

Briefing for Overview and Scrutiny Committee 9 July 2014

The Forward Plan lists the reports expected to come to Cabinet in the next 3 or 4 months. This note supplements that with other issues that may be of interest to O&S.

Cemetery & Crematorium

The final report of the scrutiny task group was presented to cabinet on 24th June. While the work of the group was welcomed, the implications of the problems with the cremators since the report was written need to be considered as well. There will be a report to 16th September cabinet to recommend what happens next and this will include the option of replacement. While the work of the task group is complete, Chris Coleman is proposing to set up a cabinet working group to help with the emerging project and make use of the experience gained by the group.

Rail Issues

CBC has responded to a consultation by First Great Western supporting some minor reductions in journey times to and from Paddington. These would commence from May 2015 and result from work on re-doubling of the Swindon/Kemble line now reaching completion.

The whole Greater Western franchise is due for renewal in 2016. O&S may wish to set up a task group to look at what issues Cheltenham should be lobbying for as part of the new franchise. This would include understanding how this links with proposals to refurbish Cheltenham Spa station being proposed by the Cheltenham Development Taskforce.

2020 Vision

The cabinet has now agreed to CBC joining the programme board for this project as discussed at the member briefing session on 23rd June. The aim is to work up a business case by October 2014 to help decide whether to proceed. A key issue will be how each council maintains its independence and how members are involved when any new structure is in place. Which are the important issues for Cheltenham? Would a task group be useful?