

Agenda Item 5

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 2ND JULY 2014

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions

Answers

Questions of Councillor Colin Ross to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

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| 1. Do you welcome the latest employment figures that show that Sheffield now has a record number of people in work? | I always welcome increases in employment in Sheffield. |
| 2. Andrew Rawnsley's recent Observer article, prepared after having spoken to members of the Shadow Cabinet, made some interesting points. Do you share his assessment that the job of a Labour Chief Secretary to the Treasury will be to "laugh at his [Labour] colleagues' dreams. He will have to tear up their dreams and stamp them in to the dirt."? | As I have said previously I do not wish to comment on press speculation and unattributed comments. |
| 3. After three years without any tangible signs of progress under your administration, why should Sheffielders have confidence that a New Retail Quarter will finally be delivered? | After your three wasted years where next to nothing happened to progress the retail quarter, we have taken numerous actions to get the scheme moving again. This included securing the New Development Deal, terminating the agreement with Hammerson when they would not commit to start and taking control of the scheme as a Council working to redesign a new scheme that is viable and fit for purpose in the long term. Last month we secured the land and property needed to develop the scheme. Therefore the people of Sheffield should have confidence that this Administration, unlike the previous Administration are committed to delivering the scheme. |
| 4. Do you share my disappointment that the Moor Market missed a vital opportunity by not opening for large parts of the Sheffield Food Festival? | We believe that the Moor Market being open would have presented a fantastic addition to the food festival. The decision not to open for the Food Festival was made by Moor Market |

traders. However we will continue to work with the traders to maximise opportunities for the market.

5. Have you contacted the Sheffield City Region Labour MP who is campaigning against the High Speed Rail 2 project to express your disappointment? Do you believe her campaign is damaging the case for the project?

There is cross party support on the issue of HS2, as you are fully aware the Labour Party fully supports the project. I am baffled why you would seek to undermine this cross party support to score cheap political points on such an important issue for Sheffield.

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

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| 1. Following the latest announcement on the New Retail Quarter, when do you expect work to start on site? | We are working towards an ambitious time frame based on demolitions in 2015 and a full start to work on site sometime in 2016. |
| 2. How crucial are Tax Increment Financing and the 100% uplift in business rates to securing the future of the project? | Tax Increment Financing remains an important element of project financing alongside private sector investment and the Council's wider work to drive the right scheme forwards. |
| 3. What steps have you taken to encourage the Moor Market to open on Sundays and later in the evenings on weekdays? | We are in discussions with market traders on flexible opening hours. |
| 4. Which motorists groups did you consult with before dropping your proposal to increase the speed limit on Penistone Road? | We consulted with the general public which includes motorists, public transport users, cyclists and pedestrians. |

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

1. What steps have you taken to ensure the Sheffield half-marathon continues following the announcement that Sheffield Marathon Ltd will not organise any future races?

We have already started work to seek event organisers who have a track record in delivering successful large road races across the UK. We are conducting a competitive bid process with a number of event organisers over the coming weeks who can operate the event at no cost to the Council. The competitive bid process is commercially confidential and the Council will not disclose who the bidders are until after the process is complete.

We are keen to ensure the 2015 event continues to support local charities and remains a fantastic sporting event for the city.
2. What percentage of the Council's budget allocation for the Tour de France has been spent?

We will report on the expenditure on the Tour once all expenses have been met.
3. Please list all successful applications for grants for community groups that have been linked to the Tour de France event?

Successful community group applicants for arts animation grants linked to TDF route and hubs (all jointly funded by ACE and SCC):

Regather
Albion Choir
Five Rivers Morris
Art in the Park
Dry Stone Walling Association
Oughtibridge Brass Band
Bradfield Parish Council
Oughtibridge Primary School
Heeley City Farm (working on Wincobank Common)
Friends of Wincobank Hill
Greentop Circus
4. What guarantees have you sought from your Cabinet colleagues that the site of the former Don Valley Stadium will continue to, at least partially, be used for sporting activities?

The Council has announced major investment in a new 2-16 years school on the site and we expect sports facilities to be part of this investment. The school's sports facilities (indoor or outdoor) will be shared with the community. Beyond this, the Council is working with a

number of sports clubs, private investors and national sports governing bodies with a view to securing further sports investment into the site.

5. Can you report to the Council any progress you have made with South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner with regards charging for events?

A meeting has been arranged with the PCC's office with the aim of reaching final agreement on this issue.

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

1. Despite the assurances of the mandate you have given to the Chief Executive, it appears that little progress has been made to recover outstanding debts relating to South Yorkshire Trading Standards. Can you confirm what specific steps you have taken since the last Full Council meeting in April?

As I have said previously, I have given the Chief Executive a mandate to take any action he feels appropriate. I continue to review the situation to ensure that negotiations are progressing.
2. How many external organisations did the Council pay subscription fees to in the 2013/14 financial year? Please list each organisation with relevant costs.

It will not be possible to provide this information due to the amount of work required to give accurate figures. However, much of this information is already available as we already publish all spending beyond £250 on the Council website.
3. Why did the Council manage to spend just £2.9 million with the 2013/14 financial year of its Local Growth Fund allocation of £7.6 million?

Local Growth Fund is not an annual fund that is lost at the end of the financial year. The fund encompasses projects that stretch beyond a single financial year. The Council has committed to projects that will see this money spent over the next two years on building new homes, preparing derelict sites for building development, developing local district centres through improving the public realm and also shop fronts, and continuing the work which has seen 1,733 long term empty homes brought back into use to 31st March 2014
4. Why have just £6million of future commitments been identified from the Local Growth Fund when the fund now totals £10.6million, with future and larger allocations still due?

Local Growth Fund is not an annual fund that is lost at the end of the financial year. We are working proposals for future projects.
5. Despite assurances to the contrary the total capital slippage for the 2013/14 financial year was reported at 32%. Does your administration consider this a satisfactory performance?

In the past year we are pleased to have delivered the Moor Market, Streets Ahead, Heating Installations, New Council Homes, New Parson Cross Decent Homes Work and many more.
6. When will you be in a position to brief the Council on the eleven expressions

The Don Valley site is subject to complex negotiations. Information

of interest in the Don Valley stadium site? will be disclosed in due course.

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

1. How many two year olds in Sheffield have currently signed up for fifteen hours a week of fully funded childcare?

We do not yet have this information, we have a guestimate based on the summer census which is 1,358, however, we will not know the exact number until we receive returns from providers when we take the Autumn census. Even then, those figures are based on a head count of two year olds taking up some early education funding (this will include children taking up less than 15 hours per week)

2. What progress has been made in your review of prevention and intervention services following last year's disastrous tendering exercise.

We are working with our key partners to develop an Early Support Commissioning Strategy. This will bring together the work of prevention and intervention services across all ages from birth to 25. This will influence any future contracting/ commissioning arrangements.

Questions of Councillor Steve Ayris to Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods)

1. How many landlords have so far registered for the Page Hall Selective Licensing Scheme? 241
2. How many landlords have so far registered for the Page Hall Voluntary Registration Scheme? 3

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health)

1. What progress has been made since the April meeting of Full Council, with regards the handover of libraries to community groups?

Since April, the Council has been working closely with community led library groups and local organisations in preparing for the transition to associate and co-delivery library status. There has been a full programme of training, support and meetings in place.

The next step is for these groups to submit their final business plan describing how they will run the library. The Council has so far provided a development programme for library groups including - workshops run by SCC staff, training sessions run by Voluntary Action Sheffield, library group meetings facilitated by SCC and written guidance, information and handouts.

2. What is the current position of the £300,000 capital allocation for Broomhill Library?

The position is unchanged from when you last asked this question, the allocation is still available to support the capital works required for Broomhill library to keep the library open.

3. Why does the Director of Public Health's Budget Outturn Report agreed by the Cabinet on Wednesday 18th June make no mention of the £262,000 you claimed to have secured for Associate Libraries from public health underspends?

The monies set aside for Libraries are being funded from general Council resources and not specific to Public Health. I can assure you that the £262,000 for Associate Libraries remains

4. Did you consult the Director of Public Health before making the original announcement on the £262,000 funding?

The Director of Public Health was consulted.

Question of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living) (to be answered by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health)

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| 1. Are you aware of the recent letter on electronic cigarettes and tobacco harm reduction to the WHO from 50 specialists in nicotine science and public health?
http://nicotinepolicy.net/documents/letters/MargaretChan.pdf | Yes |
| 2. Do you support the conclusions of this letter, specifically:

(i) Tobacco harm reduction is part of the solution not part of the problem;

(ii) Tobacco harm reduction policies should be evidence-based and proportionate to risk, and give due weight to the significant reductions in risk that are achieved when a smoker switches to a low risk nicotine product;

(iii) Regulation should be proportionate and balanced to exploit the considerable health opportunities, while managing residual risks;

(iv) On a precautionary basis, regulators should avoid support for measures that could have the perverse effect of prolonging cigarette consumption;

(v) Policies that are excessively restrictive or burdensome on lower risk products can have the unintended consequence of protecting cigarettes from competition from less hazardous alternatives, and cause harm as a result;

(vi) Every policy related to low risk, non-combustible nicotine products should be assessed for | <p>We are currently developing the council's Tobacco Control Action Plan which will outline a view on the role of e-cigarettes in the reduction of tobacco harm.</p> <p>Whilst e-cigarettes could have a potential role in reducing risk and harm produced by tobacco, they have <i>still not been deemed safe and effective and acceptable quality by a competent national regulatory body.</i></p> <p>In addition to this it is clear that e-cigarettes still contain nicotine and clearly still should be subject to considerable regulation which will be set at a national level.</p> |

this risk;

- (vii) Targets and indicators for reduction of tobacco consumption should be aligned with the ultimate goal of reducing disease and premature death, not nicotine use per se, and therefore focus primarily on reducing smoking.
 - (viii) Tobacco harm reduction is strongly consistent with good public health policy and practice and it would be unethical and harmful to inhibit the option to switch to tobacco harm reduction products.
 - (ix) There is no evidence at present of material risk to health from vapour emitted from e-cigarettes.
 - (x) It is inappropriate to apply legislation designed to protect bystanders or workers from tobacco smoke to vapour products.
 - (xi) WHO and national governments should take a dispassionate view of scientific arguments, and not accept or promote flawed media or activist misinterpretations of data. For example, much has been made of 'gateway effects', in which use of low-risk products would, it is claimed, lead to use of high-risk smoked products. Yet we are unaware of any credible evidence that supports this conjecture.
3. Do you have any grounds to dispute the observation that electronic cigarettes "could be among the most significant health innovations of the 21st Century – perhaps saving hundreds of millions of lives."?
4. By what authority have signs been erected on council buildings prohibiting
- See above
- Sheffield City Council recently reviewed their Smokefree Policy. The

vaping?

Council has made the decision to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes in their workplaces.

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

1. How many Streets Ahead work zones are currently behind schedule?

10 zones have been completed. Work is ongoing in a further 22 zones.

The start and finish dates of zones is affected by many issues. The most challenging is to fit in other works at the same time which inevitably extends the duration. Extra work includes:

- The LTP programme which comprises several hundred scheme (now around £9m pa of works – originally this work was expected to be around £2m per annum),
- Streets Ahead Opportunities works
- Extensive investment programmes by the utilities companies as they repair and replace their pipes and cables across the City – worth approximately £65m
- Flood schemes
- Watercourse reinstatements
- Supertram track replacements
- Most recently the Tour de France, which was actually completed ahead of schedule, minimising disruption to the rest of the programme.

It is good news that the programme shifts to accommodate other work, particularly as this is the largest regeneration scheme in the country.

As you are aware, we do not offer a running commentary for each zone due to the complexities outlined above and the scale and pace of the

- work.
2. What specific steps have you taken to address well documented delays in street-light installation?
There is no delay in street-light installations.
 3. What specific steps have you taken to address numerous complaints regarding the poor protection of open and dangerous holes as a result of Streets Ahead work?
We are working with the Access Liaison Group in briefing Amey staff about the importance of ensuring holes are safe and protections do not cause obstructions or hazards. Amey are also trialling different types of barriers.
 4. Have technical issues encountered in the Streets Ahead project when storing waste materials that are taken from works been resolved? Why did it take so long to identify these issues?
Yes. I understand that the Environment Agency took beyond its usual time in granting the permit because of the floods in Somerset and the huge redundancies your Government was imposing on this vital agency at the same time.
 5. What regulations do the Council have to comply to with regards to the location of street lights in relation to curbs and dwellings?
BS 5489.
We are not aware of any regulations in relation to dwellings
 6. I am sure you will be aware of numerous complaints regarding street lights placed in the middle of pavements presenting accessibility issue to wheelchair, mobility scooter and buggy users. How many instances are you aware of and how has your administration responded?
I am not aware of numerous complaints. I have only heard about Mulehouse Road - after you tweeted it and asked me to respond. I have not been contacted by anyone else on this matter.
Following an Officer briefing, you are aware of the unique issues on Mulehouse Road. The position of the column complies with the necessary standards and still resulted in 1.35m of clear space to the back of footway.
 7. Following the precedent of the Council's Fairness Commission, will opposition groups be represented on your administration's Green Commission?
No, the Green Commission is a different commission to the Fairness Commission and commissioners have been selected based on their expertise and ability to fulfil the ambitions of the commission. Opposition Groups are free to make a submission to the Commission.

Question 3 of Councillor Colin Ross to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families)

3. Since February 2013, how many nurseries have been successfully transferred out of local authority management? Please list all examples and all nurseries that remain under local authority management.

Of the seven Local Authority childcare provisions, 2 have transferred to schools, Bankwood and Valley Park, who continue to deliver Free Early learning for 2, 3 and 4 year old children.

Burngreave continues to be a main children centre site delivering various services to families with children under five and includes , midwifery , breast feeding peer support , play and stay sessions, conversation classes , adult and family learning . In November 2013 the childcare transferred to various local childcare providers in the area and all children were successfully transferred to a local childcare provision.

Primrose – continues to deliver children’s centre activity, in January 2014 the childcare transferred to other local childcare providers in the area and all children were successfully transferred to a local childcare provider. The nursery space at Primrose is now being used to deliver a specialist nursery provision UCAN, for children with SEN and additional needs.

First Start – Currently managed by the LA , plans in progress to transfer the management to Hucklow Primary school by Dec 2014.

Chancet Wood – As Burngreave and primrose re Children’s centre activity, the childcare will cease as of July 22ND, all children will have naturally left the provision to start school in Sept 2014. Holiday places have been offered at Broomhall childcare provision.

Broomhall – The nursery school continues to deliver places for 3&4 yr FEL children. The under 3’s childcare provision will be taken over by current

staff and developed as a social enterprise; this is supported by the Governing body of the nursery school. Will transfer end Dec 2014.

Question 4 of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Leigh Bramall (Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development) (to be answered by Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene)

4. What environmental health assessments have so far been undertaken at the Moor Market?
- There have been 39 formal inspections and or revisits at the new moor market:
- There have been 38 formal Trading Standards visits (including 3 for product safety, 2 for weights and measures/animal feed and 33 for food standards).
 - There has been an initial pest control assessment as part of the pest control contract and subsequent revisits as per contract schedule and when required.
 - All stallholders have received a Health and Safety Enforcement Advice Visit and there have been additional health and safety assessments in respect of air-conditioning and smoking.