

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 6 NOVEMBER 2013

#### 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. What progress has been made in seeking an alternative partner to develop the Sevenstone project?                          | We have commenced all actions to enable the development of the Sevenstone project that we are legally able to do.   |
| 2. What action have you personally taken to ensure Sheffield City Region maximises the potential of the Sheffield City Deal? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I led the negotiation of the city deal with private sector leaders from the LEP Board (eg. James Newman, Nigel Brewster). Drove a hard bargain with the Government, successfully getting the devolution of £27.8m of national skills money and getting a range of powers for Sheffield on finance and transport which will help transform the city region.</li><li>• Sheffield has taken a lead role but this is a new approach to governance in SCR with <b>shared leadership</b> by public and private sectors in the city region. The city is the key economic driving force in the city region but our economy doesn't stop at the LA boundaries so the 9 leaders of the city region are critical</li><li>• The City Region are overseeing the successful delivery of the city deal and ensuring that Sheffield and all the city region areas get the maximum out of it. So, for example, we've already created over 400 additional</li></ul> |

apprenticeships for the city region, despite the Government delaying us getting on with delivery. Where the Government's skills system doesn't work, we are finding new ways to make sure that residents and businesses get the skills they need – so we've brought in new courses where businesses couldn't get the training courses they needed in SCR. We've worked hard with people applying for apprenticeships, making sure they are in the best position to get the apprenticeship places being created through the city deal.

- As a city region, we also set out our first phase of investments through the SCR Investment Fund – transforming the infrastructure of the city region over the next decade. None of that would have happened without the deal and the leadership shown in the city region.

3. What actions have you personally taken to support Ikea in their desire to open a Sheffield store?

I have met with IKEA on two occasions before they put in the planning application.

4. Why do you believe that Sorby House, Forum House or Vestry Hall are more important to the city than treasured local libraries?

I believe that the decision taken to bring the buildings back into the Council was taken by the Liberal Democrats and that you are deliberately misleading people about them for political reasons.

5. Do you accept the failure to tender five of the six contracts within early years' prevention and intervention services represents a damning indictment of your Administration's policy?

Please see Councillor Jackie Drayton's answer to this question

6. Despite numerous reassurances, it appears that no progress has been

The Legal Shared Service Document has been agreed with Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley and is just

made in delivering more shared services with other authorities within Sheffield City Region. When you will be able to provide the Council with specific information on the progress that has been made?

awaiting signature by Barnsley and Doncaster. It relates to working together not consolidating the services.

We are establishing a combined authority for Sheffield City Region which is a groundbreaking step and we are leading the way on setting up new governance for economic areas in England. It is a great example of a shared initiative which will support the city region to get more power from Government and so that we can take a joint approach to growing the economy, investing in our infrastructure and supporting people and businesses to get the skills our economy needs. It is regrettable that you tried to stop this when it was passed through Council.

Questions of Councillor Jillian Creasy to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families)

With respect to the latest changes at Sharrow Children's Centre (the loss of the three outreach workers), please can you answer the following questions:

1. What happened to the money which was apparently available for prevention (outreach) work up until the tender process failed?

The funding has been used to extend contracts with the relevant organisations until the tender process was completed and to give due diligence to TUPE, these contracts with NHS AFC and family action were extended to the end of October 2013.
2. Is there a legal requirement for Surestart children's centres to provide prevention in the sense of outreach (not just intervention for the most vulnerable once they have got into problems)?

No, the guidance has become much more flexible to allow the Local Authority to prioritise and target the most vulnerable groups and families.
3. Is the MAST team being expanded/reconfigured to take on primary prevention work?

No, MAST staff are not being used to take on prevention/outreach work. Staff who are eligible for TUPE will go into the three MAST areas in order to provide intervention services for families.
4. If the model is now for groups to be run by volunteers, who will do the work of training, CRB checks, providing continuity when they move on their lives?

There is a very robust Volunteer Programme available. A member of the Children's Centre Team is collating details of parents who have come forward as volunteers to support groups. This includes ensuring all prospective volunteers have references, have completed an on-line safeguarding training course and signed a volunteer agreement. Officers are undertaking DBS checks for volunteers via HR and providing a full induction programme to the children's centre including fire procedures, security, general policies and procedures including safeguarding, confidentiality, health and safety

An on-going support and development package is in development and the

children's centre co-ordinators will continue to work with families across the reach areas to encourage new volunteers to support groups as current volunteers move on.

Questions of Councillor Colin Ross to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families)

1. When did you decide to tender contracts for early years' prevention and intervention services for just seven months?

The Cabinet report in February 2013 set out the intention to conduct a fair, open and transparent procurement process which would provide opportunities for smaller voluntary and community organisations to tender for services, along with larger organisations and charities. A majority of respondents to the consultation on this subject agreed with this approach. A procurement model was developed, recognising that smaller voluntary and community organisations needed to develop their ability to write quality bids for contracts and to ensure that they were not squeezed out of the market for a number of years. Providers have been appointed to a framework agreement which will enable annual contracts to be awarded over a four year period via a mini-competition process, once budget information for those financial years has been determined. Clearly, as the procurement process took place part way through the first financial year, the initial contract period was for a part year and in line with available budget for the remainder of that year.

The Council has provided assistance to bidding organisations by offering tender workshops and drop-in sessions and will also provide comprehensive feedback to bidders to enable them to improve their chances of success in the mini-

competition process. Providers who chose to withdraw their offers have taken their own business decisions which we have no control over but you should note that none of those providers have declined acceptance of their position on the framework agreement and still wish to be considered for contracts for future years.

2. Did you consider tendering these contracts for a longer period?
3. Did you consult with existing providers before deciding to proceed with proposed seven months contracts?
4. Why do you believe so many established providers chose to decline the offer of a contract?
5. Do you accept the failure to tender five of the six contracts within early years' prevention and intervention services represents a damning indictment of your policy?

Please see response to Q 1 above

Please see response to Q 1 above

We are not in position to suggest why individual organisations decided to decline the offer of a contract. The main reasons indicated were around TUPE of staff.

The tender for Children and Families Services was not a failure, in fact it resulted in a total of 15 providers being successfully appointed to a framework agreement, across 3 separate lots, which will enable mini-competition for contracts over the next 4 years. It was always the Council's intention to award 9 service contracts to external providers across those 3 lots for the remainder of 2013/14. We have successfully entered into 4 contracts with 4 separate providers and were disappointed that a further 3 providers, who had between them won the other 4 contracts for 2013/14, decided to withdraw their offers having been informed of their success. We have no control over the decisions made by providers, what we can do now, having

decided to temporarily concentrate on the provision of Intervention Services, is to review the service and inform our commissioning decisions for future years.

6. What specific services with early years' prevention and intervention have been reduced or ceased as a result of your failure to tender these contracts?

The main activity which has reduced is toddler groups/stay and play groups, however some of these have come to a natural end and a high number of new activities are starting. During consultation with parents we have received lots of requests for volunteers who would like to get involved in running groups. The facilities and premises are still available for groups to continue. Other prevention activities which are continuing are early health activities and examples of these are breast feeding peer support, Doula programme, family nurse partnership and parenting programmes.

In respect of intervention services and activities there has been no reduction.

7. When you be in a position to brief the Council on a more comprehensive strategy for prevention services?

We are currently available to brief the Council about a more comprehensive strategy and are happy to do so upon request.

Questions of Councillor David Baker to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion)

1. How many community groups have expressed an interest to the Council in running libraries based upon your Administration's 'spoke library' model?

All the spoke libraries have had an expression of interest from volunteer groups.
2. Do you honestly believe that the 'independent libraries' model set out in your consultation is a sustainable model of operation?

We will do everything we can to support community groups to make independent libraries successful and sustainable and I am optimistic about the spirit of Sheffield people and community organisations to keep libraries. There are examples of successful independent library models in other parts of the country. Obviously the success of a community library is dependent on individual circumstances in different areas. We will be issuing a guidance pack and appendices to assist groups with their business plans. We are also holding two workshops, one around buildings, costs lease etc., and one around business planning. We have also signposted groups to organisations that can assist them with their business plans. We will be inviting colleagues from Wakefield where there has been a successful independent library model.
3. How many community groups have expressed an interest to the Council in running libraries based upon your Administration's 'independent library' model?

I have been meeting with several local people and community groups who have shown an interest in running or supporting their local library.
4. How will capital funding previously allocated to Broomhill library be re-allocated?

There is still significant capital works that are required for the library therefore any decision to re-allocate this funding at this stage could hinder the community's attempts to keep the library open.
5. What has your response been to organisations who have offered to run all twenty-seven community libraries across

Following the Executive Director's decision to announce proposals for consultation on the library review,



the city?

we met on the 25<sup>th</sup> September with organisations who had previously registered an interest in helping us to run our libraries. At this meeting we went through our proposals in detail and we discussed with them the help and support that would be forthcoming from the Council.

6. What proportion of Community First funding has been successfully allocated to community groups? Please breakdown your answer by Ward.

This funding is given directly to the groups via the Community Development Foundation who run the contract on behalf of the Office of Civil Society.

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

1. What was the cost to the Council of producing the Director of Public Health's Annual report 2013?

You will recall that it is a statutory obligation on the Council to publish the annual report and it is funded from the public health grant. This year the cost has been reduced significantly and was £2,876 compared to £6,365 in 2011 and £4,075 in 2010.

2. How many physical copies of this report have been produced by the Council and at what cost, including both production and distribution?

There were 500 summary documents. All costs are incorporated into the total cost of production listed above.

Questions of Councillor Andrew Sangar to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

1. Will you recommend further revenue and capital allocation for Sorby House, Forum House or Vestry Hall as part of 2014-15 budget recommendations?

We are still working on our 2014-15 budget recommendations. We will announce our proposals in due course.
2. How much is currently owed in Sheffield in unpaid Council tax?

At 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 the amount of Council Tax arrears was £30.9m. Some of these arrears date back to the 1999/2000 financial year.

During this period, Sheffield City Council will have issued Council Tax bills amounting to nearly £3 billion. The amount of outstanding arrears therefore represents a small proportion of this figure, with the Council collecting about 99% of the amount due.
3. What progress has been made in ensuring the Council's capital programme is delivered efficiently without excessive slippage?

Discussions have been held with officers to review the reasons for slippage and to determine the root of the issues that have led to the slippage.
4. What steps will you take to recover outstanding Trading Standards debts, which your predecessor failed to secure?

We will take all necessary steps
5. What percentage of savings agreed as part of setting the 2013/14 budget are on track to deliver? How does this compare with previous budgets at this point in the financial year?

There are approximately 230 individual savings in the 2013/14 budget. The budget monitoring process covers all areas of the revenue budget. The latest position at month 4 is for a £6.7m forecast overspend. At month 4 in 2012/13, the budget monitoring position showed a forecast overspend of £4.9m.
6. Do you intend to protect the pay of high earning staff as part of your 2014/15 budget?

We are still working on our 2014-15 budget recommendations. We will announce our proposals in due course.
7. What consultation do you plan to undertake as part of your 2014/15 budget setting process?

It's disappointing that you haven't realised that consultation has already began. The detail of what consultation we

have done and will be doing is available at [www.sheffield.gov.uk/budget](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/budget)

- 8 Please provide a list including each post, along with salary, that has been recruited to since May 2011 within the Council. Given the size of the organisation and the high level of staff changes, it is not practical to report on each post specifically.

Below is a chart that outlines the number of changes of both starters and leavers since May 2011.

Quarter	Starters	Leavers	Total Loss
<b>Q2 2010/11</b>	185	262	-77
<b>Q3 2010/11</b>	108	214	-106
<b>Q4 2010/11</b>	80	478	-398
<b>Q1 2011/12</b>	91	146	-55
<b>Q2 2011/12</b>	32	383	-351
<b>Q3 2011/12</b>	47	135	-88
<b>Q4 2011/12</b>	61	82	-21
<b>Q1 2012/13</b>	58	154	-96
<b>Q2 2012/13</b>	78	216	-138
<b>Q3 2012/13</b>	85	142	-57
<b>Q4 2012/13</b>	52	151	-99
<b>Q1 2013/14</b>	79	141	-62
<b>Grand Total</b>	956	2504	-1548

Questions of Councillor Alison Brelsford to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

1. When will you be in a position to brief the Council on the eleven expressions of interest in the Don Valley stadium site? In the coming months

2. Following these expressions of interest, what guarantees can you provide about the future use of the site for sporting facilities? We believe in the long term development of the site for sport and well-being purposes.
3. Do you continue to use Richard Caborn's vision for the Don Valley site as a model for its future use? If so, do you believe it is wise for the Council to base its plans on "back-of-a-fag-packet" calculations? As stated in relation to the previous question, we believe in the long term development of the site for sports and well-being purposes which could help to create jobs and develop that sector of the local economy.

The Council is working through costs and feasibility linked to the overall development of the site including the education opportunities currently presented to us that will help unlock development potential.

Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Jack Scott (the Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene)

1. How many tonnes of green waste have been collected via kerbside recycling in Sheffield in each month of  
(a) 2010,  
(b) 2011,  
(c) 2012 and  
(d) 2013?

This information was provided to you last month.

For last month (September), 223.38 tonnes were collected at the kerbside and 709.32 tonnes were collected at HWRCs. Both of these were greater than in September last year.
2. Will the city-wide green bin service continue to operate next year?

Yes
3. How many requests for the removal of highway trees from Amey have so far been refused by the Council?

See my reply to this same question in July.

Council teams review proposals continuously and discuss the various treatment options available including removal and replacement and then agree the best plan for each tree.

Agreement is reached between the Council and Amey before any tree notices are erected.

We receive many more requests from the public to remove trees than it does to retain them.
4. In the past twelve months, how many snow wardens complained that grit bags caused obstructions?

The situation wasn't specifically monitored in relation to the past 12 months.

Last year a number of snow wardens had difficulty storing the grit at or near their house without blocking either the footpath or access into their property.

A number of wardens live in properties where there is insufficient room to store a tonne of salt at the front of their house or there is insufficient footway width to leave the salt on the highway, meaning a

number of snow wardens operated without salt last year.

5. How will residents who do not live sufficiently close to a grit bin serve as snow wardens under your new proposals?

We have over 2,000 grit bins across the city which have just been filled up for winter. Residents can find their closest grit bin by looking on the Council website at: [www.sheffield.gov.uk/gritbins](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/gritbins)

Snow wardens who have already signed up are supportive of the expanded scheme.

6. Without sufficient training, will future snow wardens still remain insured by the Council?

Last year many snow wardens did not attend any of the three training sessions we organised and many of those who did attend fed back that they felt it was unnecessary.

We have developed a new risk assessment and safe working practice advice which will be issued, along with the snow shovels.

A leaflet containing advice on the safe use of a snow shovel will be provided with each shovel.

7. Is it fair to say that your new policy amounts to giving residents a shovel and telling them to go away?

No – it is a shame that you have chosen to minimise the contribution of volunteers across Sheffield who want to get involved.

You may wish to note the comments of your ward colleague Cllr Keith Hill:

*“I’m delighted by your snow shovel initiative. Please count me in”*

Furthermore, the Council has a fully operational and effective winter maintenance service that is acknowledged to have performed well during last winter which was exceptionally bad.

We maintain over 2,000 grit bins

which are available for all residents to use. We understand our scheme to be the largest of any City in England.

8. How many Streets Ahead zones have fallen behind schedule and what action have you taken to ensure progress returns to schedule?

24 zones have started in the first year of the Project, as planned. Of these zones 7 have been completed and 17 are on-going.

There has been one area of significant delay in High Green which is unavoidable. The majority of delays are due to problems connecting to the existing power network for lighting. This has resulted in many lighting jointing excavations remaining open for longer than anticipated while redesigns of power supplies were agreed with Northern Power Grid.

9. How many complaints has the Council received regarding holes in the pavement caused by the Street Ahead being left for excessive periods?

There have been some comments about this issue, in particular in High Green where we have worked closely with local members and residents.

The reason for the street lighting excavations taking longer to backfill than we hoped is due to problems with existing supply cables and jointing. We are working with Amey to investigate a number of possible solutions.

My technical teams are also working with a number of groups to identify ways of making the temporary traffic management and other safety arrangements simpler and more pedestrian friendly.

We have also received comments from the public that once Streets Ahead work is complete the difference is very positive.

10. Can you report back to the Council on

This was funded by DECC and at no



the benefits that your trip to San Francisco as Cabinet Member have provided to the city?

cost to the Council.

Sheffield's part of the event was "Capturing and Distributing Industrial Heat". This led to developing a partnership with Econotherm and REHAU, which in turn has led to the agreement of a multi-million pound investment in Sheffield. This is currently commercially sensitive, but will be made public in the next month.

Furthermore, Sascha Haselmayer, CEO of Citymart has stated:

*Sheffield's engagement as a Partner City in the "LLGA - Cities Pilot the Future" demonstrates the ambition and commitment of the City. The leadership shown in taking difficult challenges and working closely with other leading international cities, such as Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona, San Francisco and London as well as the private sector, demonstrates they are a forward thinking and progressive city."*

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

1. How much additional revenue has been raised in the 2013-14 financial year from the increase in city-centre parking charges?

See previous response.
2. How many Penalty Charge Notices have been issued on Sundays in the city-centre controlled parking zone since changes were agreed in operating hours?

I will write to you with this information.
3. What parking measures will be introduced over the Christmas period to incentivise shopping in Sheffield city centre and district centres?

We have already reduced prices in many off street car parks making them up to 50% cheaper than under the Lib Dem administration. We are working with private sector parking providers which account for well over 80% of all parking spaces in the City Centre to develop cheaper deals to park. We continue to look at other ways in which we can further support city centre trade.
4. How much of the £25 million allocated to Sheffield City Region through the third round of the Regional Growth Fund has been successfully awarded so far?

To date, we have approved and contracted £14m of RGF which involves total investment by 32 businesses of £106m. The remaining projects (worth £7m RGF) are in the final stages of due diligence and should be approved by the end of the year. The balance of £4m is subject to a new call for proposals (announced in early September), alongside the £7m 'top up' we received under round 4.
5. Following the recent announcement by the Mayor of Liverpool, will you consider more flexible bus lane regulations in Sheffield?

Liverpool is abolishing bus lanes, not implementing more flexible use of bus lanes. We have no plans to do likewise.
6. Do you accept that you will not complete your school Traffic Regulation Order programme within three years as promised in The Sheffield Star?

We will roll out TROs as fast as possible as stated, given our finances, We have increased our budget year on year and are currently committing 10 times the figure allocated under the previous

Liberal Democrat Administration. In addition we have implemented – in the face of continued opposition from Liberal Democrats – mobile CCTV which is essential to enforce dangerous parking around schools.

7. How many successful planning applications have been granted to change use of pubs in each of the last three years?

In the last three years there have been 4, 3 and 8 granted changes of use of public houses (a total of 15 in 3 years).

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

1. How many visitors a month did the Don Valley Stadium receive in each of the last three years?

DVS provided for a number of user groups – athletics, fitness, indoor bowling and gymnastics. All of these groups have been successfully relocated to alternative facilities – athletics to EISS and Woodbourn; bowling to Blue Shed and Bawtry Road, fitness to the newly opened gym at EIS and gymnastics to a range of SIV venues.

In the last three years, the total visit figures provided by Sheffield International Venues is

2012/13	160,000
2011/12	350,000
2010/11	314,000

Note: The attendance figures for 2011/12 and 2010/11 visits included the spectators for Rotherham United games.

In order to provide some comparator for future Woodbourn attendances please note that in 2012/13 there were 32,000 visits for indoor and outdoor athletics activity at DVS and this figure has remained pretty stable for the past three years. This gives a monthly mean of approximately 2,600 visits. Visits are seasonal so it is more appropriate to make comparisons month by month. The visit numbers for athletics in October 2012 was 2,090.

2. How many visitors has the Woodbourn Road facility received since re-opening earlier this year?

Since Woodbourn re-opened in early October all outdoor (athletic) club activities have transferred from DVS. The two athletics clubs have told us that additional usage is now taking place at Woodbourn as it has a dedicated throws area for hammer, shot and discus which

was never available at DVS. So Woodbourn is proving to be a great success with the clubs and athletes – particularly given that for the first time ever, athletics enjoys uninterrupted access which was never possible given the competing claims of other sports at DVS. Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) now operate Woodbourn and they decided to operate an introductory open access policy for the first few weeks to encourage existing and new athletes to try out the venue (this is entirely a decision by SHU and any short term income foregone is a matter for SHU given that Sheffield City Council offers no subsidy support). This includes waiving any user charges. Therefore for the first few weeks, Sheffield Hallam University, whilst reporting high levels of usage and very positive feedback from the clubs, have not initiated their charging and visit recording systems. This will be introduced before the end of the year.

3. What steps have you taken to avoid conflict with Friends of Graves Park over the sale of Cobnar Cottage?

There is no conflict with the Friends Group. They have asked the Trustees to re-consider alternative options to that of the proposed sale. Additional work on these options is being undertaken by officers and I will be meeting with the group on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November to look at these options in more detail with them.

4. What support will be provided to community groups in order to maximise the opportunities provided by the Tour de France?

Community groups were eligible to apply in the recent funding round for Arts Council support for Cultural Festival activities and some groups have applied. Community engagement is a key part of our operational delivery and SCC officers will be supporting local communities to derive the maximum benefit from the

opportunity TdeF brings to the city. To aid this there is a meeting in December for community groups and parish and town councils which is likely to become a standing meeting until the Grande Depart. There will be a number of spectator hubs along the route and officers will be working with local community groups in the relevant areas.

5. What discussions will be held with and support granted to parish and town councils regarding the Tour de France?

Much of the answer to Question 4 is relevant here. The Parish and Town Councils will be invited to the meeting in December to discuss their involvement in the event.

6. What progress has been made since September in awarding £5 million of unallocated Olympic Legacy Funding?

The National Centre for Sports and Exercise Medicine funding is subject to partnership working and not in the control of the Council. We are working with relevant partners and stakeholders and will make a further announcement on the progress of the project at Graves Leisure Centre and the allocation of the full £10 million for the National Centre in the coming weeks.