

Agenda Item 6

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 5TH JULY, 2017

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. Do you have confidence in Police and Crime Commissioner Dr. Alan Billings? | I accept the ruling of the High Court, however, Sheffield City Council, including myself as Leader will continue to work fully in partnership with South Yorkshire Police, including the Police and Crime Commissioner, this is the only responsible approach. |
| 2. Do you think that the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has dealt with the fallout from the Hillsborough Inquest well? | I accept the ruling of the High Court, who have investigated this matter and have concluded that mistakes were made. |
| 3. Did you support the decision to suspend David Crompton at the time? | I didn't pass comment at the time as it was not appropriate to do so without full knowledge of the facts. |

However, as you will be aware a Member of your Group made the following comments on 28th July 2016

“South Yorkshire’s Chief Constable ‘should be sacked’” which is after the decision of the Police and Crime Commission to suspend David Crompton "I was saying 18 months ago that David Crompton was not part of the solution he was part of the problem and he should have been sacked. I'm still of the view that the door should not be opened for him to walk through and get his pension. I believe he should be sacked for poor management, for not dealing with the problems of South Yorkshire Police and for bringing it in to disrepute. It's clear that [Dr] Billings does not have

the backbone to take the strong action that's needed."

I would be interested to know if you stand by your group member's comments.

4. Do you still stand by Alan Billings' decision to suspend David Crompton?

See answer above, I didn't pass comment at the time as it was not appropriate to do so without full knowledge of the facts.

5. Do you agree with the comments of Sir Nigel Knowles, Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership, when he said "Our devolution deal hangs in the balance."(The Sheffield Star - 26th June 17)

I believe that the statement from Nigel Knowles on 26th June was unnecessary and alarmist, it also contradicts his previous statement on 13th June which said "Both public and private sector members are now consulting with colleagues to agree the next steps on the city region's devolution deal. These are important decisions with long-lasting impact. It's important our politicians get it right and have the time in which to do so."

I do not know why he made this additional statement last week but it is not in my opinion a helpful contribution and I do not agree with his comments.

6. Do you agree with the comments of Sir Nigel Knowles, Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership, when he said "At this moment there is little leadership, political or private. We are being let down."(The Sheffield Star - 26th June 17)

Sir Nigel Knowles did not say this.

7. What would you say to reassure senior business leaders of South Yorkshire, such as Paul Houghton, head of accountants Grant Thornton in Sheffield and former member of the Local Enterprise Partnership, who was quoted in The Sheffield Star (26th June 17) as saying -

As statements put out by both Steve Houghton and Nigel Knowles said when Chesterfield and Bassetlaw decided to withdraw from full constituent membership confirmed the next steps will be discussed at the next Combined Authority meeting in less than two weeks' time.

"We stand at a critical point in our region's economic life. Are we going to

grab the devolution opportunity available to us, with all that gives us in terms of local empowerment to invest in skills, infrastructure and the business opportunities which will drive our future growth?

“Or are we going to lose it over a political squabble? Our local political leaders of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield need to understand the gravity of their actions at this point.”?

Question of Councillor Joe Otten to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Why has this Administration for the second year running changed all three members appointed from the ruling group to the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel? Do you recognise the value of having some continuity, particularly when a Sheffield member is expected to Chair the Panel?

All of the Labour Group representatives on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel are completely capable of fulfilling the responsibilities and will do a good job, as have the representatives over previous years.

There is some irony that in your question you call for continuity after putting forward a motion calling on the Police and Crime Commissioner to resign

Question of Councillor Adam Hanrahan to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Have you seen the draft report of the Western Road Memorial Tree Working Group?

No

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)

1. How much is the Council spending on the initial bid to locate Channel 4's headquarters in Sheffield? £10,000.
2. Following the initial heads of terms document signed last July, has the Council signed any other formal agreement with the Sichuan Guodong Construction Group regarding its 60 year investment plan for the City? No.
3. What is the latest forecast for gross spending by the Council on project Cavendish, excluding the proceeds of sale? Councillor Olivia Blake has answered this one.
4. What is the latest forecast for Council spending on the rest of the Sheffield Retail Quarter? Councillor Olivia Blake has answered this one.

Question of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Planning and Development) (to be answered by Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment))

Has any formal exclusivity agreement been signed with Sichuan Guodong for the potential development of the Central Library building? If so, when was it signed?

The Exclusivity Agreement for the potential library development has not been signed. We continue to work closely with Sichuan Guodong Group to develop the project.

Questions of Councillor Adam Hanrahan to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)

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| 1. In an interview with the Guardian, the Labour MP for Sheffield Hallam, in response to a question regarding street trees, said 'Things are more complex than what is in the public domain' What information which is not 'in the public domain' has been given to him by this Council? | I believe the interview referred to was with someone who had only just become an MP and he has not had a briefing from the Council so I am unable to comment any further. |
| 2. What actions have
(a) you,
(b) Sheffield City Council and
(c) Amey, undertaken with regard to the memorial trees on Western Road since the full Council meeting of 5th April, 2017? | A Scrutiny Working Party has been established to consider the tree replacement plans for Western Road and their report is awaited. |
| 3. Have you seen the draft report of the Western Road Memorial Tree Working Group? | I have not seen a draft of the Working Party report. |
| 4. What legal advice, if any, has been requested by the Council, or any of its contractors or sub-contractors, regarding Western Road, S10 at any point over the last three years? | No legal advice has been sought regarding Western Road. |
| 5. How many times have you requested legal advice regarding the Amey Streetsahead contract? | Legal advice has not been requested by me regarding the Streets Ahead contract. You will be aware of the Council defending High Court actions in 2016 and is currently taking legal action against trespassers disrupting tree replacement work. |
| 6. Who was the advice sought from? | See 5 above |

Questions of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for the Environment and Streetscene)

- | 1. How many cases of invasive species (such as, but not limited to, Japanese Knotweed), are being handled or managed by the Council currently, and for the municipal years 2015/16, 16/17? How many cases are on Council owned land? Can you provide a breakdown by | 2015/16 | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #e6e6fa;"> <th style="text-align: left;">Request</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Num</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>L07 Japanese Knotweed</td> <td style="text-align: right;">41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L08 Japanese knotweed - confirmed</td> <td style="text-align: right;">36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L09 Giant Hogweed</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #e6e6fa;"> <td>Grand Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">88</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Request | Num | L07 Japanese Knotweed | 41 | L08 Japanese knotweed - confirmed | 36 | L09 Giant Hogweed | 11 | Grand Total | 88 |
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| L09 Giant Hogweed | 11 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grand Total | 88 | | | | | | | | | | |

type and species?

2016/17

Requests	Num
L07 Japanese Knotweed	55
L08 Japanese knotweed - 21 confirmed	
L09 Giant Hogweed	2
Grand Total	78

2017/18

Requests	Num
L07 Japanese Knotweed	20
L08 Japanese knotweed - 4 confirmed	

Council owned land we have had the following knotweed related service requests from 15/16 onwards:

- Forge Dam
- General Cemetery
- Rivelin Valley
- St Marys Church
- Thorsby Rd (First treatment due summer 2017)
- Crookes Valley Park
- Mountpleasant Park
- Botanical gardens
- Collier Close - Woodhouse – small clump.
- Occupation Lane – Birley – School banking onto open space.- Large area.
- Moss Way/Station Road Junction – Mosborough – small clump
- Revill Lane Allotments – Small clump
- Don fields playing fields deepcar
- Hinde house croft

2. What physical measures, or other arrangements, have been taken since January 2017 to address concerns about flooding in the Ormond Road area of Jordanthorpe

The Streets Ahead team have advised that they are not aware of the flooding mentioned but will investigate.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for the Environment and Streetscene)

1. The cost of the Independent Tree Panel (ITP) has been put at over £1m. What is the breakdown of this cost and, in particular, please confirm the amounts of payment to each of the ITP Members.

The Council has not said the cost of the ITP is over “£1m so we are unable to provide a breakdown.

Up to 27th April, 2017, the ITP costs were £115,000. We do not provide individual breakdowns of payments to ITP members.

2. What reports will be (a) produced and (b) published, regarding the end of the 5-year Core Investment Programme under the Streetsahead contract (in September 2017) and the transfer to the core maintenance provisions of the 25-year contract with Amey?

There are no reports produced following the completion of the core investment period and there are no provisions transferred.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Cate McDonald (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

1. Sheffield City Council has had a specialist learning disability social work service for over thirty years. This service has now been absorbed into the generic adults team. What process did the Council go through to arrive at this decision?

Consultation took place with staff, partnership organisations and service users when these proposals were launched in February. A joint Service Improvement Forum (including people with Learning Disabilities and their family carers) was held in March to seek the views of Sheffield citizens who might be directly affected. Feedback showed that people largely welcomed these proposals, providing that staff were appropriately trained as referred to in the next question. A decision was made once consultation feedback was considered at the end of March.

2. How will the Council guarantee that the 2,000 adults with learning disabilities, who currently receive a service in Sheffield, get an assessment and care management service with the same level of expertise?

The Council's restructure has not involved any redundancies. Staff with specialist experience in learning disabilities will be present within teams in the same quantities as now, and will be able to ensure that a good service to adults with learning disabilities continues. Staff will also be able to pass on this expertise to colleagues with less experience, and to broaden their own knowledge. Support that social workers provide to adults from all backgrounds should strengthen as a result.

The Council is ensuring that staff are supported to develop within these new teams, including the provision of appropriate training.

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Transport and Sustainability)

I understand that the Highways Department have a list of 'hotspots' in the City where there are concerns about the impact of HGV traffic, but where no traffic control measures are in place.

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| (a) | How many 'hotspots' are there? | 74 |
| (b) | Has the list been assessed to prioritise the areas requiring some form of control measures? | Yes |

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Olivia Blake (Cabinet Member for Finance)

1. What proportion of the Council's spend on goods and services was spent with Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) in 2016-17 and how much is forecast for 2017-18?

Figures have been pulled from PRO spend (SCCs spend analysis system) which shows total 3rd party spend for 2016 at £749,954,287 and was above Government targets with 42% been spent with SMEs. So far this year total 3rd party spend at £132,279,820 and 39% has currently been spent with SMEs.
We don't have a forecast figure for 2017/2018, but do expect the figure to remain well above the Government target of 33%.
2. When will the Council achieve the Government target of £1 in every £3 being spent with SMEs by 2020?

SCC are already achieving the Government target of £1 in every £3 being spent with SMEs by 2020 (33% or £1 in every £3)
3. How much does the Council anticipate to recover from the sale of its interest in the Cavendish office block development?

The actual amounts are commercially confidential but we anticipate we will recover our costs.
4. What is the average annual interest rate paid by the Council on its external debt?

4.31%

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment) (to be answered by Councillor Olivia Blake (Cabinet Member for Finance))

1. What is the latest forecast for gross spending by the Council on project Cavendish, excluding the proceeds of sale?

This is within the budget target approved by Cabinet in 2016. This is for the provision of the office and retail block, the food & beverage unit and for all of the highways enabling and public realm works.
2. What is the latest forecast for Council spending on the rest of the Sheffield Retail Quarter?

The Council has approval from Cabinet to carry out the necessary work to get the wider SRQ to a stage where it is ready to start construction. The full cost of the scheme to be taken forward is still being developed and costed and will be the subject of further Cabinet approval.

Question of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Planning and Development)

Do you agree that where smoking outside pubs is a nuisance to local residents in the immediate vicinity, it may be prudent to require as a planning or licensing condition that the pub allows vaping within the premises so as to reduce the incentive to smoke outside or at all? And do you recognise the positive public health impact such a policy would have?

The smoking ban is the most successful public health intervention of our generation. It has created smoke free environments and contributed to an overall reduction in smoking. We should seek to build on this progress. The view from our experts is that there is little public health benefit in encouraging vaping inside pubs.

I acknowledge that smoking outside pubs can, on occasions, present some difficulties. This certainly isn't an issue in all pubs. I would encourage you to report any specific examples where problems exist. These could be investigated and action taken where appropriate.

Question of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Planning and Development) (to be answered by Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment))

Has any formal exclusivity agreement been signed with Sichuan Guodong for the potential development of the Central Library building? If so, when was it signed?

Councillor Mazher Iqbal to answer.

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

1. Since the Grenfell Tower tragedy, steps have been taken nationwide to identify flammable cladding on social housing high rise buildings. What steps has Sheffield City Council taken to assess the fire safety of other public and private buildings which are dressed with cladding e.g. schools, hospitals, hotels, private developments?

We are working closely with public and private sector organisations who are carrying out an assessment of their buildings and are providing this information to the Council and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. Once completed, this will enable a comprehensive database to be established and maintained for all high rise buildings in the city.
2. Is the cladding used on the Hanover estate, an element of which was found to be unsafe, used on any other building in Sheffield?

This material has not been found on any other tower block owned by the Council. However, we are working with organisations who have high rise clad buildings in the city (Housing Associations, Private Rented, Universities/Schools, Retail/Leisure, Health etc.) so that we can check all other public and private sector residential developments. It is the responsibility of each individual organisation to assess their buildings
3. What was the specification designated for the cladding which was found to be unsafe?

The cladding used at Hanover is similar to that used across the UK on high rise blocks. These cladding systems meet current building regulations. Hanover was found to have a composite material on the exterior of the building that has been tested as combustible, this forms part of an external cladding system which includes fire stopping and fire breaks as part of the insulation system.
4. When was the Council informed that an element of the cladding had failed the government tests?

On the evening of Sunday 25th June, 2017.
5. What is the time frame for the removal of that element?

Six weeks from 10th July, 2017.
6. What will it be replaced with?

There are a number of options to be considered, replacing with the same system but with a rain screen product with a higher fire rating or replacing

with an entirely new system of cladding panels. Work will commence on looking at options in August.

It is likely that planning approval will be required and a tender process will need to be followed. This will take a number of months to complete and it is possible new cladding may not be installed until early 2018.

Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

1. All tower blocks are now externally clad with fire break measures located behind the cladding; the fire breaks give one hour protection from smoke and fire.

However this article in the New York Times - [New York Times Article](#) says

“Attempts to install nonflammable barriers at vertical and horizontal intervals were ineffective in practice. As a result, American building codes have effectively banned flammable cladding in high-rises for nearly two decades.”

Do you believe that firebreaks, considered inadequate by US regulators, to be adequate?

2. Can you provide a breakdown of the sources of funding for (a) the installation of cladding that has been done to date and (b) the remedial action that has been announced so far (eg installation of sprinklers)?

The fire protection measures have been carefully designed in partnership with South Yorkshire Fire Rescue Service and are in line with UK Building Regulations. There have been a number of fires in flats in tower blocks since the measures were installed and in all cases the fire stopping measures have stopped fire from spreading and have contained the fires. In 2010 we had an external quality check undertaken of the fire stopping measures at Hanover that has informed the specification for the Fire Safety Programme in tower blocks.

The 24 tower blocks have been funded over the last 27 years from a mixture of grant funding (Estate Action, SRB), Fire Service funding and Housing Revenue Account.

The cladding removal programme and new cladding will be funded from HRA but we will need to revisit the current approved investment programme to allow this to happen. The sprinkler programme will be funded from the HRA and leaseholder contributions. Work is taking place with the Government so to seek funding from

central government to fund these works.

3. Will leaseholders who were forced to pay for cladding to be installed, often against their wishes, be compensated?

No - but we will not charge leaseholders for the cost of replacing the cladding at Hanover.

Questions of Councillor Rob Murphy to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

1. What advice has the Council received from Government after the Grenfell tower fire tragedy?

The Government has commissioned a detailed investigation into this tragedy - when the investigation is completed this will be provided to LA's. At that stage if any recommendations are forthcoming these will be implemented by the Council if appropriate.

The Government has instructed all local authorities to carry out an assessment of all social housing stock in its ownership over 6 storeys and to take stock of.

2. What is the latest update as to why cladding installed in 2012 on the Hanover blocks does not meet current safety regulations?

This product was widely used across the UK and complied with building regulations when installed. We are investigating why the cladding at Hanover was changed during construction. The outcome of this investigation will be reported to tenants and leaseholders living at Hanover.

The government has brought in a new test of cladding and it is this that the exterior cladding at Hanover that has failed.

3. Who will meet the costs of remedying the work needed at the Hanover estate and on other Council properties found not to meet the required standards?

The HRA (for SCC housing stock) and any other funding that is released by the Government.

4. What steps has the Council taken to ensure that non-council-owned multi-storey accommodation in the city centre meets current fire safety standards and are safe for residents?

The Council is working with organisations who have high rise clad building in the city (Housing Associations, Private Rented, Universities/ Schools, Health etc) so that we can check all other public and private sector residential

developments. This work is taking place to support the work of the SYFRS who are carrying out Fire Risk Assessments on all of these properties in the city.

5. Is the Council satisfied that all such accommodation is safe?

We are working closely with public and private sector organisations who are carrying out an assessment of their buildings and are providing this information to the Council and SYFRS.

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