

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 3RD JUNE 2015

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. All parties acknowledged that the Devolution Deal for the Sheffield City Region agreed in the last Parliament was a first step in the process. Following on from this initial proposal, what further steps have been taken to secure more devolved power for our city region? | We are carefully considering, with our partners, the implications for Sheffield City Region and what further devolution we might seek to help achieve our economic ambitions for Sheffield. We will continue our discussions with government. |
| 2. Given the recent announcement from the Rt. Hon. George Osborne MP regarding devolution and the preference for elected mayors, have any discussions taken place with other council leaders in our region on this topic? | See above |
| 3. Following the recent exhibition on the Sheffield Retail Quarter, can you outline the timetable for the implementation of the proposed scheme? | This information has been made available to all Members as part of a full briefing pack. |

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Isobel Bowler (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods)

With regards to The Eastern Moor Partnership, can you advise us whether annual reports will go to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee?

Items for the Scrutiny Committee are a matter for the Committee.

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

1. Are you aware of representations made by a number of headteachers of primary schools on the way the Sheffield funding formula operates and discriminates against schools with fewer pupils on free school meals?

Yes I am aware as I regularly attend School Forum where these issues are discussed. At the March 2015 forum meeting, the requirement to review the current funding formula was discussed and a Working Group was commissioned that will report its findings to School Forum in its July, 2015 meeting. The following context will also be useful to understand the reasons for financial pressures experienced by schools:

Dedicated School Grant (DSG) has been a cash standstill settlement for a number of years. In 2015/16 at a national level DSG funding for schools has not recognised inflationary pressures. Schools have been reporting that inflationary increases are being experienced in both pay and non-pay related costs and this has been placing pressures on their budgets with no increase in DSG by the Central Government.

Sheffield continues to experience historically high levels of population growth driven by high birth rates and an increase in migration. Births have been increasing and as a result there is expected to be high demand for places in the Primary sector. DSG funding is provided by Central Government on a lagged basis and pupil growth in first year needs to be funded from within the existing resources.

2. Are there any plans to discuss modifying the formula in the Schools Forum?

A Working Group has already been set-up to review the current funding formula. The group is meeting regularly and will report back its findings to School Forum in July 2015.

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

1. Please can you give me a breakdown of the catchment area children refused entry to King Egberts School for 2015/16 by Feeder School catchment and Council Ward?

Primary Catchment	Count of Children	%
Holt House I & Carterknowle J	3	7.7%
Lowfield IJ	16	41.0%
The Nether Edge NIJ	20	51.3%
Grand Total	39	

Ward	Count of Children	%
Central Ward	16	41.0%
Nether Edge Ward	23	59.0%
Grand Total	39	

2. Large numbers of children were refused entry to their only catchment area school for 2015/16. What are the Administration doing to ensure this does not occur again next year?

It is always unfortunate when catchment pupils cannot be accommodated. There cannot, however, be any guarantee that a school will not be oversubscribed from within its own catchment area and the outcome at King Egbert this year is not unique. Addresses in the The Nether Edge and Carter Knowle Junior Schools have joint catchment status with both King Egbert and High Storrs. The level of oversubscription was not due to a significant increase in the pupil population, but the result of a 17% swing in preference towards King Egbert from within the catchment area. This is extremely difficult to predict.

A large number of those refused King Egbert did obtain places at their second or third preferred schools. Analysis, however, shows that a number of parents did not utilise all three preferences as they are advised to do to increase their chances of obtaining one of their preferred schools. The Authority has offered to hold workshops at The Nether Edge, Lowfield and Carter Knowle Schools to advise

parents of the importance of using all three preferences for the 2016/17 process.

Mercia Learning Trust is the Academy sponsor for King Egbert and also Newfield. Both schools have the same Executive Headteacher. In order to mitigate against the level of oversubscription, Mercia Learning Trust offered places at Newfield to catchment pupils who had not secured places at one of their three preferred schools. As part of the Trust, Newfield makes the same Education offer and priority admission to the Sixth Form at King Egbert.

Following a 25% rise in births in the city over the last decade, the match between pupils and places is naturally becoming tighter and small changes in preference and population can unfortunately lead to families being disappointed. We have worked with schools around the 2015 intake to increase the number of places available to support many of those families that could not get a place at their catchment school this year. An additional 30 places have been provided at Tapton for example. We are already talking with school leaders in areas where pressure is anticipated next year as part of our work to ensure local school places for all in the future.

Footnote: A complaint was made by the Chair of Governors at The Nether Edge to the School's Adjudicator asserting that the Admission Arrangements for King Egbert were discriminatory as a result of the distance tie-breaker. The Adjudicator found no fault with the arrangements and in fact commended the Authority on its policy of operating catchment areas that stretch from the suburbs into the City Centre, as at Tapton, Silverdale, King Egbert and High Storrs.

Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)

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| 1. Given the current schedule for the Streetsahead project in which the carriageway resurfacing for the Totley B53 zone has been moved back to the end of 2017, do you believe the carriageway resurfacing will be complete by the end of 2017? | We expect to complete our resurfacing work for our zones by the end of 2017. |
| 2. How many, if any, of the streetsahead zones do you expect to be incomplete by the end of 2017? | We expect to complete our zones by the end of 2017. |
| 3. When will the verge protection strategy be agreed? | Our proposed approach to treating damaged areas is undergoing some fine tuning to ensure we offer the right solutions for the City. |
| 4. Will all grassed verges be restored and maintained as grassed verges? | All of our treatments will be sustainable and we have no plans to surface over grass verges. Where verges are repeatedly damaged by inconsiderate parking, we may need to consider other options such as protection or hardening. |

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)

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| 1. With regards to the School Keep Clear Review, has the list of schools in phase 6 been changed? | No it has not been changed, the list is still the same. |
| 2. Will phase 6 of the programme be implemented as planned this year? | The funding allocation for this year will be used to complete phase 4 construction and the detailed design work for phase 5. |
| 3. What was the original budget for phase 6? | There is not a specific budget for phase 6 as each school has different requirements. Amey provide a cost estimate for construction when detailed design work starts. |
| 4. How much of this has already been spent in design and consultation? | Preliminary design, consultation and the legal process of advertising the Traffic Regulation Order has been carried out for phase 6. Detailed design work has not commenced. The amount spent on phase |

6 so far is £10,500.

5. Has the 2014/15 budget for phase 6 been reallocated to another project? No

Questions of Councillor Jack Clarkson to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)

1. I have received several complaints from local residents in the Greystones / Banner Cross area that Amey are removing the grass verges as a result of their highway road works and replacing the grass verges with a tarmacadam infill. Many residents themselves maintain the verges by cutting the grass and in some cases plant flowers and bulbs which add to the green street scene.

The verges that were treated recently in the Greystones area will be reinstated as grass verges. We are in the process of fine tuning our proposed grass verge policy and will offer a number of options which will go some way in addressing the issue of damaged verges across the city.

Is it now the Council's policy to remove grass verges in certain areas to allow more motor cars to park on newly in-filled grass verges as we are now seeing vehicles on many of our estates parking half on and off the road way. What is the policy in relation to grass verges, and have the Council authorised the removal of grass verges?

2. The replacement of grass verges by Amey during their highway works in the Greystones / Banner Cross area, as I understand it, is being in-filled by tarmacadam chippings from replacement sections of the motorway. There has been suggestions that the infill is contaminated with oil / petrol / diesel / rubber and other lubricants. Can the Council ensure that this is not a danger to the public and why are grass verges being in-filled?
3. After a lengthy Council debate on the siting of grit bins around the City of Sheffield, the Cabinet Member at

The material used by Amey was from within the City and not section of the motorway and there is no danger to the public.

Grit bin locations will be reviewed to check if they meet the criteria for the provision of a grit bin by the start of next

the time stated that there would be a review of the siting of grit bins around the City. Sheffield people are awaiting the outcome of this review and I'm sure would welcome an early decision by the ruling Administration. Could you please tell the people of Sheffield has this review taken place, and when the likelihood of the review will be announced?

winter season (October 2015).