

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

#### 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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| <p>1. Were you disappointed when you heard that Angela Smith, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge was in support of a Meadowhall location for Sheffield's HS2 station, rather than Victoria, despite all the evidence pointing to a city centre location as best for the City Region?</p> <p>2. Having signed the Sheffield City Region devolution deal in its current form, do you still wish to water down the powers of the directly elected mayor, for example, to get rid of the power of the mayor to veto motions?</p> | <p>Yes, however, less disappointed than when Nick Clegg as Deputy Prime Minister had the opportunity to change the proposal but instead chose to launch HS2 at Meadowhall and support it throughout his time as Deputy Prime Minister</p> <p>My position, as stated in the December Council meeting which I have made public and has been quoted by yourself at the recent Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee, is that I do not support Sheffield City Council agreeing to the proposal until the following issues are addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mayoral model- we cannot have a situation where half of the combined authority are not involved in electing the mayor.</li><li>• Mayoral Veto- we cannot have a situation where the mayor would have a veto over every decision.</li></ul> |
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Question of Councillor John Booker to Councillor Sioned Mair Richards (Acting Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods)

1. In April, 2015 a metal youth shelter that stood on Thorncliffe Sports Ground at High Green, that cost £10,000 five years ago and was guaranteed for 25 years, was destroyed and disposed of by Kier acting on behalf of Sheffield City Council. The shelter was removed to make way for the new swimming baths being built on the site. This equipment could have been unassembled then reassembled on another site in the area, but wasn't. Vandalism in High Green is not uncommon but Council sponsored vandalism is a step too far. I would like to know why this action was allowed to happen and would also like to see a percentage of the wasted money put back into the Ward in some capacity.
  - The shelter dates back to 2003 and not five years ago;
  - It had to be removed to allow for construction of the new pool. Unfortunately, rather than being bolted to the ground, it was set in concrete and had also deteriorated over the years. Despite best efforts it was damaged during recovery through no fault of the contractor;
  - Public consultation on Thorncliffe Recreation Ground a couple of years ago relating to the new pool, and further back as part of the original masterplan for the site, showed it as a sports and recreation site with Mortomley Park (across the road) offering complementary leisure and youth activities - including a youth shelter already in the park and only 100 metres from Thorncliffe;
  - Therefore given the age of the shelter - the cost of repair, refurbishment and reinstatement within the site was unjustifiable - especially given the close proximity of a shelter across the road. It would not have been a wise use of public money.

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Sioned Mair Richards (Acting Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods)

1. Associate Libraries need some certainty in their financial planning. Can you give some assurance of continuing Council funding for Associate Libraries over the next three years?

The three year funding agreement for Associate Libraries will be reviewed and recommendations presented to Cabinet in Autumn 2016.
2. Could you update me in terms of progress on the relocation of Tinsley library?

The Council is looking for an alternative base for the library as

well as surveying local library users to find out what they want. Temporary plans are likely to include a book drop off and collection point, extended hours at the closest branches and visits by the Little Library service for children – as is currently happening in Woodseats where the library has temporarily closed while a new building is constructed.

3. Can you guarantee Tinsley will continue to have library like all the other communities in Sheffield in the foreseeable future?

The plan is that the service will be taken over by local volunteers as has happened in 15 branches, where communities stepped in after Government cuts meant the Council could no longer afford to run all libraries. Volunteers have already expressed an interest in doing this in Tinsley and, once the new base is established, the Council will work with them to support more definite plans.

4. In light of Cobnar Cottage being sold off and Tinsley Green being developed, are there any other plans to dispose of or develop Sheffield's parklands?

No.

Questions of Councillor Rob Murphy to Councillor Sioned Mair Richards (Acting Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods)

1. The Police requested a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the Abbeydale Road area last year. Despite ongoing anti-social behaviour no PSPO has been granted. Can you give the reasons why no PSPO has been granted?

Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Police (SYP) have been working with the local community in Abbeydale to address issues of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in the community for the last few years. When the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act was passed in 2014, there were various new powers given to local authorities to help to tackle ASB one of which was a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

It was initially thought at the time that a PSPO may be appropriate for Abbeydale to be able to get youths to remove masks and to stop them congregating in large groups when likely to commit ASB and it was this

proposal that the local community were consulted on.

As this was a new power and the order had to be sought by the local authority, advice was sought from both the local authority and South Yorkshire Police solicitors. The advice was that there were already existing powers to address the issues for which a PSPO was being requested and therefore it was not appropriate to go for a PSPO on these grounds.

The application is now being considered along with a variety of other solutions by senior officers of the local authority and SYP to see if it might be appropriate to apply on other grounds.

2. When will a decision be made regarding the PSPO request?

Following the meeting on the 26th January, 2016 that involved elected members, senior officers from SYP, the local authority and local community, actions were discussed to address ongoing issues in Abbeydale and an action plan will be put together - this will also consider whether a PSPO might be appropriate.

3. Damaged lighting in Mount Pleasant Park has been identified as contributing to problems of anti-social behaviour in the area. When will these lights be repaired?

Lighting in Mount Pleasant Park has been recognised as an issue for the last couple of years which is contributing to ASB. The lighting has been repaired several times over the years and keeps being damaged, therefore a longer term solution is required. Discussions are taking place between senior managers in the Parks service, Highways and Amey for possible solutions.

Replacing the 6 metre posts with eight metre posts and lamp covers has been proposed as the best solution.

This solution would need to be funded from 16/17 budgets.

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

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| 1. How many responses did the Council receive to the consultation for the City-wide Options for Growth 2034? | 353 respondents (making 3,443 comments) |
| 2. When will a summary of the comments be made available?  | We will publish them in due course      |

Questions of Councillor Andrew Sangar to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

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| 1. How much did Sheffield City Council receive from the Government for local welfare provision in 2013/14 and again in 14/15? | It has not been possible to get the information in the timescales required, so I will write to you with the information. |
| 2. How much of this did Sheffield City Council spend on welfare provision in in 2013/14 and again in 14/15?                   | See above.   |

Questions of Councillor Sue Alston to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)

1. On September 3rd 2015 there was a gas leak on Oakbrook Road whilst 'streets ahead' work was being undertaken. The incident led to local residents being evacuated from their properties, some overnight. How many residents have made a claim for compensation e.g. to cover hotel costs, following this incident?

Amey have received seven claims for compensation in relation to this incident.
2. Of those who submitted a claim:-
  - (a) How many have been paid?

See above answer
  - (b) How many are outstanding?

See above answer
  - (c) When will any outstanding claims be paid?

The report from the HSE is due to be completed by the end of February, as confirmed at a meeting between the HSE and Amey on the 22nd January, 2016. If the report identifies Amey as the responsible organisation, we will process the claims as a high priority. The seven claims will be passed to National Grid if they are found responsible by the HSE.

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

1. Based on experience so far, and recent research on the topic, will the Administration consider a change to the colour temperature of LED street lights to be installed, on the grounds that a more yellow and less blue light will be less detrimental to sleep?

We are not aware of any reliable research regarding the colour of LEDs and are unclear what you mean by "experience" so far.
2. Do you consider the LED street lighting to be meeting the claims made of it, in terms of limiting spillage of light into people's homes?

We do and would note a relatively small number of comments about this compared to the tens of thousands of lights replaced so far.

3. In relation to the Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2015, what quantifiable impact on Sheffield's air quality has each of the seven listed actions achieved?

It is not possible to quantify the individual impact of each of the actions separately. Overall however, despite our efforts to date, air quality in Sheffield has not improved.

4. How does Sheffield now stand in terms of meeting targets for air quality, particularly for nitrogen dioxide and fine particulates?

Sheffield is still in breach of EU Air Quality Limit Values relating to Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) gas which should have been met by 1st January, 2010. A key contributor is road traffic, in particular diesel vehicles, where engine technology is not performing as expected in urban areas like Sheffield.

In terms of the standards set by the EU for fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) dust pollution, all our monitoring stations are indicating that we are in compliance, although there is no safe limit for this pollutant.

5. What lessons can be learned from the experience of Pickering in reducing flood risk through better management of water flow by leaky dams, tree planting, bunds and other sensitive methods and can these be applied to Sheffield?

We are aware of the method Pickering and other areas have used to manage floods and will be learning all possible lessons and applying those methods that can be used. It's likely that we will be able to improve on their ideas. We are contacting the Council to discuss what worked and what did not in the near future once their focus has moved from dealing with the recent flood events.

6. In reference to the upcoming Tree Panel –

(a) Will the meetings be open to the public?

The Panel will meet to discuss each street that has been referred to them and then their advice will be made public in the form of a report.

(b) Will and where will the meetings be advertised and will members of the public be able to ask questions?

The Panel will decide themselves when and where they will meet and these will not be public meetings. If the Panel feel they need further



- information about a road they will seek to obtain further information.
- (c) Will the minutes be published? If not, why not? The Panel's advice and reports will be made public via the Council's website.
- (d) How many of the panel have an arboriculture qualification? There is one Panel member who has arboricultural qualifications. Each of the Panel members' biographies are available via [www.sheffield.gov.uk/treepanel](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/treepanel)
- (e) Will the panel visit the streets in question? The Panel will seek whatever information they deem they need to obtain to allow them to offer informed advice to the Council.
7. On a number of streets, tree felling has resumed. When and where and by whom was it decided to resume tree felling? Those streets that did not meet the 50% threshold to be referred to the Independent Tree Panel have been handed back to Amey for them to continue the replacement programme.
8. On the streets surveyed on trees for referral to the Tree Panel, what has the rate of response been? All the details of the results of the Panel and results per street is available online via [www.sheffield.gov.uk/treepanel](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/treepanel)
9. Across all streets, what percentage of responses were in favour of referral and what percentage against? See above answer
10. Can you supply me with a street by street breakdown of this? See above answer
11. Has there been any progress on developing a City-Wide tree strategy? Progress has been made on this and it is proposed that a consultation event is due to be held in the coming weeks.
12. How many consultations have been affected by problems such as URLs in letters not working? None

Questions of Councillor Rob Frost to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)

1. How much did it cost to paint the off-centre Sandygate Road markings? To paint the centre line did not cost anything because this was

incorporated into the Streets Ahead core works.

2. How much will it cost to remove the markings and repaint them in the middle of the road?
3. In the event of a highways issue – such as the fly-tipping of waste on a road in which it is causing a hazard – does the Council have an out-of-hours contact service, and will it confirm that it is their responsibility to deal with the incident? I know of a constituent who had cause to report such an incident to Streets Ahead, only to be asked to contact the police. The police then referred the call back to the Council.

This will cost £6233.10.

Streets Ahead has a 24hour contact service using the normal contact number of 0114 2734567. Material deposited on the highway will then be removed by an Amey incident support unit.

Questions of Councillor Brian Webster to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)

1. To what extent will meetings/hearings of the recently established Tree Panel be accessible to the public, e.g. via attending, asking questions, making representations, or the publication of detailed minutes?
2. Did the Chair of the Tree Panel, Andy Buck, have complete freedom in deciding upon the composition of the Panel, or was he given any guidance from the Council as to what the composition of the Panel should be?
3. Has any money been set aside at present for the implementation of the recommendations of the Tree Panel for individual roads or trees?

The Panel will meet to discuss each street that has been referred to them and then their advice will be made public in the form of a report. The panel will decide themselves when and where they will meet and these will not be public meetings. If the Panel feel they need further information about a road they will seek to obtain further information from whatever source.

Agreement of the composition of the Panel was a mutual decision between the Chair and the Council.

There is no specific funding set aside for any works outside of the Streets Ahead contract. The contract was tendered on the basis of the original scope of the project. Any solutions proposed would have to be examined in more detail to see if they were affordable.

Question of Councillor Vickie Priestley to Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport)

1. What effort did Sheffield City Council make to apply for the Go Ultra Low City Scheme, a £40 million pot of funding from Central Government to promote low emission driving?

Along with many other UK regions and cities, Sheffield submitted an outline bid to the Government's Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) in early 2015 for a share of the Go Ultra Low Emission Scheme funding, to be divided across four cities/regions. Out of 60 applications, Sheffield made it through to the final 12, and in June 2015, these cities were then invited to submit their full bids to OLEV by early October. Sheffield City Council put forward two officers to work on the bid and progress was monitored on the bid development by the Competitive City Programme Board. The full and final 96 page bid was approved by the Deputy Leader of the Council and Senior Management within the Place Directorate.

In late January 2016, the Go Ultra Low Emission Scheme funding award was announced by OLEV with the major funding going to London, Bristol, Milton Keynes and Nottingham.

We are currently awaiting feedback from OLEV on why we were not successful with the bid and what lesson can be learned to better inform similar work in the future.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Public Health)

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| 1. Does the Council support Shirecliffe Community centre in any way?  | Shirecliffe Community Forum (SCF) have managed the Community Centre for many years under a lease arrangement.   |
| 2. If so, how does the Council support Shirecliffe Community Centre, financial or by any other means?             | When the Children's Centre was added Sheffield City Council (SCC) and SCF negotiated and agreed that SCF undertook facilities management of the Children's Centre and costs are recharged to SCC for the facilities management service. |
| 3. Is the Council confident that Shirecliffe Community Centre has competent policies in terms of data protection? | SCC Facilities Management team would not be responsible for SCF's data protection policies.   |