Questions raised by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at meeting held on 5 September 2017

Questions raised by Overview and Scrutiny

Response from officers

Performance Tracker - Priority: Finance and Resources

Objective 4 – Action a) Put in place a plan to regenerate Spring Gardens – A Member queried whether this was on track.

Members were informed that a report would be taken to the Executive Committee in October/November setting out the proposed steps forward, including the potential appointment of a development partner to move this forward in the New Year. It was currently on track in terms of timescales.

Objective 4 – Action b) Deliver the Council's asset plan – A Member raised concern that it had come to light at an East Area Place Programme Meeting that officers were unclear as to who owned the assets in certain areas

The Head of Finance and Asset
Management provided assurance that the
Asset Management team had identified
everything owned by the Council at every
location across the Borough and work was
being done to make this available to assist
with grounds maintenance going forward.

Also, officers did not necessarily know what was owned by others and work was ongoing with the County Council and NHS to plot this information onto one system

Objective 4 – Action b) Deliver the Council's asset plan – A Member sought an update on disposal of the garage sites and questioned when work would be started on the Vineyards play area. He also raised concern that the installation of the three walks signage was incomplete as the old signage had not been removed.

The Head of Finance and Asset Management confirmed that work on the Vineyards has now started in earnest and the old signage has been removed in relation to the three walks.

In terms of the disposal of the garage sites, this was dependent upon the capacity within the Asset Management team; unfortunately it had not happened as quickly as hoped but a plan was in place to go to the market in the New Year.

Key performance indicators – Priority: Finance and Resources

KPIs 1 and 2 – Percentage of creditor payments paid within 30 days of receipt and outstanding sundry debt in excess of 12 months old – A Member questioned whether the arrow was showing a positive or negative performance and whether the debt for £10,973 was likely to be recovered.

The Head of Finance and Asset Management confirmed that performance was very positive with 95.18% of payments within 30 days during quarter 1 of 2017/18 compared to a target of 94%.

In terms of the sundry debt outstanding, the debt for £10,973 was close to resolution and he was confident of receiving the sum in due course. The total for the quarter was £38,317 and it was noted that this was a low figure having been reduced from approximately £120,000 a few years earlier.

Performance Tracker – Priority: Economic Development

Objective 1 – Action a) Seek approval and implement year one of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy – A Member questioned whether officers were aware of the Gwinnett family tomb in Down Hatherley which had been used to launch the Gloucestershire History Festival.

The Head of Development Services indicated that she was looking at a number of tourism assets across the Borough and, whilst she was not aware of that particular asset, she would include it in her work to see what could be done on a wider scale.

Performance Tracker - Priority: Customer-focused services

Objective 3 – Action a) Deliver the Public Services Centre refurbishment project – A Member raised concern regarding parking at the site and sought assurance this was being addressed.

Members were advised that parking was being considered and a final scheme design for the depot was currently being considered to establish how many spaces could be provided.

If there was a need for additional parking, there were some areas around the Council Offices site which could be appropriate if necessary. Assurance was provided that officers were well aware of the issue and would be taking it forward.