

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Name of Member submitting the question: Councillor Robin Stuchbury

Date received by Democratic Services: 12 September 2016

To the Cabinet Member for: Finance, Resources and Compliance (Councillor Mordue) and Cabinet Member for Growth Strategy (Councillor Mrs Paternoster)

Question:

1. Can I see the business case for AVDC closing the Buckingham Morton road toilets?

Response: No decision has been taken by AVDC to close the toilets in Morton Road. Discussions are on-going with the Town Council about their future. There is nothing more to add at this time and so it is either not possible or premature to answer questions 2,3,4, and 8.

2. I ask to see the Minutes of the meeting of the council agreeing to close Morton Road Toilets?

Response: please see response to Question number 1.

3. I ask was there a economic impact study done in advance of the decision to close the toilets?

Response: please see response to Question number 1.

4. Can I ask what the savings will be made through shutting the Morton road toilets?

Response: please see response to Question number 1.

5. What is the total investment planned for Aylesbury Town Centre in this Financial year?

Response: AVDC has a £30,000 revenue budget set aside for marketing and promoting Aylesbury Vale of which £10,000 is set aside for Buckingham should the Destination Buckingham Group wish to draw this down. The budget for the former Visitor Information Centre (approx. £63,000) is being re-invested in 16/17 in new way finding signage across Aylesbury town. This was one of the priority actions in the 2014 approved Aylesbury Town Centre Plan.

Work will begin on the Phase one of Waterside North scheme in spring 2017. However, this scheme which involves some investment by AVDC is supported by a robust business case which was approved by full council in December 2015. The business case sets out the return on investment the council will achieve in the coming years.

At this council meeting, members have been asked to approve a revenue budget for progressing future phases of Aylesbury town's regeneration. The expectation is that

this forward funding will be reflected in a future business case for approving a scheme in partnership with one of more development partners.

6. I ask what is the planned investment for Buckingham town centre in this Financial year.

Response: AVDC has a £30k revenue budget set aside for marketing and promoting Aylesbury Vale of which £10k is set aside for Buckingham should the Destination Buckingham Group wish to draw this down. The budget for the former Visitor Information Centre (approx. £63k) is being re-invested in 16/17 in new way finding signage across Aylesbury town. This was one of the priority actions in the 2014 approved Aylesbury Town Centre Plan.

Work will begin on the Phase one of Waterside North scheme in spring 2017. However, this scheme which involves some investment by AVDC is supported by a robust business case which was approved by full council in December 2015. The business case sets out the return on investment the council will achieve in the coming years.

At this council meeting, members have been asked to approve a revenue budget for progressing future phases of Aylesbury town's regeneration. The expectation is that this forward funding will be reflected in a future business case for approving a scheme in partnership with one of more development partners.

7. I ask was the total investment in Aylesbury Town Centre in the past five years compared to Buckingham town centre?

Response: Comparing historical investment in the town centres would be time consuming and not meaningful given the diversity between the towns. Aylesbury is the county town and the district's major centre for housing and employment growth, so as a broad principle more investment to ensure its sustainability is both needed and expected.

8. For the record what is the AVDC present offer to Buckingham Town Council to take over the Morton Road Toilets from AVDC to prevent the closure of these Buckingham Toilets?

Response: please see response to Question number 1.

9. I am asking what is the Council understanding of Double Taxation , and what would constitute something being classed as double Taxation within local Government between two Council

Response: According to Wikipedia the definition of **Double taxation** is 'the levying of tax by two or more jurisdictions on the same declared income. The term is not usually used to refer to the taxation of the same income by different levels of government, such as by federal, state and local authorities.'

As Taxes in the form of Council Tax are a general tax and not charges for the provision of specific services to specific individuals, there is no concept of double taxation at this level of Government.

Signed: Councillors Mordue & Mrs Paternoster

Date: 13/9/2016

Written questions:

- must be submitted to the Democratic Services Manager
- will be replied to within 10 working days
- will be published on the last Friday of each month