

The questions below were asked during the Public Questions Item. Written responses by the Leader were provided following the meeting and can be seen below in blue font

Questions for Cabinet 18 December 2013

NOTE – These questions concern matters of principle, and the details are within the council already, so there is no reason to refuse to answer on the basis of not having the details.

I appreciate that you may have provided the council with the detail but at Cabinet I do not have that detail at hand, therefore my reason for responding in writing was to give you further opportunity to refer to the specific details where appropriate.

1 Below is a reference to an article by Amanda Platell, in which she opines that being anonymously cruel online is the ultimate act of a coward.

I would now bring to your attention the cruel insults made against this citizen by local Labour Councillors, who chose to publish their bile anonymously, on the Sheffield Forum. Again, references are below. Please bear in mind that this citizen was repeatedly, and loudly, four times, accused of being a coward by a Labour Councillor in this building last May. So as to preclude another public naming and shaming, what leadership shall be shown? I too share your frustration and disgust when people inappropriately, and offensively, publish comments on social media. Unfortunately I'm not able to access or remove such comments therefore contact the site to address each individual post, where appropriate. I will reiterate that we have a complaints procedure therefore if you wish to make a complaint against any member please refer to our procedure which you will find on our website.

2 Legal precedent has determined that ignoring communications is the same as a refusal. A senior officer has promised to provide information, but for a year has ignored the reminders to do so. What objections could the Leader have to publicly naming and shaming that senior officer? Please provide me with the name of the Officer and the information requested and I will follow up your query.

3 Can the leader explain what this council is coming to when a council officer and councillor can dictate to a third party who they can or cannot communicate with? (Is this not

just another example of corporate bullying ?) Please provide me with the name of the Officer, the Councillor and the third party together with the issue and I will respond accordingly.

4 This council has now been forced to concede that on at least two occasions officers have deliberately attempted to deceive in responses to FoIA requests, the truthful answers to which would have been embarrassing. What does the leader propose should happen in such situations ? If you are dissatisfied with the Officer's response you can refer this to the Information Commissioner

5 From Q4 above, as part of yet another gagging attempt, the council has again sought to impose sanction and prejudice upon this citizen. As if trammelling human rights was not enough, this citizen is now refused access to attend a review. What is this council frightened of ? Please provide me with the specific detail and I will respond accordingly

6 Why is this council scared stiff of allowing an independent and qualified authority to carry out an independent audit of the accounts of BNTARA ? Please advise further of your request and to whom?