

**(5) PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The following question has been submitted and a response provided:-

(1) From Mr M Pratley of Cirencester to Councillor NJW Parsons, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning

'The CDC press release on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 stated that the Bathurst Chesterton Outline Planning Application will be determined by the full council rather than the Planning Committee. It stated:

*This approach reflects the significance of the application, not only to Cirencester but to the District as a whole, given that the application site is the only strategic development site proposed as part of the emerging Local Plan. By confirming the approach now, it will hopefully provide clarity and certainty to all of those involved with, and affected by, the proposals - not least, the people of Cirencester.*

This application is indeed significant. The Cotswold District has never had such an extraordinary application as this. Its significance reaches far beyond that of any other planning application. This one is about changing the whole nature of this small-to-medium sized historic market town. Most people believe that it will harm this town forever.

You state that the application will be determined by the full council. Does this mean that every councillor, including those representing Chesterton and Four Acres wards, will be allowed to vote?'

Response from Councillor Parsons

*The issue is constitutional and, therefore, the question falls to be determined by the Council rather than any Cabinet Member. Indeed, there is an agenda item within our Council papers relating to the Chesterton Strategic site, which includes a section on Ward Member voting.*

*The Council report also confirms that, irrespective of the Ward Member issue, some Members may be precluded from participating in the debate and/or vote on the application - should they have either a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or an 'Other Interest' in the application.*

Notes:

(i) If Mr. Pratley is present at the Meeting, he will be entitled to ask one supplementary question arising directly out of either the answer given or his original question.

(iii) The Member to whom any supplementary question is addressed will try and answer any supplementary question at the Meeting; but if this is not possible, then the Member will answer as much as possible at the Meeting and then provide a full response within five working days. If, for any reason, a full response cannot be provided within those five days, then a holding response will be sent to the questioner, along with the reason for delay and a likely timescale for the full response.

(END)