

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016

#### 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. Given the current uncertainties over the new Prime Minister's approach to Devolution, in particular the issue of elected mayors for City Regions, what representations have you made to (a) City Region Partners and (b) the Government, on this issue? | It has always been our position that Sheffield and all city region partners do not support the elected mayor model. This was only accepted because if it was not, Sheffield City Region would lose the funding on the table through the Devolution Deal.   |
|  | Since rumours appeared in the press in the last few weeks that this may change, we have had information from the Department of Communities and Local Government that the Government's position is unchanged and the mayoral model is still required and this is the case for any area wishing to gain the devolution of funding and policy areas that Sheffield City Region has secured. |
| 2. Do you support my suggestion that if Sheffield City Region can avoid having to adopt the mayoral model and still receive the agreed devolution deal, then this should be the case?  | This has always been our position, as stated in the Full Council resolution of 18 <sup>th</sup> March, 2016.   |
| 3. On the recent investment deal between Sheffield City Council and Sichuan Guodong Construction Group –   |  |
| (a) have you personally read the agreement?  | Yes.   |
| (b) who has actually signed the deal?  | The deal was signed by Councillor Bramall.   |

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| (c) how much can you currently disclose about the partnership to this Council and to the city?                                      | Everything we can disclose is already in the public domain.  |
| 4. Will the leader of the Council join me in congratulating Jessica Ennis-Hill on her most recent achievements at the Rio Olympics? | Yes.   |
| 5. What civic plans are there to recognise these achievements?  | The plans were announced last week. Please visit <a href="http://www.sheffieldnewsroom.co.uk">www.sheffieldnewsroom.co.uk</a> for details. |

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

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| 1. How much is being invested as part of the deal with Sichuan Guodong Construction announced on July 21st and what is the timetable? | The initial deal has identified £220 million of investment, we are now working with Sichuan Guodong to take this forward.  |
| 2. What is the money being invested into, and how is this being decided?  | See above  |
| 3. What are the investors expecting in return for their investment?   | Like any investor they are looking for a financial return.   |
| 4. What commitments or guarantees, financial or otherwise, have been offered on behalf of Sheffield City Council?                     | No financial commitments or guarantees have been made by Sheffield City Council. We have committed to work with Guodong to help them realise the first tranche of projects and explore future projects over the longer term. |
| 5. What are the proposed scrutiny arrangements for the deal?  | The project is overseen by a partnership board made up for Sheffield City Council and Guodong.<br><br>Aspects relating to SCC's direct involvement are covered by standard scrutiny procedures.                              |

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

1. Why was the Cabinet decision on 20th July to commence delivery of the first phase of the new retail quarter, with the Council acting as developer/investor, not available for call-in by the relevant scrutiny committee?

The arrangements with HSBC were time limited/sensitive and therefore any uncertainty created through the call-in procedure could have meant the deal collapsing, hence the item being considered urgent and not for call in. It is quite appropriate however for the Retail Quarter Project to be held up to scrutiny moving forward.
2. Have HSBC signed the lease for office space in phase 1 of the new retail quarter and, if so, when?

Yes.
3. What actions are you taking to ensure that independent locally owned businesses have a significant presence in the new retail quarter, and what is the Council's target for the percentage of total floor space taken by such businesses?

Our Strategic Development Partner, Queensberry, will be reviewing the role for independent locally owned businesses and when those plans are developed they will be made available. That includes the percentage of floor space to be taken by those businesses in comparison to the floor space available to those businesses across the City Centre.
4. What progress has been made in securing the anchor tenant?

The Council, Queensberry and the proposed anchor tenant are in scheduled discussions and workshop sessions regarding the scheme. Queensberry are now the lead for progressing discussions with the anchor. As stated in the Cabinet report of 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2016, we expect agreement on the way forward by the end of the year.

Question of Councillor Martin Smith to the Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Business and Economy) (to be answered by Councillor Leigh Bramall)

Regarding the Sheffield Retail Quarter, how much interest is forecasted to be paid on the additional loans that will be taken out by the Council as developer/investor for the new retail quarter?

I will provide a written answer.

Question of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

Regarding the Sheffield Retail Quarter, how much interest is forecasted to be paid on the additional loans that will be taken out by the Council as developer/investor for the new retail quarter?

Answer to be provided by Councillor Leigh Bramall.

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

1. How many employees with a salary over £50k have been recruited to this Council in the last 5 years?

The number of employees earning over £50k has reduced from 119 to 95, over the past five years under this Administration (excluding public health and Sheffield Homes staff transferred in during this period).

2. Please provide a list including each post, along with salary, that has been recruited to since September 2011 within the Council?

See above. The number of posts has reduced significantly. During this period, due to natural turnover figures, the same posts may have been recruited to on more than one occasion. The Council transparently reports its Pay Policy on an annual basis and publishes full details for the Head of Paid Service, Statutory Chief Officers, Non-Statutory Chief Officers (those who report to the Head of Paid Service or Statutory Officer) and Chief Officers (those who report to Non Statutory Chief Officers).

3. How much has the Council paid in business rates on empty properties in the following financial years:

(a) 2011/12	2011/12	£78,781.75
(b) 2012/13	2012/13	£91,580.93
(c) 2013/14	2013/14	£88,303.74
(d) 2014/15	2014/15	£116,151.12
(e) 2015/16?	2015/16	£120,311.89

4. How much has the Council spent on hospitality in the following financial years:

- (a) 2011/12
- (b) 2012/13
- (c) 2013/14
- (d) 2014/15

I will respond in writing with this information.

(e) 2015/16?

5. How much has the Council spent hiring external venues for staff away-days training in the following financial years:

(a) 2011/12	2011/12- £90,094
(b) 2012/13	2012/13- £90,616
(c) 2013/14	2013/14- £73,384
(d) 2014/15	2014/15- £92,521
(e) 2015/16?	2015/16- £90,243

Please list each venue with individual dates and costs.

6. How much has the Council spent hiring external venues for Councillor awaydays or training in the following financial years:

(a) 2011/12	
(b) 2012/13	
(c) 2013/14	
(d) 2014/15	
(e) 2015/16?	

£0

Please list each venue with individual dates and costs.

7. How much has the Council paid for office accommodation at Solpro Business Park in Attercliffe in the last financial year?

The lease for the Solpro Building was signed by Sheffield Homes and hence the lease agreement was outside Sheffield City Council's control.

The lease itself has the potential to run till 2023, however, we are investigating breaking the lease in 2018 and replicating the Solpro facilities within existing SCC properties, obviously reducing the overall cost to SCC.

We currently pay £207,966 per annum (this includes provision of Warehouse 697 sq m (7503 sq ft) space and 110 car parking spaces in addition to the office space used by SCC).

8. How much office space does the Council rent at Solpro Business Park in Attercliffe?

Staff currently occupy three floors at Solpro  
First floor 435.9 sq.m.(4,692 sq ft)  
Second floor 1068.8 sq m (11,505 sq ft)

Third floor 1065.2 sq m (11,466 sq ft)  
Total 2569.9m2(27633 sq Ft

9. How many sq foot of office space is currently unoccupied in  
(a) Town Hall,  
(b) Moorfoot,  
(c) Howden House?

As part of the successful Workplace programme the Council has rationalised City Centre accommodation down from 20 buildings to just the Town Hall, Howden and Moorfoot. These three buildings therefore have minimal unoccupied space and have helped us avoid over £30 million of costs over a 10 year period.

(a) Town Hall – Of 51,049.35 sq ft of office space at the Town Hall, currently 3,553.20 sq ft, or approximately 7%, is unoccupied. The Town Hall is a historic building, mainly used for ceremonial and public meeting space and unoccupied space is therefore more difficult to deal with, but a project is currently looking at further possible public use.

(b) Howden House – At present there is no unoccupied office space at Howden House.

(c) Moorfoot – All of the office space that is in a condition to be occupied in Moorfoot is currently being utilised

10. What is the current outstanding amount of uncollected Council tax?

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016, the total amount of outstanding council tax for all years up to and including 2015/16 was

£35,947.000. However this is in the context that in the same period over £3bn of Council Tax has been billed ie ultimately we collect around 99% of all Council Tax due in any one year.

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

1. How much money has Sheffield received for the Building Successful Families programme from central Government?
2. How many families have been helped by this money?

The amount of money we have received in total so far for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Programme is £9.89m.

2,391 families were helped with the money during Phase 1 of the Programme.

2,659 families have been engaged on Phase 2 of the Programme to date.

Families worked within Phase 2:

Year	Target families worked with
2014/15	831*
2015/16	1,873*
2016/17	2,990^

\* Achieved. ^ On target.  
Figures in table above are cumulative.

3. What rate of success has Sheffield had with these families?

Sheffield's target for families with successful outcomes for Phase 1 (as per DCLG regulations) was 1680 and we achieved 100% of this target.

To achieve this, the Service worked with approx. 700 more families than we were able to claim for.

The minimum success rate for Phase 1 was therefore 70% of families worked with.

In Phase 2 we have met targets for families engaged on the Programme so far.

It is currently too early in the Phase 2 Programme to provide meaningful rates of success.

We have made 92 claims for success

(under the Phase 2 regulations) to date, with another claim presently being worked on, and a further claim planned for January, 2017.

4. Does Sheffield have any refugee families waiting for their children to be repatriated from Calais or anywhere else in Europe? If so, how many?

We haven't received any information directly about the children in camps in Calais or in other parts of Europe.

5. How does the Council work with schools to support them to maximise the impact of pupil premium to close attainment and achievement gaps between pupils from higher and lower income families?

The Council has implemented a range of projects, working in partnership with groups of schools and other organisations such as Sheffield Hallam University and the National Education Trust to develop and share best practice in the effective use of pupil premium, in order to raise attainment and narrow the achievement gap for disadvantaged pupils.

Learn Sheffield has continued to take this approach, in its drive to work with schools to ensure that outcomes for all Sheffield children and young people continue to rise. There is a strong focus on improving outcomes for vulnerable learners including those eligible for pupil premium in the 'Learn Sheffield Priorities' (July 2016) and a range of initiatives sponsored by Learn Sheffield in partnership with leading Headteachers are to begin in schools this Autumn term 2016.

The expertise of schools with a track record in raising attainment of disadvantaged pupils is being shared across the school system. Tinsley Meadows Primary, which won a National Pupil Premium Award in 2016, is leading on one such initiative.

Another project initiated by the Council in partnership with the Sheffield South East Learning Partnership and Sheffield Hallam University has involved a



collaboration of 15 primary and 2 secondary schools in an area of economic and social deprivation in Sheffield. It aimed to improve attainment, progress and well-being of pupils in transition from primary to secondary, with a focus on vulnerable children. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from students, parents and staff. In the September 2016 final evaluation of the project, Wybourn Community Primary School reported that of the 16 children targeted in their case studies, their Year 7 pupil progress data shows that the majority made expected or better progress in both English and mathematics. Over 80% are on track to make at least 3 levels progress towards GCSE outcomes. This is of particular note as the majority of pupils were on the SEN register and some were at risk of exclusion because of behavioural problems.

6. What measures does the Council use to assess the impact of its work with schools to support them to use pupil premium effectively and close attainment and achievement gaps between pupils from higher and lower income families?

Extensive data analysis of pupil outcomes, including those of pupils eligible for pupil premium funding, takes place annually led by the Council's Performance and Analysis Service. This enables Council officers to work in partnership with Learn Sheffield and school leaders in identifying strengths and areas for development for the coming year.

Detailed monitoring and evaluations are carried out on all action research and project work to ensure impact is measured and best practice identified and shared e.g. report published in May 2015 by the Sheffield Pupil Premium Action Research Group entitled 'Tackling Educational Disadvantage by Understanding What Works'.

Questions of Councillor Richard Shaw to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Housing)

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| 1. How many Council properties in Sheffield are currently empty?                | 607 Council properties are currently empty. However these are not long term empty and there will always be times when properties are empty, for instance – repairs prior to re-letting, quitting properties, being held for respite or decants. |
| 2. What percentage of the total is this?  | 1.52%   |
| 3. How many designated 60+ council properties are currently empty in Sheffield? | 92 designated 60+ Council properties are currently empty. However there will always be times when properties are empty, for instance – repairs prior to re-letting, quitting properties, being held for respite or decants.                     |
| 4. What percentage of the total of 60+ properties is this?                      | 11.40%.   |

Questions of Councillor Alison Teal to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Housing)

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| 1. What is the latest progress on the application for a Public Space Protection Order in the Abbeydale area? | I will provide a written answer. |
| 2. Can the Cabinet Member give information regarding any current obstacles to the application?               | I will provide a written answer. |

Questions of Councillor Paul Scriven to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources) (to be answered by Councillor Jayne Dunn)

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| 1. How many households in Sheffield to date have been in receipt of Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) solely on the criteria of exceeding the benefits cap? | 55.         |
| 2. If any households, can you state the total amount spent on DHP for those solely exceeding the benefits cap?   | £64,782.74. |

Questions of Councillor Colin Ross to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

1. Are you aware of the severe parking problems associated with the Park and Ride at Dore and Totley Station?

I'm aware that there are parking issues associated with Dore and Totley station - which have been mitigated by the existing Park and Ride provision.
2. The Park and Ride facility does not have sufficient capacity to cope with the number of users and this has resulted in severe and dangerous congestion on the surrounding roads, particularly Dore Road. Highway Officers have investigated the problem and residents have been consulted about the various options to alleviate the situation. Are there plans in place to implement one of the alternative parking restriction proposals?

The Park and Ride facility provides 130 car parking spaces more than were available previously; it is not the cause of the parking issues, it has partly addressed the previous situation when no facilities existed. As mentioned, Transport Planning officers did draw up a parking proposal for Dore Road which local Members and residents were consulted on. However, there has been insufficient funding available to implement this as yet.
3. If there are proposals in place, what is the timescale for their implementation? If there are no proposals in place, why not?

See the answer to question 2.
4. With the implementation of the Hope Valley Capacity scheme, Dore and Totley Station is due to have an enhanced timetable making it even more attractive to commuters. What discussions and planning has taken place with partners to cope with the extra demand for parking?

The "Hope Valley Line Capacity Improvements" do include for Dore and Totley Station to have an enhanced timetable. The improvements package, promoted by Network Rail, is the subject of a Transport and Works Act Order. Sheffield City Council did not object to the Order but did raise some concerns including the impact of an increased service on the highway network and the demand for associated parking. The Order has recently been to Public Inquiry and we now await the Inspector's report - which I understand is likely to be in Spring 2017 - along with Network Rail's subsequent response and timescale for progress.

Questions of Councillor Ian Auckland to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

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| 1. What progress has been made on the School Keep Clear project since December?   | Since December, Phase 5 of the School Keep Clear review is being implemented – 10 Schools. Work on Phase 6 implementation has started.  |
| 2. Which officers are delegated to work on the School Keep Clear project?   | The project is managed by Transport and Highways.   |
| 3. What is the FTE if not full time, on such projects?  | 1 member of staff 2 days a week.  |
| 4. How many schools are yet to be assessed?   | 58  |
| 5. How many schools are yet to have the work completed?   | 58  |
| 6. What was the final funding "package" for the Grey to Green Project? Please provide a breakdown of the amount and source of funding, and any (major) contingencies between the elements.  | The expected total costs for the Grey to Green Phase 1 scheme are £3,604,442.07 The sources of funding for this are:<br><br>(a) ERDF £992,869.59<br>(b) SCRIF £2,464,000<br>(c) SCC, £147,572.48  |
| 7. With reference to minor ward based local transport schemes, such as yellow lines and danger reduction, other than Streetsahead zonal opportunities funding:-<br><br>(a) which officers are delegated to work on such projects?<br><br>(b) what is the FTE, if not full time, on such projects? | The project is managed by Transport and Highways.<br><br>Yellow lines has one member of staff working on it, other staff also provide a general response service to the public. There is currently no budget for danger reduction schemes due to national cuts imposed by Government. |

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

1. What is the Council doing to improve the profile of cricket and rugby (league and union) within the City?

Officers are working closely with the respective governing bodies of all three sports – especially in terms of potential investment plans with ECB and RFU. As part of this, as resources permit, we also liaise with key clubs based in the city.
2. What current links have the Council got with the major amateur cricket teams in Sheffield?

As said above, the Council is working closely with the regional team of the ECB in terms of potential capital investment in cricket. Alongside this, we also work closely with key clubs on specific projects. The latest example of this has been our work with Norton Woodseats club on their development of new facilities at Matthews Lane and the redevelopment of existing facilities at Graves Park
3. Given the strategic importance of a Rugby League team for the City and Olympic Legacy Business Park, what measures are Sheffield City Council taking to ensure Sheffield Eagles survive a period of financial difficulty?

We will be able to deliver on the pledge to provide a first class playing surface with flood lights and fencing for the team as part of the Olympic Legacy Park. This will be available from next season.

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

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| 1. How many street reports submitted by the Independent Tree Panel has the Council received?                         | The Council has received two batches of advice from the Independent Tree Panel for 14 and then 27 streets |
| 2. For how many of these streets for which a report has been received by the Council has a final decision been made? | A final decision has been made for four streets.  |

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

In the BBC Online article "England's black market hotspots exposed" published 13th July, 2016 it notes that Sheffield was unable to respond to the BBC's enquiries. Why was Sheffield City Council not able to fully respond?

We did provide what relevant information we had in the format we held and recorded it, however this was more limited a record than the quite extensive questions the BBC had requested.

Questions of Councillor Bob Pullin to Councillor Cate McDonald (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

Has the Council:-

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| 1. agreed to support the local Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)? | No. The STP is an NHS planning process, initiated by the NHS Shared Planning Guidance in December 2015. The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SYB) Plan is led by Sir Andrew Cash. There has been no request for Council support. |
| 2. If so, what are the main changes proposed?                                | I have not received a copy of the initial SYB submission to the NHS Executive but I understand this to be an outline of key themes, workstreams and governance arrangements at this stage.                                     |
| 3. If not, what are the issues still not agreed to?                          | See above.   |
| 4. What role and briefings has the Cabinet Member had on the STP?            | I am a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). Verbal progress reports have been given at HWB meetings. The minutes of these meetings are available on the Council's website.  |

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