

Agenda Item 5

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 6TH JULY 2016

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions

Answers

Question of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

The Council Leader will be aware that the Annual General Meeting on 27th June of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority once again elected a Chair from Barnsley MDC.

As you say there is an ongoing investigation into governance procedures and it would be more appropriate to wait until this is concluded to comment on future governance further.

In the spirit of the Nolan principles of openness and accountability, and in view of the ongoing review into its governance procedures in the light of:

- Resignation of the previous Chair following unconstitutional use of his powers to sanction Overtime Payments to Principal Officers;
- Serious breaches of contracting procedures involving the tender to Wirral Roofing & Cladding;
- Payment by the SYFRA for the previous Chair's attendance at a Labour Party conference in Brighton;
- The appointment of a councillor from Barnsley who is connected to the previous Chair;

would she not agree it is time that the practice of nominating a chair from Barnsley MDC be replaced by a rotating Chair?

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

1. In light of the results of the EU membership referendum, what mitigation has been planned to protect local projects and services?

There are no immediate implications for Council projects or services. There are a small number of bids for limited EU funds and these will be assessed as part of those projects, officers are confident that there is minimal risk of losing this funding as it falls within the two year time frame from withdrawal from the EU.

There are potentially large impacts for the Sheffield City Region. £180 million of EU funding was promised to the Sheffield City Region. Paul Blomfield MP asked the Prime Minister for assurances that it would be protected as the Leave campaign gave assurances that no area would be worse off as a result of "Brexit". The Prime Minister refused to do so.

There may be wider impacts of "Brexit" due to changes in the economy and the impact those will have on public finances. The Chancellor, for example, had threatened an emergency budget and deeper austerity cuts. We will continue with our prudent budget planning to cope with those issues as they arise, as we have done with Government austerity since 2010.

2. How many people employed by
(a) the Council
(b) through agencies for the Council or
(c) the Council's contractors are on a contract of a minimum of 10 hours per month?

- (a) 0
(b) Reed is currently the Council's agency provider. They employ their staff on a minimum 10 hour contract. We do not have information on how many members of staff are affected by that.
(c) We do not have that level of information on contractors

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

1. Is the Cabinet Member aware of parents' criticisms of the consultation process over the Council's proposals for providing more primary school places in Ecclesall? If so, how does she intend to address those criticisms?

We have received a great response to the consultation in Ecclesall and will be considering this in full at Cabinet on 20th July. We will of course look to address the issues raised as part of deciding any way forward.
2. Is she aware of local residents' concerns about the additional traffic and parking implications that would result from any enlargement of the Ecclesall Infant School site?

I've spoken to local residents and I am aware of the concerns about traffic and will be considering these alongside all the other consultation responses at Cabinet on 20th July.
3. Is she supportive of alternative proposals currently being put forward by the Diocese and Governing Body of Clifford Infant School? If not, for what reasons does she not support these?

We have received responses from Clifford and the other local governing bodies and will be considering these alongside all the other consultation responses at Cabinet on 20th July.

Questions of Councillor Roger Davison to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

1. What progress has been made in the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan?

Please see attachment with the details of this.
2. Which key sites in the City are being monitored for air pollution?

Nitrogen dioxide is monitored at several locations across the city including Tinsley/M1 J34, Attercliffe Road, Broomhill, City Centre, Carter Knowle Road, Abbeydale Road, Woodseats, London Road, Queens Road.

Fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) is monitored in six locations across the city – Tinsley, City Centre, The Wicker, Queens Road, Firvale, and Totley Brook
3. What agreements are in place to reduce bus and taxi emissions?

The Sheffield Area Voluntary Bus Agreement (November 2012) aims to upgrade 50% of bus fleet to Euro V standard by November 2017.

We are in discussions with the Taxi Trade Association to reduce taxi emissions.
4. What progress has been made in reducing industrial and commercial heating emissions?

The Council is encouraging new businesses to take their heat from the Bernard Road combined heat and power plant or the EON site (waste wood energy recovery facility at Junction 34 M1). Both of these sites are regulated by the Environment Agency by the use of a permit.

Some Council regulated processes (5 no.) are formally required to have energy efficiency plans, but the Council has no regulatory control and we can't set targets. These targets are set by Climate Change Agreements (CCAs). CCAs are agreements made between UK industry and the Environment Agency to reduce energy use and CO2 emissions.

We do have regulatory input, (through an inspection and permitting regime) over pollutants prescribed for control such as particulates, oxides of nitrogen, solvents, Hydrogen Chloride, Hydrogen Fluoride etc. We can only regulate those processes that are prescribed for control by the Secretary of State.

Question of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

At the last meeting of Full Council a petition asking for a new pedestrian crossing on Hutcliffe Wood Road was presented. Does the Cabinet Member agree with me and the petitioners that an additional pedestrian crossing is needed on Hutcliffe Wood Road, for the safety of pedestrians crossing the road near the crematorium?

The request was assessed by officers in response to a request made in 2013, and again in 2015. Unfortunately due to the bend and relatively restricted sight lines for drivers it is not feasible or safe to provide a crossing at this location.

Alternative approaches to protect the safety of pedestrians crossing the road can be considered and I can ask officers to work with the petitioners to consider these. However, as you will be aware the number of requests for road safety measures far exceeds the resources we have to deliver them and therefore the funding of any measures would depend on the road meeting the Council's criteria to a greater degree than competing schemes.

Questions of Councillor Roger Davison to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Parks)

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| 1. How many Labour Councillors who are Members of the Sheffield Theatres Board and Lyceum Board attended the recent dinner to raise money for the Theatres? | These records are not held by the Council. |
| 2. How many Council members of those boards regularly attend Crucible and Lyceum productions? | These records are not held by the Council. |
| 3. How many productions did those board members attend? | These records are not held by the Council. |

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment)

1. How many food hygiene inspections were carried out on premises in 2015-16 and how many were rated 0 or 1?

YEAR	TOTAL INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT	TOTAL PREMISES RATED 0-1
2013/14 (2013)	1542	130
2014/15 (2014)	1628	103
2015/16 (2015)	1430	97

2. What were the similar figures for 2013-14 and 2014-15?

Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment)

1. To what extent is the cost of verge protection included in the contracted price paid for StreetsAhead?

As Streets Ahead is a highway maintenance contract, verge protection measures include installation of bollards and hardening of the surface through the installation of road planings. These measures (as well as resoiling and seeding) are at no additional cost to the Council. The three treatment types have been used successfully across the City.

2. The relatively new surface of Queen Victoria Road has now completely broken up in places. Are you aware of other examples of this, and is there any analysis of the causes, e.g. inadequate drainage?

There have been a very small number of areas of failed resurfacing and where that happens investigations are carried out to seek to establish the causes. Causes can include weak, unknown, existing road construction that are impossible to foresee, utility trenches, leaking mains and the like. It is often not possible to identify a cause as was the case in the recent sink hole. As Streets Ahead is improving drainage systems it is unlikely that inadequate drainage would be a factor

Questions of Councillor Vickie Priestley to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Community Services and Libraries)

1. What records does the Council keep of:
 - (a) the number of books issued at libraries and associate libraries?

The Council has a complete record of all book issues for every library regardless of type.
 - (b) visitor numbers from door sensor data?

The Council records all visitor numbers from the people counters in the SCC run libraries.

Obviously, the Council does not keep visitor numbers for Associate libraries.
2. Is this information publicly available and if not why not?

The information which we collect is available.
3. Will the Cabinet Member please consider putting this data online as a matter of course for public scrutiny?

We are shortly to begin a consultation on the future of the Sheffield library service, in which people can make suggestions such as this for the future.

It would be wrong to pre-empt the outcome of this consultation.

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Leigh Bramall (Cabinet Member for Business and Economy)

1. A report presented to Cabinet on 22nd June stated that the new Retail Quarter project faces a risk that “the Council may have to invest substantial sums (potentially several hundred million pounds) to create the public realm and develop a proposition which an external investment developer would take forward”.
 - (a) Can you please provide a more detailed figure? The latest position will be presented to Cabinet on the 20th of July in accordance with the forward plan.
 - (b) Under what circumstances would the Council have to spend this amount? As above
 - (c) What is the ‘public realm’ that could cost such a large amount of money? As above
2. The same report also stated that “the Council may have to construct buildings on a partly speculative basis with only part of the building pre-let”
 - (a) What proportion of the development are you assuming will be pre-let before construction starts? As above
 - (b) What is the estimated construction cost of the units that are not assumed to be pre-let? As above

What progress has been made in the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan?

Assess Feasibility for a Low Emission Zone

LEZ Phase 1 Study completed 09 November 2012

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/environment/air-quality/LEZ-feasibility.html>

LEZ Phase 2 Study completed 29 November 2013

<http://sheffielddemocracy.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?id=997>

Develop Infrastructure for Refuelling Low Emission Vehicles

Electric Vehicles - £1million investment from Government (DfT) to increase uptake by businesses (SMEs); successful £225k bid to Government (DfT) for the installation of further rapid charge points across the region

Compressed Natural Gas - £200k project funded through the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan to assess locations of potential sites and establish appetite amongst local fleet operators

Hydrogen – supporting uptake and infrastructure development

Promote Smarter Travel Choices – Also see Table below

Sheffield Bus Agreement - 5 year investment plan launched in October 2012

Increased capital resources and agreed targets for mode share and mode shift

Bike Boost / Walk Boost / Bus Boost schemes aimed at commuters

School Travel Change Programmes

Sheffield City Region has been awarded the full £2.5m Local Sustainable Transport Fund transition year funding recently bided for from the Government, which will be shared across the four South Yorkshire authorities and will deliver a programme of revenue projects, initiatives and training that supports sustainable transport, in particular there will be a focus on cycling and walking related activity that will help to improve air quality and

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health
<p>Improve Engine Performance of Commercial Diesel Vehicles</p> <p>Procurement strategy includes the purchase of Euro 6 engines where available: All new vehicles purchased are now Euro 6</p> <p>6 diesel hybrid mini buses purchased for use on Home to School transport: 18 Hybrid vehicles have now been purchased</p> <p>2 Peugeot Ion Electric Vehicles purchased in partnership with the Sustainability Team for use on green projects</p> <p>A new vehicle telematics supplier identified and 120 new telematics units will be fitted to the Home to School transport fleet: A further 80 units are currently being fitted to Housing Services vehicles + Parking services vehicles are now fitted with telematics</p> <p>120 drivers have had Eco driving training which showed an initial 13% fuel saving</p>
<p>Mitigate the Impact of the M1 Motorway</p> <p>(particularly in the Tinsley Area)</p> <p>Joint Highways Agency and Sheffield City Council Study on NO₂ Levels in the Tinsley area completed</p> <p>Highways England (formerly Highways Agency) funded M1 J34 Southbound Entry Slip Road study in progress</p> <p>Highways Agency Smart Motorway All Lane Running, between Junctions 28 to 35a, currently under construction to be operated at 60mph during peak periods only if air quality will not be made worse</p>
<p>Develop Policies to Support Better Air Quality</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</p> <p>City Policies & Sites (Policy F1) under review</p>

What progress has been made in the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan?

Core Strategy – Spatial Planning / Sustainability

Development Management

New Supplementary Planning Guidance will improve the current travel planning process, help to expand car club options and parking schemes for low emission vehicles, to promote smarter travel choices

Control Industrial Emissions

Permits are issued in accordance with the Secretary of State's guidance

Inspection strategy outlines how resources will be targeted and which sites will be visited

If sites emit NO₂ or PM₁₀ they automatically receive a penalty on their Risk Rating; those located close to housing or other sensitive receptors receive a higher score on their risk rating

Sites with a higher pollution potential and / or poor management receive more visits and closer scrutiny