

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 2ND NOVEMBER, 2016

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions

Answers

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. What law, rule or Council procedure prevents the inclusion of Members' questions on the discharge of the functions of the:-</p> <p>(a) Sheffield City Region Combined Authority</p> <p>(b) Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee</p> <p>(c) Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>(d) the Police and Crime Panel</p> <p>under item 5. Members' Questions on the Council Agenda?</p> | <p>Any Member wishing to ask questions on the work/role of those bodies (and for that matter, any other joint/partnership bodies) can do so (to myself or appropriate Cabinet Member) via Council Procedure Rule 16.1 – the same arrangement under which you have asked this very question</p> |
| <p>2. What are the Council's procedures for publishing non-key Individual Cabinet Member decisions?</p> | <p>The Council aims to publish Executive Decisions, which include non-key Individual Cabinet Member decisions, within two working days of the date on which the decision was made. The decisions are published on the Council's website and all Members of the Council are notified as soon as each decision is published. Following the publication of a decision, there is then a further four working day period, prior to implementation of the decision, in which Members are able to call-in the decision for scrutiny – unless the decision has been "fast-tracked" i.e. removed from the call-in process, because it has been deemed to be</p> |

urgent and that its delay for scrutiny would consequently significantly prejudice the interests of the Council or a third party.

3. Do you think that publishing a report and the details of a decision two weeks after a decision has been made by a Cabinet Member and announced in the press is acceptable, as was the case with the Park Hill Development Agreement?

The date of the decision, taken by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, was 7th October and the decision was published and notified to Members on 20th October. The decision was “fast-tracked” and therefore was not able to have been called-in for scrutiny. There was a delay in publication of the decision whilst officers determined what level of detail could be disclosed in the written report published to accompany the decision

4. When will the date for the Sheffield City Region Mayoral Election be confirmed?

When the order has passed through Parliament.

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. When is the review of the Neighbourhoods Strategy, which will contain the review of Local Area Partnerships, promised 'within the next 12 months' by the previous Cabinet Member last November, due to be complete? | The Strategy and Review will be completed in due course. |
| 2. When is the review of the Neighbourhoods Strategy due to be published? | It will be published after it is complete. |

Questions of Councillor Adam Hanrahan to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member Community Services and Libraries)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Can the Cabinet Member provide the definition of:

(a) Community
(b) Community value

which he has used in the deciding of 'Asset of Community Value' nominations. | (a) I provided my working definition at the recent Call-In Scrutiny Meeting: A community is "a distinct group of individuals or agencies who come together for a common interest".

(b) I use the definition set out in the Localism Act and relevant statutory guidance. |
| 2. What progress has the Council made since the Full Council meeting of 7 th September, 2016 on developing a policy similar to Wandsworth Borough Council (the Article 4 Direction) to protect a number of Sheffield's pubs, as promised in the Labour Group's Motion? | Good progress has been made. |

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. How much is currently owed in Sheffield in unpaid Council Tax? | There is no more up to date information on this issue than the answer I provided you with in September. |
| 2. Have Price Waterhouse Cooper been paid by Sheffield City Council for any consultancy work in any of the last 3 financial years? | Yes |
| 3. What is the average waiting time for customers calling the Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support helpline? | The average wait time for Housing Benefit/Council Tax Support is just over 10 minutes. We are working on a robust improvement plan to bring this down and have already brought the service back in house. |
| 4. What is the longest recorded wait time? | 58 minutes |
| 5. In line with the Sheffield Revenues and Benefits Service customer charter: | |
| (a) What percentage of written enquiries about
(i) Council Tax, and
(ii) Business Rates
are answered within two weeks of receiving them? | Currently 97% of written enquiries in relation to both Council Tax and Business Rates are answered within two weeks of receipt. |
| (b) What percentage of claims for Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit are actioned within two weeks? | 99% |
| (c) What percentage of decisions on benefits claims are made within two weeks of receiving them? | 87% |

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

1. What percentage of the Council's retained business rates income comes from the City Centre?

18% of the Council's business rates income comes from the S1 postcode.

2. By how much does the Council's retained business rates income have to rise to fund social care "off the back of business rates" as per your quote in The Star newspaper on 13th October?

The meaning of my comment was that, as that the Government are virtually eradicating grant funding from local authorities, Councils will be left to rely almost entirely on Council Tax and Business Rates only to fund services.

3. What is the forecast increase in retained business rates from the first phase of the new retail quarter, and how long will it take for this to pay back the Council's investment?

The estimated annual increase in Business Rates for the first phase of the new retail quarter is £1.5m. The payback of the Council's investment will be from a combination of the rental value from the office and retail units and the business rates.

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

1. Last month, in response to my first question, you mentioned The Pupil Premium Action Research Project, which culminated in Summer 2015, produced a report which identified the impact achieved. All schools were invited to a 'large well attended event to disseminate good practice and lessons learned' from the Pupil Premium which was held in summer 2015:
 - (a) What proportion of Sheffield secondary schools sent representation to attend this event? 41% of secondary schools and
 - (b) What proportion of Sheffield primary schools sent representation to attend this event? 40% of primary schools sent a representative.
2. Regarding your answer to my question number 4 at the Council meeting on 5th October:
 - (a) Of the 68% of secondary schools where the gap (5+A*-C including English and Maths) hasn't closed between 2012-15 and those others where it hasn't closed significantly, what proportion of these schools are engaging in 'Learn Sheffield' activities focused on supporting schools to close the gap? Learn Sheffield's new approach to city-wide school improvement supports and challenges all schools to improve. All schools have joined Learn Sheffield and are participating in the school improvement strategy. This means that they are categorised by their performance and outcomes and have an entitlement to appropriate support and challenge activities.
 - (b) Of the 47% of primary schools where the gap (in the key measure of level 4 combined in reading, writing and maths) hasn't closed between 2012-15 and those others where it hasn't closed significantly, what proportion of these schools are engaging in 'Learn Sheffield' activities focused on supporting schools to close the gap? An important aspect of the Learn Sheffield school improvement strategy is the peer review and challenge process in which all schools have been engaged. This then forms the basis of the school categorisation. Interrogation of pupil outcomes including those of disadvantaged pupils and the school's performance in narrowing the gaps, forms part of the school review. Learn Sheffield has developed a range of support, ranging from
 - (c) If schools are not engaging, what steps are taken to support them to successfully close the gap for pupil premium learners?

bespoke training to participation in initiatives developed in partnership with the National Education Trust aimed at raising attainment and narrowing gaps for disadvantaged pupils.

Groups of schools working in Localities (7 School Localities in total), identify their collective strengths and areas for improvement, which are written into Locality School Improvement Action Plans. These are overseen and co-ordinated by Learn Sheffield.

Analysis work is currently in process to identify schools' strengths and weaknesses regarding pupils' attainment and progress. This work continues throughout the Autumn term, in line with the release of national data and performance tables.

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

Thanks to the research of active citizen, Nigel Slack, the Cabinet are now aware of South Yorkshire Police's purchase and implementation of CCDC (Covert Communication Data Capture).

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Is the Administration supportive of the use of CCDC surveillance technology? | This is a matter that concerns operational policing, it is for South Yorkshire Police |
| 2. Is it acceptable for South Yorkshire Police to utilise CCDC technology without consulting the Council, given the infringement on civil liberties it poses? | See above |
| 3. What current/anticipated criminal activity in our area led to the decision to purchase £144,000 of equipment for the purpose of surveillance? | See above |

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

1. What parking measures will be introduced over the Christmas period to incentivise shopping in Sheffield city centre and district centres?

We are currently finalising the parking offer

2. What changes are being considered to planning policies to strengthen the Planning Committee's powers to reject applications for fracking?

Planning applications for 'fracking' must be determined in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and in particular Paragraph 144 which gives guidance on how to determine minerals planning applications and Paragraph 147 which gives guidance on planning for unconventional hydrocarbons which includes the products of fracking. Although exploration activities will usually require planning permission, initial seismic surveying does not require planning permission under current legislation as it is Permitted Development, and is therefore out with the control of the City Council in its role as a Local Planning Authority. At the current time there are no policies in the Local Plan that deal specifically with fracking, although there are a number of policies covering the issues it raises, and these would be used in the determination of any planning application. Advice is being sought on the most appropriate way to deal with this issue in the emerging Sheffield Plan. The NPPF and other guidance and legislation require the Sheffield Plan to contain criteria-based policies for each of the exploration, appraisal and production phases of hydrocarbon extraction. These policies should set clear guidance and criteria for the location and assessment of hydrocarbon extraction within the Petroleum Licence Areas. Therefore there is little that a future Sheffield Plan policy can do to reject applications for fracking on principle without falling

foul of national policy requirements that in turn could risk the Sheffield Plan being found unsound. The City Council as landowner however can, and has made a decision that they will not allow 'fracking' activities on land under Council control. In summary the Planning Committee must determine applications for 'fracking' on their merits and cannot reject such applications on a point of principle.

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

With respect to Northern Athletics Cross Country Relay held in Graves Park on 22nd October:

1. What measures did the Council use to temporarily restrict parking in the area?
A Traffic Management Contractor was employed by the event organiser who arranged to place highway cones, restricting parking, at those areas where parking on the day had the possibility of causing congestion
2. What steps were taken to gain compliance with the temporary parking restrictions made on the surrounding roads?
Staff on duty during the event were unaware of any problems with congestion in the immediate area. If Councillors can identify those areas that caused concern during this event, then these will be incorporated into the planning process for future events in Graves Park

Questions of Councillor Cliff Woodcraft to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

1. When was the assessment carried out for a possible school crossing patrol on Hangingwater Road, and what were the results?
Assessment in November 2014. The outcome was that 'Due to the nature of this site with the heavy traffic and the difficulty of crossing diagonally across the mouth of this junction, the recommendation would be to consider better pedestrian facilities first at this location.'
2. Do any other school walking routes to the catchment area school require
Each location and route is different in its nature and difficulty of crossing. Of

children to stand in the middle of a four lane junction to enable them to cross?

the requests for pedestrian crossing improvements we have received we currently have 28 locations with a score of 8 or higher, and a further 38 sites scoring seven including Hangingwater Road.

3. How has the Council arrived at the quoted costs of a zebra crossing on Hangingwater Road of £75,000; and extending the footpath and moving the low stone wall back at a further £75,000?

The costs of potential crossing improvements at Hangingwater Road are based on Engineers experience of the costs of similar schemes implemented elsewhere. Detailed costs would not be developed until a scheme progresses to detailed design stage and this is only done for schemes that are included in the annual highways programme.

Questions of Councillor Sue Alston to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

1. Please list all pedestrian crossings approved in each of 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 with their safety score and their cost?

See below table for this current year, the information for previous years will be provided later this week.

2. What additional guidance is used when allocating scores in the Scheme Assessment Scoring system used for prioritising road safety schemes?

Requests for crossing improvements that would not feature in our 'Local Safety Scheme' programme, such as the one at Hangingwater Road, are considered for inclusion in the 'Streets Ahead Enhancements' programme using the scheme assessment scoring system. Whilst certain criteria are qualitative, and could be considered subjective, all assessments are undertaken by one officer to ensure consistency.

3. Is the cause of accidents accounted for in the scoring system?

The accident information from Police records is reviewed when assessing the likely impact on number of walking and cycling accidents, this data includes causation factors.

4. In reference to the pedestrian crossing on Hangingwater Road, why did this only score a "1" for "Impact on

This question aims to take into account the fact that more effective schemes are possible at some

conditions for walking”?

locations than others. The score for this criteria is based on the level of improvement that a crossing would provide following the introduction of a scheme. This would score ‘2’ if it was considered that improvements will have a major improvement.

5. In reference to the pedestrian crossing on Hangingwater Road, why did this score “0” for “to what degree is it a major walking route”?

The score for this criteria is based on the number of people crossing. The levels of pedestrians crossing here do not indicate that it is heavily used. The busiest half hour period recorded 31 pedestrians crossing.

Questions of Councillor Andrew Sangar to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

1. How does the Council publicise the official safe route for walking to catchment area schools?

The Council does not provide or publicise official safe walking routes to schools across Sheffield.

When determining whether eligibility for free travel passes is met, routes are measured against statutory distances of 2 miles (under 8yrs old) and 3 miles (over 8yrs old) to their nearest suitable school. These are usually undertaken when Children, Young People and Families are considering a request for free travel and information on the route assessments is provided to the applicants if it is determined that there is a suitable route.

2. What was the official safe route from Nether Green and Fulwood to High Storrs School in December, 2015?

As mentioned previously the Council does not provide or publicise official safe walking routes to schools across Sheffield.

An indicative route assessment was undertaken for Hangingwater Road post December 2015 to determine if there were pupils in the catchment that, if they were to not cross at Hangingwater/Whitley Wood junction, fell outside of the statutory three mile distance and alternative free bus travel arrangements were necessary.

The assessment determined that this wasn't the case.

The Education section of the Council's website includes a link to the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive's (SYLTE) journey planning tool. However this is a general journey planning tool for bus and walking and does not provide a recommended safe route to school but information that can be used when considering journeys to school.

3. What is currently the official safe route from Nether Green and Fulwood to High Storrs School?

Several walking routes do exist between the school and the Nether Green area, although they are less direct than the Hangingwater route. Such walking routes still involves crossing roads but any without crossings are more residential in nature and will be included in the Greystones 20mph area.

One route goes along Oakbrook Road, crossing at the pedestrian signalised lights at Hangingwater Road, onto Rustlings Road to Peveril Road. (It is possible to go up from Rustlings Road to Stainton Road but there are steps on this footpath.) There is a zebra crossing on Greystones Road near Peveril Road. The route then continues up Dobbin Hill, crossing over to go up Falkland and Huntley Roads. High Storrs Road has traffic calming in front of the school. The distance is two miles from near Nether Green Junior School so adding on any extra distance from Fulwood is likely to make the route nearer to three miles.

4. How many High Storrs students would have to walk more than 3 miles on this route, and what would be the cost of providing them all with free bus passes?

Individual assessments made to the closest suitable school. No such assessments have been requested but indicative work informs that it is unlikely that any would be eligible.

Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment) to be answered by Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. How is Sheffield currently faring in relation to its air quality targets? | Sheffield is not meeting the EU Air Quality standards |
| | Regarding the standards set by the EU for dust pollution (fine Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)), to protect health, all our monitoring stations are showing that we meet the standards. |
| 2. What action is being taken to remedy this? | We adopted an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for Sheffield in July 2012, which sets out how we will tackle problems with air quality |

2016/17	Score	Cost
Gleadless Road zebra crossing and traffic calming	9	£120,000
Owler Lane traffic lights pedestrian improvements	8	£70,000
Harcourt Road at Crookes Valley Road junction tightening	8	£60,000
Southey Green pedestrian island	8	£30,000
Furniss Avenue zebra crossing	7	£80,000
Wilkinson Street junction tightening	7	£35,000
Jepson Road dropped crossings	5	£2,700

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

1. What contact has Sheffield City Council had with (a) friends of parks groups, (b) land owners and (c) business owners who will be affected by the proposals to build flood protection schemes on open green spaces?

The following Friends Groups have met with the team either at stakeholder workshops and/or at events:-

- Porter Valley
- Millhouses Park
- Carter Knowle & Millhouses
- Gillfield Woods
- Coronation Park
- Loxley Valley Protection Society
- Rivelin Valley Conservation Group
- Roscoe Plantation Allotment Group

A number of land owners have attended the consultation events.

The following businesses have met our team (note the list is not exhaustive):-

- Abbey Stainless
- Sheffield International Venues (re Beauchief golf course)
- Warwick Windows
- Independent Forgings & Alloys

The Chamber of Trade have also used their social media presence to inform their members

The options have been consulted upon following several articles in the local press, broadcast interviews on Radio Sheffield / Calendar / Look North and consultation events at sites across the city:

- 25th August, Sheffield Wednesday FC 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 8th September, Sheffield United Football Club, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 14th September, Sheffield Hallam University, Collegiate

- Crescent site , 11a.m. to 8p.m.
- 21st September, Millhouses Methodist Church, Millhouses Lane, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- 29th September, Oughtibridge Chapel Hall, Church Street, 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.

A total of over 400 people attended the events.

The consultation has also been advertised through social media, by the issue of a Gov delivery newsletter to 66,000 residents, posters in affected areas and leaflet drops

A recent check showed that over 700 questionnaires have been completed with 91% agreeing the Council's programme to protect the City from flooding

The next stage is to analyse the responses and decide which options to take forward and then after design work is completed another consultation process will begin including with Friends Groups, land owners and businesses.

2. How many trees does the Council expect to lose in Woodland sites as a result of the flood protection scheme?

As the programme is only at the option stage and final options are not yet decided and so detail designs have not yet been done, we are unable to provide a number of trees that may need to be removed.

3. How many complaints have been received for excessive light spilling into people's houses from new street lights?

In order to provide this information someone would have to review each customer contact relating to street lighting and there are no available staff resources to carry out that work.

4. In how many of these cases has Amey agreed to take remedial action (e.g. fitting shielding to the lamp)?

As above, we are unable to confirm when action was taken for each street lighting complaint regarding light intrusion. However, last year the number of back shield started being recorded and we can confirm that from December, 2015 to October,

2016, we have installed 521 back shields. We installed around 1,600 street lights each month.

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

When will the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan be published?

I understand that the latest version of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan was submitted to NHS England on 21st October, 2016. This was reported at the recent meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The publication arrangements are a matter for the NHS. According to the NHS team leading this work, publication is expected in the next few weeks.