

Agenda Item 5

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 7 NOVEMBER, 2012

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions

Answers

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

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| 1. Let me join you in welcoming Sheffield's City Deal for Skills. Can you confirm that the project is backed by £27.8m of Government funding through the Skills Funding Agency? | No, the project is not backed by £27.8m from the Skills Funding Agency. Your question shows that you completely misunderstand the City Deal. |
| 2. Will you join me in welcoming the £65m Sheffield City Region received last month through the Government's Regional Growth Fund? | I welcome all investment into our City Region but am disappointed that the total investment in our Region and in job creation is far less than that delivered through the Regional Development Agency's (RDAs) abolished by this Conservative/Liberal Democrat Government. A recent report has shown that the RDA's, abolished by this Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition Government, provided greater value for money and produced jobs at a lower cost than that of the Regional Growth Fund. |
| 3. Has the Council's review of trade union facility time been completed? If so, what were the conclusions of the review and will it lead to a reduction of trade union facility time? | The review is complete and includes a formula for determining entitlement to time off for trade union duties based on the number of members. Arbitration, Conciliation Advisory Service (ACAS) are carrying out a verification of membership numbers. Once this is complete the number of Convenors will be confirmed. |
| 4. What progress has been made since the last Council meeting in delivering more shared services with other authorities within Sheffield City Region? | The position is the same as at last month's meeting. |
| 5. How many 'Members Task and Finish Groups' or 'Policy Working Groups' have been set up since May 2011? | Three: Waste Management, Lettings Policy, Effective School Governance. |

Please provide the names of all such groups that have been formed in the time period.

6. Which of these groups have been serviced by the Council, in terms Council officers being present? All
7. When do you estimate work will begin on Sevenstones? This question was asked in September. I suggest you read the reply I gave then.
8. When is the deadline for Hammersons to put forward a planning application under the agreement regarding the Sevenstones development? Planning Application long stop date 30th November 2012.
9. At the April meeting of Council you condemned reports that dementia care centres may close as “exploit[ing] people's fears”. Do you now accept that it was wrong to attempt to hide your Administration’s plan to decommission dementia care centres? The point made was that, regrettably, you deemed it necessary to exploit people's fears by contacting the local media and playing politics with this vitally important issue. I stand by my condemnation of your scaremongering.

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods)

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| 1. Regarding the £5.2 million that has been allocated to the Council's Local Growth Fund, how much has so far been spent? | As the New Homes Bonus is allocated over a 6 year period, it is not necessary to spend the allocation in any one financial year. Over £10 million has been allocated to the projects (over the next 3 years) |
| 2. Please list the specific budget allocations for each project funded through the Council's Local Growth Fund. | From this week this information is available on the website |
| 3. As of May 2012, how many tenants were there within phase 5 of Park Hill? | 97 households |
| 4. How many of the tenants within phase 5 of Park Hill, as of May 2012, expressed an interest in re-locating to Flank A of Park Hill? | 25 households |
| 5. So far, how many of the 26 Registered Social Landlord (RSL) units on Flank A of Park Hill have been filled? | 25 households have been nominated |
| 6. How many of the 26 RSL units have been allocated to previous phase 5 residents? | No homes finished yet, therefore none allocated. |
| 7. What is the total number of cases that have passed through the Community Justice Panels since they were set up by the previous Administration? | 513 |
| 8. How many cases have passed through the Community Justice Panels since May 2011? | 284 |

Questions of Councillor Alison Brelsford to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion)

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| 1. When will proposals be brought forward concluding from your Administration's review of libraries? | It is expected proposals will be brought forward early in the new year. |
| 2. Will these proposals include recommendations for closure? If so, which libraries do you recommend to close? | The proposals are yet to be finalised. |
| 3. What progress has been made since the last Council meeting in your Administration's ongoing review into Community Assemblies? | We are continuing to work on the review and I have also attended four Cabinet in the Community events in recent months where I have listened to local people's views and experiences of Community Assemblies. In addition to this I attended an event held by Sheffield for Democracy on Community Assemblies as part of Local Democracy Week. |
| 4. How many meetings have been held to discuss the review since the last meeting of Council? | There have been numerous meetings to discuss the review. |
| 5. How many officers have been asked to provide evidence to the review since the last meeting of Council? | Three. |
| 6. How many Community Assembly Chairs have been consulted as part of the review since the last meeting of Council? | Community Assembly Chairs have not yet been consulted |
| 7. How many community groups have been consulted as part of the review since the last meeting of Council? | No community groups have yet been consulted. |

Question of Councillor Roger Davison to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living)

What progress has been made in locating a site for the proposed 120-bed intermediate care unit since the last meeting of Full Council?

The Sheffield NHS Clinical Commissioning Group have decided to undertake a formal clinical review in light of the changes in intermediate care provision (beds and intermediate care at home) to determine what the right clinical model is, how many beds are needed, and whether one facility for Sheffield is still the right model, and how should any new facilities be commissioned. The review will be undertaken next summer, taking into account the improvements being delivered by the Right First Time programme. In the meantime, the NHS will continue to commission the required capacity and will involve the Council in the review and decisions.

Questions of Councillor Rob Frost to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living)

1. Why does your Administration propose to close Bole Hill View respite care centre but not Hurlfield View?

The options appraisal undertaken by the Health and Social Care Trust concluded that Hurlfield View has “the most appropriate lay out of the current facilities and being more strategically located for transportation and to meet where the highest demand for people with dementia is.”

2. During the consultation exercise on dementia services, how many users of Bole Hill View expressed a view that the centre should be closed?

What mattered most to carers was that they were still able to have a break and that the person they cared for was well looked after.

3. At the June meeting of Full Council you stated that whenever it was appropriate to do so, you would explore the idea of a model of a social enterprise as one of a number of options for evaluation when considering proposals to decommission services. Have you yet considered this model for Bole Hill View or Norbury care centres?

There are still some decisions to be made about the future commissioning arrangements for the support of people with dementia. The consultation will be an opportunity for all people who need support now, or in the future, to influence the final shape of the service. Staff and their trade unions will also have a chance to contribute.

Questions of Councillor Simon Clement-Jones to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

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| 1. How many Council employees have been appointed on a salary greater than £50,000 since May 2011, including new starters and internal appointments? Please list each post with corresponding salary. | Since I answered this question in June, there have been an additional five posts. However, during this period there has also been nine employees that have left. Please see the list attached. |
| 2. Has the Council's review of trade union facility time been completed? If so, what were the conclusions of the review and will it lead to a reduction of trade union facility time? | The review is complete and includes a formula for determining entitlement to time off for trade union duties based on the number of members. ACAS are carrying out a verification of membership numbers. Once this is complete the number of Convenors will be confirmed. |
| 3. How much has been spent on the Council using focus groups in this financial year so far and each of the previous three financial years? | This information is not available centrally. |
| 4. Does your Administration plan to implement new Government powers to remove or reduce council tax exemptions for second or empty homes? | Yes. |
| 5. Does your Administration plan to use new Government powers to introduce an empty homes premium? | Yes. |

Appendix to Question 1 – Councillor Bryan Lodge

Progressions Programme Manager	Communities	£50k - £60k	July 2012
Regeneration Manager	Place	£50k - £60k	August 2012
Partnership & Local Action Unit Manager	Communities	£50k - £60k	August 2012
Assistant Director of Finance	Resources	£50k - £60k	September 2012
Head of SEN	Children's	£50k - £60k	September 2012

Questions of Councillor David Baker to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Streetscene)

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| 1. How many local residents have so far opted-in to the charged-for service for the collection of green bins? | This has not changed since this question was asked last month. |
| 2. How many local residents, outside of the area that is currently offered the green bin, have so far expressed an interest to Veolia in the charged-for green bin service? Please breakdown your response by postcode. | In total, 481 customers have expressed interest. |
| 3. At the October meeting of Council, you informed the Council that roughly 27,000 green bins had been collected. How many green bins have been collected in since then? | 33 |
| 4. At the June meeting of Council, you informed the Council roughly 14,000 had been chipped and the pellets sold. How many green bins have been chipped since then? | No further bins have been chipped |
| 5. At the October meeting of Council, you confirmed that you would provide the Council with a copy of your correspondence with Veolia regarding the wider roll-out of the charged-for green bin service. I am yet to receive this information. Please will you provide this correspondence? | This has been provided. |
| 6. How many tonnes of green waste have been collected via kerbside recycling in Sheffield in each month of a) 2010, b) 2011, and c) 2012? | Please see table below |

Question 6:

	2010			2011			2012		
	Kerbside	HWRC	TOTAL	Kerbside	HWRC	TOTAL	Kerbside	HWRC	TOTAL
January	5	52	56.9	111	120	231.44		116	115.7
February	99	70	168.96	154	139	293.36		100	100.4
March	390	263	652.9	322	397	719.16		470	470.14
April	716	484	1200	682	681	1362.84		323	322.76
May	923	500	1422.68	828	577	1405.45	573	627	1199.7
June	1173	639	1812.32	768	559	1326.84	155	527	682.24
July	836	506	1341.57	660	500	1159.56	188	785	973.3
August	881	534	1414.58	568	451	1018.98	178	788	966.34
September	736	396	1132.2	468	333	800.8	171	678	849
October	542	302	843.8	515	338	853.01			
November	329	187	515.53	184	223	407			
December	2	25	27.48	0	79	78.9			

Questions of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Leigh Bramall (Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development)

1. Regarding the £400,000 that has been allocated to the Council's Keep Sheffield Working, how much has so far been spent?

£90,000 has been allocated to an export market development pilot working with up to 30 companies to provide intensive export support over a fixed period of time.
2. Please list the specific budget allocations for each project funded through the Council's Keep Sheffield Working Fund.

£90,000 has been allocated to an export market development pilot working with up to 30 companies to provide intensive export support over a fixed period of time.
3. Please provide the Council with an update of your administration's city-wide review of HGV routing.

Cuts to Council budgets and a request for further consultation have delayed this process. However, we hope to be bringing a Cabinet Report shortly and further consultation on the issue around Abbey Lane will be going to the South Community Assembly soon.
4. Will Sheffield City Council be a signatory to South Yorkshire's Memorandum of Understanding for the Heritage Crime Initiative?

The memorandum on the Heritage Crime Initiative seeks to address a particularly destructive and growing area of criminality - the destructive impact of metal theft on some of Sheffield's historic buildings being an obvious example. The City Council welcomes the opportunity that the Memorandum introduces for genuine partnership working with English Heritage, South Yorkshire Police and the Crown Prosecution Service, and the clarity it brings to their respective roles and responsibilities. Members and officers have been discussing the potential implications and are currently minded to become a signatory to the Memorandum.
5. What are the individual cost implications of altering bus lane and parking restrictions at the following locations: a) City Road; b) Chesterfield Road; c) South Lane; d) Spital Hill; e) Broad Street; f) Attercliffe Road?

The cost of changing bus lane (and loading and waiting restriction) signs is being funded by a successful bid for money from the Government's 'Better Buses Area Fund' (BBAF). The BBAF is aimed at public transport supporting the economic development of South Yorkshire over the next two years.

The outline budgets for each area of altering bus lane and/or parking

restrictions at the specific locations are:
a) City Road: £43,000; b) Chesterfield Road £60,000 (including the proposed tidal parking trial); c) South Lane £85,000 (including enforcing a relocated bus gate) d) Spital Hill £15,000; e) Broad Street £12,500 f) Attercliffe Road (Staniforth Road to M1) £23,000.

6. Will your Administration be supporting free parking over the Christmas period, to support local retailers?

We continue to look at options to boost the economy throughout the year and more details relating to Christmas will be available shortly.

Questions of Councillor Alison Brelsford to Councillor Leigh Bramall (Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development)

1. When will a report be brought forward regarding broadband provision in Sheffield, as discussed at October's Council meeting?
2. What consultation with rural communities is envisaged to form the basis of this report?

Details are being finalised by the Chief Executive. Officers anticipate bringing forward a Cabinet report in January.

The issues are well set out in the Rural Strategy completed in 2010. Further consultation will be undertaken by consulting Community Assemblies.

Question of Councillor Diana Stimely to Councillor Leigh Bramall (Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development)

Can you confirm that a members working group will be formed to discuss the future of the remains of Sheffield Castle, which lie beneath the current Castle Market? If so, when will this working group first meet?

We welcome community interest and participation in the future regeneration of the Castle site and will continue engagement as we move closer to any activity on the site. This may involve a Members' working group.

However, reading your letter in the Sheffield Telegraph last week, one could have been given the impression that the Castle ruins are under threat. This is absolutely not the case and any suggestions of this nature are irresponsible scaremongering.

Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Isobel Bowler (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure)

1. How much income has the Council so far generated from the policy of charging for parking in a) Graves Park, b) Millhouses Park and c) Hillsborough Park?

- Graves Park = £13,500
- Hillsborough Park = £8,200
- Millhouses Park = £12,300

2. Please provide the Council with an update on the maintenance of green and open spaces previously maintained by StreetForce that will not be maintained by Amey.

Officers currently working with Community Assemblies to identify sites they regard as priorities and if so, whether Sheffield City Council should meet the cost of the work (and subsequently how this would be met) For 2012, the work on most of these sites was carried out by the Council and we therefore have time to plan an approach with each Community Assembly before the 2013 growing season

3. Has agreement been reached with local bowling clubs to provide continued maintenance of local bowling greens?

Discussions underway with the Parks Bowls Association in terms of Sheffield City Council funding arrangements for the 2013 season

4. What attempts have been made to find an alternative model for keeping Whirlowbrook Park cafe open?

The Hall was advertised nationally on the open market to attract a new tenant / operator earlier this year. Given the requirement to maintain the Hall, the priority has been to secure a viable events/functions operation. Regrettably, as things stand no viable tender offer was received for the cafe to continue in Whirlow Brook Hall. All the evidence indicates that the café has been unprofitable for many years. Although desirable the council was therefore not in a position to insist on a café given the known financial constraints such an imposition may pose.

Whirlow Brook does not currently attract the same levels of visitors / customers as the other major city park cafes. However, given the level of public interest now received, and if this were to translate to

more regular customers, then there may yet be some scope to offer a catering concession somewhere within the Park – though separate from the Hall. We are now seeking to explore this possibility further going forward with interested parties.

Questions of Councillor Colin Ross to Councillor Isobel Bowler (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure)

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| 1. When the ownership of Whirlowbrook Park was transferred to the City Council, what conditions were laid down relating to the future access and enjoyment of the people of Sheffield to this park? | On the Transfer of Whirlowbrook Park to the Council there were no conditions laid down relating to future access and enjoyment for the people of Sheffield. |
| 2. Were any specific conditions laid down that would impact on the running of the Hall as a conference centre or café and the granting of a lease to the new operators such as the provision of a café or refreshment facilities? | With regard to the Hall, there are currently no conditions within the deeds which would affect the use of the Hall as a conference centre or café or the provision of refreshment facilities. |
| 3. Has the lease yet been signed with the new operators of Whirlowbrook Hall? | No. |
| 4. When will the new lease for Whirlowbrook Hall commence? | Aiming for Spring 2013. |

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