

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 6 FEBRUARY 2013

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. At the last meeting of Council you stated that the earliest possible start on the Sevenstones site would be autumn 2014. Do you still believe this to be the case? | As you are aware negotiations are ongoing and provided all parties can agree terms, and especially the retail sector having confidence in the economy in the near future, we would expect there to be a start on site within the 2014/15 year. |
| 2. At the December meeting of Full Council you stated that Hammersons had failed to submit a planning application for Sevenstones by the deadline of 30 th November 2012. Have Hammersons now submitted an application? | If all parties can agree terms in the near future we would expect a fresh application for a revised scheme to be submitted later this year. |
| 3. What meetings have you personally attended since the December meeting of Council to ensure the Sevenstones development proceeds as planned? | The Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development and I have attended several meetings. |
| 4. What progress has been made since the last Council meeting in delivering more shared services with other authorities within Sheffield City Region? | Sheffield City Region Leaders meet on a regular basis to discuss any opportunities for shared services and many other things, to find ways of mitigating the severe, unfair and draconian cuts being imposed by the Conservative/ Liberal Democrat Government. |
| 5. How many meetings has the Council's Champion for Older People attended in his or her role since being appointed? | Several. |
| 6. How many meetings has the Council's Champion for Sexual Health attended in his or her role since being appointed? | Several. |

7. How many meetings has the Council's Champion for Younger People attended in his or her role since being appointed? Several.

Questions of Councillor Simon Clement-Jones to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

1. How many Council employees have been appointed on a salary greater than £50,000 since May 2011, including new starters and internal appointments? Please list each post with corresponding salary.

There are none since you last asked this question in December 2012.
2. At the November meeting of Full Council you said the Council's review of trade union facility time was complete. When will the review be published?

The review is a collective agreement between the trade unions and the Council, it is not a formal report. However, details of the review will be made available to you if you contact the Director of Human Resources.
3. As a result of your Administration's review, will the budget for trade union facility time reduce next year? If so, by how much?

There is no formal budget for trade union facility time.
4. As part of the budget setting process did your Administration undertake a review of the Council reserves? If so, were any alterations made to earmarked reserves as a result?

Yes, a thorough review of reserves has been undertaken as part of the budget-setting process. The review has taken into account external benchmarking against other local authorities (our non-earmarked reserves are already the lowest of any major City in the country) as well as the Audit Commission's report, "Striking a Balance". A number of changes to reserves have been made, and these will be reported in the reserves strategy as part of the 2013/14 budget report which was published on 5th February.

Question of Councillor Alison Brelsford to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

When will a report be brought forward regarding broadband provision in Sheffield, as discussed at October's Council meeting?

It is intended to bring the report to Cabinet on 20 March 2013.

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

1. How much has been invested in each of the following public toilets for each of the last ten years; Chapeltown, Bradfield, Rivelin, Abbey Lane, Meadowhead, Fox House, Stocksbridge Superloo, and Burngreave?

This question does not form part of my portfolio. I suggest you read the Leader's Scheme of Delegation more closely.
2. How much has the Council financially recovered from the Veolia contract as a result of moving to fortnightly bin collections?

The reduction in the cost of the collection service is in line with the budgeted saving.
3. How much has the Council spent this financial year on legal costs, attempting to recover savings from Veolia?

External legal spend totals £3,976 to December.
4. Will your Administration's budget contain any measures to alleviate the pressure on households who have been hit hard by your move to fortnightly bin collections?

I look forward to reading your budget proposals and the measures you plan to introduce.

Around 65% of the country now has alternate week collections. Recycling has increased and landfill has decreased. Your Government's unfair and failing policies are hitting Sheffield hard – which is why we needed to make this change.

When Alternate Week Collection was introduced we did take action to help people to adjust, which you opposed.

We have a fair policy of providing additional waste capacity for households with higher than average number of occupants or where there is a medical reason for additional waste to be produced.
5. Will your Administration's budget contain any further cuts in hours to local recycling centres?

I suggest you read the budget.
6. How many local residents have so far opted-in to the charged-for service for

You have asked this question on many occasions. The answer remains

the collection of green bins?

the same - Veolia have 3464 customers.

7. How many local residents, outside of the area that is currently offered the green bin, have so far expressed an interest to Veolia in the charged-for green bin service? Please breakdown your response by postcode.

You have asked this question on many occasions. The answer remains the same - 481 customers had expressed an interest to the end of November.

8. When will Veolia publish a proposed green waste recycling service for 2013/14?

This is now a commercial arrangement between Veolia and their customers. I suggest you ask Veolia.

9. Are you expecting the green waste recycling service in Sheffield to remain the same as that operated in 2012/13?

I expect green waste to remain a commercial arrangement between Veolia and their customers.

10. In December you assured the Council that Amey had written to all existing snow wardens. How many responses were received?

All snow wardens for the 2011/12 winter season were contacted to ask them if they wished to volunteer again.

Of the 90 wardens last year 80 replied saying they wanted to continue.

11. What efforts were undertaken to ensure snow wardens that did not respond to the initial contact were contacted?

Wardens were telephoned and emailed to ensure as many snow wardens as possible replied and got involved.

12. What work have you undertaken to encourage new snow wardens to volunteer?

We have passed out the message to partners and other Council services that we may be able to accommodate new volunteers.

In addition, where new grit routes have been requested we have offered a suggestion of finding additional snow wardens as an alternative.

Rather than waiting until snow had fallen as was the previous arrangement, salt bags have been provided earlier in the season. This allowed wardens to shovel more salt and more people could see the impact they had

13. In the last two months how many people have volunteered to become

We have had a further 3 volunteers.

new wardens? How many of these individuals have so far been recruited to the scheme?

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

1. Regarding the £400,000 that has been allocated to the Council's Keep Sheffield Working, how much has so far been spent?

A planned programme of activity is in development which accounts for the full Keep Sheffield Working Fund.

Committed spend to date is £160,000.

This covers two projects from this programme which have commenced activity:

£90,000 has been allocated to an export market development pilot that will work with up to 30 companies to provide intensive export support over a fixed period of time.

Up to £70,000 has been allocated to support the Sheffield Enterprise Agency to take over a contract for delivering the self employment option of the Work Programme. This will deliver an improved and more integrated service for unemployed and workless people looking to become self employed, supporting up to 200 people by March 2014.
2. Please list the specific budget allocations for each project funded through the Council's Keep Sheffield Working Fund.

Please see above for allocation for approved projects and committed spend.

Further projects are in development and will be announced shortly.
3. How successful has the Council's Christmas bus scheme been?

Total passengers carried was 33,118 – higher than previous years.
4. How successful has the Council's Christmas parking scheme been?

In general, car parks within the scheme saw a one third increase in patronage. However, some car parks saw a six-fold increase.

Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Isobel Bowler (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure)

1. What work have you undertaken since becoming Cabinet Member to increase income at Don Valley Stadium?

Officers work closely with Sheffield International Venues (SIV) on exploring opportunities for income e.g. Sheffield City Council and SIV work jointly on the City's events programme and where possible, events will be secured for Don Valley Stadium. However, income at Don Valley Stadium is the responsibility of Sheffield International Venues.
2. What work will you be undertaking to ensure events such as Tramlines and Fright Night receive enough sponsorship to continue to operate?

Officers have previously and will continue to support event organisers in terms of securing sponsorship, both commercial and from bodies such as Arts Council England. However, the event owners are responsible for seeking and securing sponsorship – they know the event business and the sponsorship market.
3. What progress has been made in awarding and spending £10million of Olympic Legacy funding?

The National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine (NCSEM) Board has already agreed the allocation of £5M towards the HQ development at Graves. The Board has recently done further work on the provisional allocation of the remaining capital and an announcement on this is due in the coming months

Questions of Councillor Alison Brelsford to Councillor Isobel Bowler (Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure)

1. When did you first decide to include the closure of Stocksbridge Leisure Centre as a proposal in your 2013/14 budget?

As part of the Sheffield City Council (SCC) budget planning process, SCC and Sheffield City Trusts (SCT) have been in informal officer discussions on budget options for many weeks leading up to December. This included taking a look at every facility in the City and all savings options therein. However, SCC did not receive notification on its likely Government grant until 19th

December. It was after this point that SCC was in a position to formally confirm with SCT its officer proposals in relation to facility savings - including Stocksbridge

2. Did you consult with your Cabinet Advisor before deciding to include the closure of Stocksbridge Leisure Centre as a proposal in your 2013/14 budget?

Cabinet Assistants work with Cabinet Members on a range of duties including proposals for consideration as part of achieving a balanced budget.

3. Do you believe that three months is a sufficient period to form an alternative organisation to manage Stocksbridge Leisure Centre and for that organisation to secure funding to continue to provide activities at the Centre?

The Council, together with Sport England, are funding an independent study of all future options for the provision of leisure facilities in Stockbridge. The study will be concluded by the end of February to allow time for decisions to be made. The study will also examine the short term options for the Centre beyond April

4. If alternative management can be found for Stocksbridge Leisure Centre, will you ensure that the Centre continues to receive financial support from the Council?

Any continuing financial support for the Centre beyond the end of April will incur unbudgeted spend by SCC and this may lead to pressure for additional facility closures. Financing the Centre till the end of April is already placing pressure on our sports budget. Therefore, in our budget proposals there is currently no SCC funding for the Centre beyond April

5. How was £100,000 allocated by Sheffield International Venues for capital expenditure at Stocksbridge Leisure Centre spent? If it has not been spent in full, will the balance be reclaimed by Sheffield International Venues or Sheffield City Council?

The capital spend so far at SLC has been on health and safety work. A further £54,000 has been earmarked for Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) works and remains on hold given that a satisfactory DDA solution requires a level of investment which is currently not available. A decision by SCC (in conjunction with SIV) on the allocation of this unspent sum will be made once the future of the Centre has been determined.

6. Regarding the closure of Stocksbridge Leisure Centre, have you calculated the

There is no accepted method of calculating the health costs of

cost of free pensioner travel to other centres, the cost of school transport to alternative swimming lesson providers, and additional costs to local health services due to reduced levels of exercise and increased levels of obesity? Please break down the costs into these areas.

closing a swimming pool. However, we know all venue closures have an impact on local communities—especially those households without access to a car. However, the number of people affected by the proposed closure of Stocksbridge is much lower than the numbers affected by alternative facility closures. We have not calculated the cost of free pensioner travel. We are aware of the four Sheffield primary schools which currently use SLC. Two have completed their lessons for this school year and the other two are in discussion with officers about alternative pools if SLC were to close at the end of April. Travel costs this school year are met by the Local Education Authority and therefore there will be no additional costs placed on the school.

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

1. Will you follow the advice of Labour Councillors on the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee who recommended that you consider what transitional arrangements are needed to ensure that good quality early years provision is sustained?

Yes. We are already developing both transitional and long term arrangements to ensure quality early years provision is maintained.
2. Will you follow the advice of Labour Councillors on the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee who recommended you provide further details of provision within the 17 children's centre areas?

Yes. We are already planning to provide further details of the proposed designated addresses for the 17 areas.
3. Will you follow the advice of Labour councillors on the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee who recommended that you give assurances that a comprehensive communications plan is developed to inform parents of the locations of support, and the type of support available, in the 17 new areas?

Yes, we were already intending to produce a comprehensive communication plan for each children's centre area, with clear guidance as to what is available, when and where. This will be made available to all families in each area through a variety of communication methods including face to face, email etc.
4. Do you accept that had the Early Years Review not been so protracted and had concrete proposals been brought forward at an earlier stage, providers would have had longer to adapt to the new system?

As stated in my answer to question 1, we are developing transitional arrangements to ensure quality early years provision is maintained. The proposals in the Early Years Review impacting on providers are a consequence of the Government's decision to decimate funding available through the Early Intervention Grant.

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods)

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| 1. How much money has been allocated so far through the Council's Local Growth Fund? | This information is available on the Council's website and is updated monthly. It is also updated via the monthly report of Capital Programme Expenditure. |
| 2. So far how much of the Council's Local Growth Fund has been spent and which projects have been completed? | This information is available on the Council's website and is updated monthly. It is also updated via the monthly report of Capital Programme Expenditure. |
| 3. When will tenants move into the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) units in Flank A of Park Hill? | Tenants started moving into Flank A at Park Hill in January. |
| 4. How many cases passed through Community Justice Panels in December 2012? | 24 |
| 5. Can you confirm that you do not plan to reduce funding for Community Justice Panels in your 2013/14 budget proposals? | All our budget proposals have been published. |

Questions of Councillor Alison Brelsford to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion)

1. Between the December 2012 Council Meeting and 9th January 2013, how many meetings did you attend to discuss your Administration's review into Community Assemblies?

Several.
2. Between the December 2012 Council Meeting and 9th January 2013, how many officers were asked to provide evidence as part of your review into Community Assemblies?

Several.
3. Between the December 2012 Council Meeting and 9th January 2013, how many Community Assembly Chairs were consulted as part of your review into Community Assemblies?

As stated in our amendment to the Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Sangar, we are working to produce a system which maximises, as far as resources allow, local engagement and community empowerment, and supports partnership working in the City. Proposals are not yet ready for consultation but there will be consultation with numerous stakeholders.
4. Between the December 2012 Council Meeting and 9th January 2013, how many Community Assembly Managers were consulted as part of your review into Community Assemblies?

As stated in our amendment to the Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Sangar, we are working to produce a system which maximises, as far as resources allow, local engagement and community empowerment, and supports partnership working in the City. Proposals are not yet ready for consultation but there will be consultation with numerous stakeholders.
5. Between the December 2012 Council Meeting and 9th January 2013, which other Community Assembly staff were consulted as part of your review into Community Assemblies?

As stated in our amendment to the Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Sangar, we are working to produce a system which maximises, as far as resources allow, local engagement and community empowerment, and supports partnership working in the City. Proposals are not yet ready for consultation but there will be

consultation with numerous stakeholders.

6. When will a prospectus be made available to groups, individuals and businesses interested in running their local library?
This will be available in the next week or so.
7. How long will groups, individuals and businesses interested in running their local library have to respond once the prospectus is published?
Details will be included in the prospectus.
8. What financial support will you provide groups, individuals and businesses interested in running their local library?
Details will be included in the prospectus.
9. Will you personally be available to meet and advise groups, individuals and businesses interested in running their local library?
Yes and details of how anyone interested in running their local library should contact the Council will be included in the prospectus.
10. If no groups, individuals and businesses offer satisfactory alternative solutions for local libraries, how will proposed savings of £370k be made this financial year?
Due to the massive and unfairly targeted cuts that Nick Clegg and your colleagues are making to Sheffield, the Library Service has to save £1.6 million over the next 2 to 3 years. There are some groups who have proposals for an alternative means of providing library services so an initial saving of £370,000 is proposed in 2013 rising to £1.6 million from 2014, to give a period in which proposals can come forward for review and consultation.

As you know, we are trying to keep all libraries open and no decisions on which libraries could be at risk have been made yet. The scaremongering that your Party has indulged in over recent weeks on this issue is completely unconstructive and irresponsible. I find it particularly unbelievable that Nick Clegg has been involved in some of the worst of this scaremongering when the reason that the Council is in this financial position is due to his choices to

impose such heavy cuts to Sheffield at the same time as some of the wealthiest areas in the country receive almost no cuts at all. You should stand up to Nick Clegg and tell him to stop cutting funding to Sheffield which is having a massive impact on Council services.

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

1. Would you please outline the tendering process undertaken in which Sanctuary Housing was selected as the provider for a replacement for Newton Grange Care Home in Stocksbridge?

The development of older persons housing at Stocksbridge was included within Sheffield's Local Investment Plan, which was approved by Cabinet in August 2011. Local Registered Providers were invited to express their interest in including the various elements of the Plan within their offers to the Homes and Communities Agency for the 2011/15 Affordable Homes Programme. Sanctuary Housing were the only Registered Housing Provider to express an interest in including the Stocksbridge scheme in their offer.

2. What arrangements have been made to ensure similar levels of care are provided in the new facility as those provided at Newton Grange Care Home?

The new homes will be self contained units. The new accommodation will be available for people over the age of 55. However priority will be given first to those people affected by home loss in the Sweeney House Sheltered Scheme. The scheme will, therefore, be home to a range of people who may or may not have a need for care and support.

People who are eligible for adult social care have an individual/personal budget. The idea of an individual or personal budget is that it gives people more choice and control about how they receive support and who from. This means they can use their personal budget to purchase their own care and support if they so wish. However, should any of the new tenants be eligible for care and support they could choose as a group to purchase this from a single care provider who is able to provide services to meet all of their individual needs as a small community but ultimately the

decision about how their care and support will be delivered and who delivers it, will be their choice.

The plans and proposals for both the new scheme and the care and support service models are in the very early stages of development. We intend to talk to those people who are most affected by the decommissioning, other individuals and also the local community about any proposals and available options.

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