

Agenda Item 5

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 1ST OCTOBER 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 share the view of the Master Cutler that manufacturing is “starting to come back”? | I always fully support Sheffield’s manufacturing industry and this Administration will continue to work with local partners to strengthen it. |
| 2. Given the result of the Scottish Referendum and the intention to devolve more powers to Scotland, do you support the IPPR North report “Decentralised Decade” and the Deputy Prime Minister’s Northern Futures project? | I was a member of the Advisory Board of the IPPR Northern Futures Project. |

Questions of Councillor Rob Murphy to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

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| 1. In its consultation response, Sheffield Council objected to the DFT proposals for a 60mph speed limit on the M1. Was this a mistake or a change of policy? | Neither. |
| 2. In the 2012 Air Quality Action Plan, the Council committed to ‘lobby the Department of Transport to reduce and enforce a speed limit on the M1 through Tinsley.’ What is the Administration’s current policy regarding the M1 speed limit through Tinsley? | Our position is unchanged from that outlined in the letter we sent the Transport Secretary in February 2012. |
| 3. Does the Council support the Smart Motorway All Lane Running proposal? | We support moves to increase capacity and deliver smoother journey times. However, along with other partner organisations we have concerns with the present scheme. |

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

1. Regarding lower speed limits on the M1 through Tinsley, you have stated that you do not support a blanket lower limit. Why did the Council not comment on different times of operation or offer alternative views in its consultation response?

We had previously written to the Government making our position clear.
2. Can you publish the letter that you sent to the Secretary of State in 2012 regarding the M1 speed limit through Tinsley?

Yes. It has already been made public when people have asked for it.

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

- Could you please explain why planning permission was granted for the Crematorium at Grenoside to be built, without consultation or seemingly any forethought to public transport, when the safety of pedestrians is compromised by having to make their way on foot to the Crematorium along a section of extremely busy road way, namely Skew Hill, which has no footpaths or street lighting on either side of the roadway from the location of the Cow and Calf Public House?
- It was approved in July 1997, well before I was a Cabinet Member or a Member of the Council.

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

1. How many extra pupils are eating a school lunch as a result of the free meals scheme introduced by the Government?

The Government have left the council with a £401k shortfall in the capital costs alone, on top of additional revenue costs.

Preliminary figures to date for Infant Uptake below - : There is still data to come in from some schools so the figures may move slightly.-

Percentages and Meal Numbers for Infants are currently as shown below.

Week

05.09.14 54.8% 27,027
Meals served over 3.53
Service Days (Average 7,656
Meals/Day)

Week

12.09.14 68.0% 47,282
Meals served over 4.97
Service Days (Average 9,513
Meals/Day)

Week

19.09.14 75.3% 51,124
Meals served over 4.95
Service Days (Average 10,328
Meals/Day)

2. Could you set out the steps and timetable for the review of Sheffield's response to the Jay Report into Child Sexual Exploitation?

The review will proceed exactly as agreed by Council at its last meeting. It will build on relevant external inspection and will include independent auditing and will follow any new lines of assessment if this becomes necessary. This overview approach has been approved by the independently chaired Sheffield Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB). We aim to have completed this by the end of November 2014. The process will be overseen by a Panel established and chaired by Sue Fiennes, Independent Chair of SSCB and include Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and

Families, Councillor Jackie Drayton, Lead Member for Children and Kevin Clifford, Chief Nurse, Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group. The purpose is to oversee the process, provide direction and challenge and to ensure full coverage of services and Jay recommendations. The report on completion of all of the above, will be provided that summarises the outcome of the assessment, including any recommendations for future actions. To ensure ownership and challenge of the highest order, this report will be presented to Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Board, Cabinet, the Sheffield Safeguarding Children's Board and Full Council Scrutiny Meeting.

3. What steps have been taken to ensure that this review has some independent oversight?

We have ensured that the review is independent on a number of different levels, please see above.

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

How will the Cabinet respond to the criticisms that are listed in the FLASH survey?

Various themes have been highlighted from the analysis of this survey

Assessment services: The survey coincided with the Learning Disabilities Service reorganising its Assessment and Care Management Teams in July – This is addressing the problems highlighted.

Personal budgets: These are here to stay and we will fund unmet eligible need, and we will ensure that service users get value for money in the services they purchase.

Communication: Customer factsheets and staff guidance are helping communication, and complaints resolution has improved in the last six months

Adult Social Care is committed to maintain strong engagement with family carers of people with a learning disability, including at Cabinet Member and Senior Officer Level.

The draft Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy aims for enhanced support for family carers; more choice of providers; more focus on value for money and innovation, and less on traditional services. It's being consulted on, with several dedicated sessions with family carers.

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

1. Do you still believe the budgeted savings on waste management to be achievable? Yes
2. Do you still believe the budgeted savings on the Amey contract to be achievable? Yes
3. Can you clarify your position on the recent proposal to limit speeds on the M1 to 60mph in Sheffield? The position is clear and was set out in the Air Quality Action Plan. There has been no change.
4. Can you clarify the position of this Administration on the recent proposal to limit speeds on the M1 to 60mph in Sheffield? See 4.
5. At current rates of burial, how long will it be before the city's cemeteries are full? This question falls within Councillor Bowler's portfolio. I am surprised that after 18 months you still appear not to understand what you're shadowing.

The answer is that current available plots provide enough space for burials (at current rates) for approximately a decade.

We are actively working on identifying sites for new cemeteries and are confident we can continue to provide burial plots well in to the future.
6. What is the outturn average saving/cost to participants in the great Sheffield Switch, compared to the best floating tariff? There is no such thing as the Great Sheffield Switch. I presume you are referring to the Big Sheffield Summer Switch.

The latest auction secured the cheapest tariff on the market, with exclusive tariffs for monthly direct debits (average saving £ 349) and tariffs for payment on receipt of bill (average saving £279).

These savings are calculated against an average bill of £1,323 as determined by Ofgem. As you will be aware, these average bills have

rocketed since 2010 as a result of the Coalition Government's inaction and collusion.

In the latest auction, 724 Sheffield residents switched, saving a total of £163,783.

7. When will the verge protection strategy be agreed?

When consultation with stakeholders has been complete.

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

1. Residents of Bradfield state that there is only one grit bin in the Village. Do you find this acceptable for an isolated rural community and will you look to increase the number of grit bins in the area?

Grit bin locations are determined in the accordance with agreed criteria. I would expect there is more than one location in Bradfield that meets the criteria.

To date, no Stannington ward Councillors have requested additional grit bins in the area.

Requests for additional bins can be made at any time.

2. What is the expected level of savings that the Council will make as a result of its revised gritting programme?

The savings target from the winter service changes is £100,000. We expect to achieve that target.

3. What is the expected level of savings as a result of the planned reductions in the gritting service in Bradfield?

It is not possible to disaggregate savings down to local areas.

Questions of Councillor Sarah-Jane Smalley to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene)

1. Please will you provide an update on the progress of the Sheffield Green Commission? Specifically, the original draft Terms of Reference stated that a report would be prepared for publication in Spring/Summer 2014 with key outcomes and an associated plan for their delivery - what is the status of this report?

The Green Commission is progressing well.

The original Terms of Reference were amended following public consultation to allow for a more in-depth assessment of key issues.

The report will be drafted after the public meetings have concluded.

2. Please could you further let me know where I can find up-to-date information

Further information will be placed on the website when it is ready and has

about the progress and activity of the Commission on an ongoing basis as the <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/policy--performance/green-commission.html> web link does not seem to have been updated since 21st July 2014.

been approved by Commissioners.

You may also wish to check the Council's twitter feed.