election earlier this year.

In response to Member questions, the Executive Director for Finance, Assets and Regeneration and the Electoral Services Manager confirmed that:

- although at present, the polling station for a county council by-election in Park and Lansdown wards would be a portakabin at the Town Hall or Salem Baptist Church rather than the usual polling stations, it is hoped that with the county boundary changes next year, these anomalies will be matched up so that people don't go to different polling stations for borough and county elections;
- although some voters may find the new polling station in Battledown more difficult to get to, the council cannot consider helping people get there. Cheltenham is unique in the number of polling stations and their proximity to voters, particularly compared with rural areas where people sometimes have to travel substantially further. The council always looks for polling stations that are as amenable as possible for voters. In Battledown, the proposed portakabin at

the cricket club has good parking, and the cricket club is looking to make itself more accessible, with the clubhouse itself used as the polling station in future.

Member debate

In debate, Members made the following observations:

- with a few polling stations some way outside the ward, people may have trouble recognising the area where they live in relation to the ward where they live, which seems bizarre;
- will the Leader consider keeping the boundary working group– some wards need to be revisited, such as Benhall, which is split by a dual carriageway. Ward boundary changes should come from the local authority – we shouldn't have to wait for the boundary commission who don't know the area to make piecemeal changes that are number-based rather than community-based. As an example, in May, a small part of Hesters Way ward will end up in Tewkesbury constituency, which seems ludicrous. The boundary working group could draw up something for the future that is more representative of communities and works well;
- thanks to the team who delivered this work – it has involved a huge amount of hard work.

The Leader said most people would continue to vote in the same place as previously. Although CBC could ask the question, she doubted whether the Boundary Commission would consider re-looking at Cheltenham for at least two years, but more likely a lot longer than that.

RESOLVED (unanimously): That Council approves:-

- **All Saints Ward - creation of new polling district AC and for electors to vote at Holy Trinity Primary School for all elections except for a County Council by election when the electors will vote at Robert Harvey House**
- **Battledown Ward – to change the polling place / station for electors in polling districts BA and BC to vote at (Portakabin) Cheltenham Cricket Club, Princes Street**
- **Benhall, The Reddings & Fiddlers Green Ward – creation of new polling district CD and for electors to vote at Oasis Centre, Cassin Drive**
- **Charlton Kings Ward – to change the polling place / station from Kings Hall, Church Piece to Charlton Kings Baptist Hall, 38 Church Street**
- **Charlton Park Ward – creation of new polling district ED and for electors to vote at Cheltenham East Community Fire & Rescue Station, Keynsham Road for all elections except for County Council by election when the electors will vote at Holy Apostles Church Hall, London Road**
- **Charlton Park Ward – creation of new polling district EE and for electors to vote at Old Patesians Sports and Social Club, Everest Road for all elections except for County Council by election when the electors will vote at Leckhampton Primary School, Hall Road**

- College Ward – creation of new polling district FD and for electors to vote at Portakabin, Town Hall, Imperial Square for all elections except for County Council by election when electors will vote at St Gregorys Old Priory, 70 Clarence Street
- College Ward – creation of new polling district FE and for electors to vote at Emmanuel Church, Fairfield Parade for all elections except for County Council by election when electors will vote at Leckhampton Baptist Hall, Pilley Lane
- Hesters Way Ward – creation of polling district GC and for electors to vote at The Training Room, Access via the Car Park, Hesters Way Childrens Centre, Dill Avenue
- Lansdown Ward – creation of new polling district HD and for electors to vote at St Gregorys Old Priory, 70 Clarence Street for all elections except for County Council by election when electors will vote at Salem Baptist Hall, St Georges Road
- Park Ward – creation of new polling district KC and for electors to vote at Bethesda Methodist Church Hall, Great Norwood Street for all elections except for County Council by election when electors will vote at Portakabin, Town Hall, Imperial Square
- Pittville Ward – creation of new polling district LC and for electors to vote at Pittville Pump Room, East/West Approach Drive for all elections except County Council by election when electors will vote at St Pauls Church Centre, Access via Brunswick Street
- Pittville Ward – creation of new polling district LD and for electors to vote at Pittville Pump Room, East/West Approach Drive for all elections except for Parliamentary election when electors will vote at Prestbury Hall, Bouncers Lane
- Prestbury Ward – polling district MB to change the polling station from the Portakabin and for electors to vote at the Committee Room, St. Nicolas Church Hall, Swindon Lane
- Prestbury Ward - creation of new polling district MC and for electors to vote at Prestbury Hall, Bouncers Lane for all elections except for Parliamentary election when electors will vote at Pittville Pump Room East/West Approach Drive
- Springbank Ward – creation of new polling district NC and for electors to vote at Hesters Way Childrens Centre, Dill Avenue for all elections except for County Council by election when electors will vote at Swindon Village Hall, Church Road
- Up Hatherley Ward – change current polling district SA – Transfer the following streets/properties from SA to SC:-
 - 7 to 75 and 2 to 28 Caernarvon Road
 - Caernarvon Court, Caernarvon Road
 - 1 to 11 and 2 to 6 Carmarthen Road

- Flint Road
- Glamorgan Road
- Hatherley Lane
- Hatherley Mews, Hatherley Lane
- 267 to 313 and 282 to 320 Hatherley Road
- Kingscote Avenue
- Kingscote Close
- Kingscote Grove
- Kingscote Road East
- Kingscote Road West
- Pembroke Road
- Wards Road

Transfer 77 to 151 Caernarvon Road from polling district SA to polling district SB. The electors remaining in polling district SA to vote at St Margarets Hall, Coniston Road

- Up Hatherley Ward – change current polling district SB to include 77 to 151 Caernarvon Road from polling district SA and for electors to vote at Hillview Community Centre, Hulbert Crescent
- Up Hatherley Ward – change current polling district SC and to include all of the streets and properties listed in changes to polling district SA above and for electors to vote at Up Hatherley Village Hall, Cold Pool Lane
- Up Hatherley Ward – creation of new polling district SD and for electors to vote at St Margarets Hall, Coniston Road for all elections except for County Council by election when electors will vote at St Stephens Parish Church, St Stephens Road
- Up Hatherley Ward – creation of new polling district SE and for electors to vote at St Margarets Hall, Coniston Road for all elections except for County Council by election when electors will vote at The Annexe, St Margarets Hall, Coniston Road
- Warden Hill Ward – Polling district TA for electors to vote at The Annexe, St Margarets Hall, Coniston Road
- Warden Hill Ward – creation of new polling district TD and for electors to vote at The Annexe, St Margarets Hall, Coniston Road for all elections except for County by election when electors will vote at St Stephens Parish Church, St Stephens Road

10 Appointment of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Following the resignation of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Chief Executive called for nominations for his replacement.

The Leader of the Conservative group, Councillor Harman, said that, in accordance with the arrangement that the Chair should represent a group other than the majority group, he proposed Councillor Joy as Chair. She has indicated that she is prepared to take the role for the remainder of the council term.

Councillor Seacome seconded the nomination of Councillor Joy. There were no other nominations.

The Mayor invited Members to vote; Councillor Joy's election as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny was unanimously approved.

11 Notices of Motion

There were no motions on this occasion.

12 Any other item the Mayor determines as urgent and which requires a decision

There were none.

13 Local Government Act 1972 -Exempt Information

RESOLVED THAT:

in accordance with Section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining agenda items as it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public are present there will be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 5, Part (1) Schedule (12A) Local Government Act 1972, namely:

Paragraph 3: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Paragraph 5: Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

14 Exempt Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 25 July were approved as a true record.