

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 5TH APRIL, 2017

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. Why did you not attend the budget setting meeting of the Sheffield City Region on 22nd March? | I was on leave. |
| 2. Why did you not send anyone else to represent Sheffield City Council at this important meeting? | Leigh Bramall was designated as my 'substitute' however he had stood down the previous day. |
| 3. In terms of Sheffield City Region - | |
| (a) How much was spent on the original consultation for Chesterfield to join the City Region? | These are questions directly about Sheffield City Region and its finances. You should direct these questions to the City Region directly, which you are able to do as a Member of Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee. |
| (b) How much was spent on the legal fees as a result of the inadequate consultation in Chesterfield? | See above |
| (c) How much has been budgeted for the new consultation to take place in Chesterfield? | See above |
| (d) Will there be any effort made to recover some of these costs due to the inadequate consultation? | See above |
| (e) What percentage of these costs can be attributed to Sheffield City Council? | The costs were met in full by Sheffield City Region not Sheffield City Council. |

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Who is now the Cabinet Member responsible for heritage buildings?

This remains in the Business and Economy portfolio, please direct any questions to me until a new Cabinet Member is appointed.

Questions of Councillor Paul Scriven to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

1. Does the Council, on any service, use technology to capture or record facial images? If so, which services and how?

Our CCTV (public space surveillance) service does capture personal images. The norm is to use a wide pan image. However, we do zoom in and capture facial images in cases of crime, anti-social behaviour or public safety.

The images are stored for 14 days unless requested by South Yorkshire Police. They are stored on secure hard drives.

We fully comply with the CCTV Code Of Practice and Data Protection legislation including regular compliance audits.

All areas covered by CCTV in the city have signs to notify people of CCTV.

In First Point, the CCTV images in Howden House are destroyed/overwritten after 30 days. Blue Badge applications contain an image of the applicant. The photographs are either digitally uploaded, in which case they are destroyed as the pass is issued, or if a customer submits a paper photograph, this is archived with the application and destroyed after three years.

Communications take photographs for publicity – individuals are required to complete a permission slip before any photographs are taken (this also applies if we use an external photographer). These are stored on

the SCC servers. Our Policy is not to use images after 2 years. Any images taken by a contract photographer on our behalf will be our property and the same applies.

2. Are the facial images stored? If so, how and how long for? See above.

Question of Councillor Adam Hanrahan to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Is the Leader of the Council pleased that the Labour Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire has announced that there will be no more arresting of peaceful protestors under trade union legislation?

We fully support the right of campaigners to peacefully protest, however, peaceful protests do not disrupt work that is carried out legally or put the safety of the workforce who are doing their job, or the public, at risk. We believe that the police have a responsibility to ensure that we are allowed to carry out the work. It is a matter for the police to decide how they do this.

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Are you able to view full, unredacted copies of the following contracts/deals under the criteria of 'need to know' set out by the Monitoring Officer:

Veolia - waste management

Amey – Streetsahead

Chinese investment deal

This question was answered at the February Council Meeting. The Monitoring Officer sent a more detailed explanation of this answer to all Councillors after the meeting which clearly sets out the position, this position is the same as when you were a Cabinet Member until May, 2011, therefore you will be fully aware of the procedure.

Question of Councillor Cliff Woodcraft to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)

In the recently published draft Sheffield Trees and Woodlands Strategy 2016-2030, provision is explicitly stated for cycling, walking, horse riding, and dog walking. However no mention is made of the provision of facilities for those with mobility or visual impairment. Do you think that the provision of facilities for those with mobility or visual impairment should be explicitly stated, so that they do not get overlooked?

In our efforts to be inclusive, we were trying to indicate that we welcome everyone within the constraints and physical limitations of each particular woodland site and perhaps this didn't come across as strongly as it could have. Where resources are available, we will continue to improve access to our sites for those people with mobility or visual impairment. We will be working with the Local Access Forum to ensure that the Rights of Way Improvement Plan identifies suitable routes throughout the city. We are happy to explicitly state this in the final document and have discussed the matter with Sheffield's Access Liaison Group. The Group would like to see an inventory of sites that offer suitable routes for those people with mobility problems.

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

1. In view of the announcements of new cricket T20 professional competitions based on cities, in addition to the traditional county teams, Sheffield must move fast if it is to be considered. Will you make sure that the Council will provide any assistance it can to promote Sheffield?

We will be discussing this with the English Cricket Board and looking at the options with them for Sheffield.

2. Has there been any feedback on the Hull experience so far of UK City of Culture?

I believe that Hull, City of Culture, is proving effective at raising the profile and reputation of their city

3. Can you share with me any information on how the Arts Council funding granted to the Sheffield Culture Consortium will be distributed?

All Arts Council funding is granted for specific projects. The most recent Arts Council funding gained by the Sheffield Culture Consortium is to promote Sheffield further as a Cultural Destination over the next two

years. It will extend the “Our Favourite Places” culture guide website; fund three significant new events for visitors and locals based on Sheffield’s strengths in electronic music, urban art and modernism; and use a variety of traditional and new media to publicise and market Sheffield, to bring new visitors and increase economic impact.

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)

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Questions of Councillor Paul Scriven to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment) to be answered by Councillor Julie Dore (Leader of the Council)

At the Budget Council meeting you stated that the protests against the felling of trees was costing tax payers millions of pounds. Could you please state:

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|---|--|
| (1) How much in each of the last 2 financial years this has cost, broken down by each year? | The estimated cost of delayed CIP works is £5m based on c. 200,000 m ² of carriageway and footways which have been delayed. |
| (2) Which budget lines these amounts came from with evidence of the transactions for the costs above? | This is part of the Streets Ahead Contract and pressures are added to the cost of the contract. |
| (3) Where in the accounts these variances have been formally reported? | See above |
| (4) Where on the risk register this has been highlighted? | This risk is shown on the Corporate risk register under risk PLACE378 |

Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment) to be answered by Councillor Julie Dore (Leader of the Council)

Following the known issues on Knowle Lane, Greystones Road and Chichester Road with regards to potholes appearing shortly after being resurfaced, can you please:

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|--|---|
| (1) provide a list of all roads that have required repair since resurfacing; | There are a small number of roads where remedial works have been necessary, the main reason for this is a problem with the underlying layers beneath the road surface.

The extent of work in most cases is small but repairs will be carried out as required under the contract. There is no additional cost to the Council for remedial works to roads that have been resurfaced. |
| (2) explain why this has happened? | The main reason for this small number of failures is a problem with |

the underlying layers beneath the road surface. During the resurfacing works the condition of the underlying layers cannot always be fully established and some failures of previously backfilled utility trenches or pockets of weak material (e.g. clay) can be present.

- (3) what plan of action has the Council taken since being made aware of this to ensure this doesn't happen again in the future?

Over 600 miles of road have now been resurfaced. The issues identified are a very small proportion of this and well within industry tolerances for works of this nature. The condition of all roads are monitored on an ongoing basis and defects repaired. Monitoring takes place on all roads and will continue to assess condition and identify any defects.

Streets Ahead work to industry recognised practices to minimise faulty batches of surfacing material. As stated above, when remedial works are required they are carried out with no additional cost to the Council.

Questions of Councillor Adam Hanrahan to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment) to be answered by Councillor Julie Dore (Leader of the Council)

1. What actions have (a) you, (b) Sheffield City Council and (c) Amey, undertaken with regard to the memorial trees on Western Road since the petition regarding the matter came to Full Council in January?
2. Will you agree to share with me when it's made available to you, the report from Amey produced following the works undertaken by Amey on Western Road examining the roots and reassessing the trees earmarked for felling?
3. On 7th March you said the charity Trees for Cities had been influenced by false information provided by tree

We made a number of commitments at the January Council and we are acting on all of these commitments as you are aware.

We will share the report in line with the Councils commitment to publish reports in a timely fashion.

The Trees for Cities statement failed to recognise that we are replacing trees and will have more trees across

- campaigners. What information were you referring to?
- the city as a result of the Streets Ahead project. The statement also suggested that trees should only be removed when engineering solutions have been considered. We have made it clear that this is the case and is Council policy. We are not removing trees for economic gain as was suggested in the statement.
4. Are you made aware of the ITP reports before they are published on the Council website? If so, how long before, on average, are you made aware of the details contained within the report?
I do not see ITP letters/reports in advance of publication on the Council's website.
 5. When are ITP reports made available to you in full, so you can read them, on average before their general publication on the Council website?
I do not see ITP letters/reports in advance of publication on the Council's website.
 6. In response to a public question at the last full Council meeting, you said that Clause 19.2.1 was not applicable to the current situation the Council finds itself in as it is superseded by a different clause within the contract which does make the Council financially accountable to Amey due to protest induced delays. Can you inform me as to which clause you were referring to.
I was briefed by officers who advised me of the position.
 7. With regard to the previous question, did you seek legal advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or legal department to ensure you provided accurate information to the public?
See above. Rights of access to legal advice are determined by the Monitoring Officer
 8. If you did seek legal advice, can you provide that advice to me.
See above
 9. If you did not, can you explain how you came to the conclusion that you did in your response to the public question.
See above
 10. Can you confirm that all the flagstones removed during the recent excavation works on Western Road to examine tree roots, will be replaced with the original stones or like-for-like
The original flagstones are currently in storage.

Should the trees in question be retained, it will not be possible to re-

replacements that are the same type and specification?

bed the flagstones around the trees due to the height of the roots within the footway, so an alternative surfacing material would be required.

Any unused flagstones will be returned to Western Road and reused where practicable.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment) to be answered by Councillor Julie Dore (Leader of the Council)

1. In the context of the Streets Ahead scheme, how many contracts is SCC a party to, where the other parties include (1) the Department for Transport or other Government body, (2) banks, (3) Amey companies other than Amey Hallam Highways Ltd, (4) any other organisations?

As per the email you received on 29th March. The Council is in contract with Amey Hallam Highways Ltd who employs a number of sub-contractors to provide services under the Sheffield Highway Maintenance PFI Contract.

The Council receives a PFI grant from the DfT which is subject to funding conditions.

The Council contracts with The Mansfield Group for the removal of illegally parked cars.

The Council contracts with an Arboricultural Consultant who gives additional independent advice to the Council.

2. Please provide a list of contracts relating to Streets Ahead, where one party is Sheffield City Council, and, for each contract, provide the date the agreement was executed, the identity of the parties and the name of the person signing the contract on behalf of the Council.

Sheffield Highway Maintenance PFI Contract. Executed 31 July 2012. Signed by a Council solicitor under delegated authority from the Director of Legal Services.

DfT Grant Approval Letter received 30 July 2012 signed by the DfT Head of Local Transport Funding, Growth and Delivery.

Illegally Parked Vehicles with The Mansfield Group entered into contract 13 May 2013 signed by Director of Commercial Services.

Arboricultural Consultant entered into contract 10 February 2016 signed by Assistant Director of Commercial Services.

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Environment) to be answered by Councillor Julie Dore (Leader of the Council)

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

1. Following the budget Council meeting, the Government announced in the Spring Budget, there will be an extra £12.5m of funding for social care in Sheffield. Will the Council now reconsider the decision on Hurlfield View in the light of this?

The additional allocation announced in the Spring budget is welcome, but is nowhere near enough to cover the growing gap in social care funding – estimated at £18.2m in 2017/18.

In addition, every single person affected by the closure of Hurlfield View now has other good quality arrangements in place. All of the replacement services have been rated as ‘Good’ by the Care Quality Commission – the same as Hurlfield View.

2. Following the comments by a senior officer at last month’s Cabinet meeting, that it is not yet known who will receive the extra £12.5m of funding for adult social care announced in the spring budget, or what conditions will be attached to how it can be spent, can you please provide an update on this?

The additional funding is non-recurrent. It needs to be included within our Better Care Fund Plan and be used to demonstrably reduce pressures on NHS secondary care and improve the stability and sustainability of social care

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to Councillor Cate McDonald (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

What steps have been taken to deploy the funding of approximately £12.5 million due to Sheffield City Council for social care as announced in the Chancellor’s Spring Budget?

It will be included within our Better Care Fund Plan. Options are currently under consideration.

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Cate McDonald (Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)

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

1. "We are changing how we deliver library services" notices displayed in each Sheffield Library since 2014 state that Data Processing Agreements between the Council and voluntary groups delivering library services "will be available on the Sheffield City Council Library Internet pages". When and where will it be put on the Council website?

You should know that the Council's website is being substantially updated. The poster provided an address, and a contact email address should anyone wish to request copies of the agreements.

2. Is an opt-out provided for library users who only wish to have their data accessed by professional library staff and not library volunteers?

You are already aware that this is not possible as all libraries in Sheffield are using the same Library Management System to allow returning and reserving of books at all libraries. Users can ask to have their details removed from the library management system, but this then limits the library services they could access.

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Community Services and Libraries)

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Questions of Councillor Paul Scriven to the Cabinet Member for Business and Economy

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|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1. In the last six months, what meetings have been held with people or companies over the Chinese deal with Sichuan Goudong Construction Co.? | 12
October | UK
Managing
Director,
Project
Manager,
Development
Manager | Economic
Programme
Manager,
Regeneration
Officer |
| | 29 & 31
October
16 | Chairman,
Lawyer | Economic
Programme
Manager |
| | 16
December
16 | UK
Managing
Director | Director of
Creative
Sheffield,
Deputy
Leader &
Economic
Programme
Manager |
| | 14 & 15
March 17 | Chairman,
Lawyer, UK
Managing
Director,
Financial
Officer,
General
Manager | Director of
Creative
Sheffield,
Deputy
Leader &
Economic
Programme
Manager |
2. Who have these meetings been with and when? Please provide dates.
- See above
3. At each of these meetings - who representing Sheffield City Council was present?
- See above

Question of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Cabinet Member for Business and Economy

What powers is the Council using to bring the Old Town Hall on Waingate back into use?

I will write to you with an answer to this question

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to the Cabinet Member for Business and Economy

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

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

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|---|--|
| 1. Can you tell me why young people with learning disabilities are waiting up to four years for their personal budgets? | I would not expect young people to wait four years for their personal budgets. If you know of a specific case where you believe this has happened, please contact me with the details and I will investigate it. |
| 2. Will the Council pay the monies owed to these young people in back pay? | See answer above |

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

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| 1. Will the Council join with unions representing Teaching Assistants, Teachers, Head Teachers, FE College Teachers and also parents, and invite cross party support from all Councillors to publish a joint press release and a letter to Education Minister, the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening MP, stating our collective opposition to public education funding cuts and to halt and reverse the Academisation process, as requested by the local NUT representatives at a public meeting on 27 March 2017? | Yes, I hope you and all parties will be able to support the motion we have put forward today. |
| 2. What will the cost of decontamination of the proposed Bannerdale school site be? | There is an estimated allowance of 6% within the pre-tender cost plan for remediation, which is in line with what we would anticipate for a quality development of this size and site. Once a contractor has been appointed, and has an approved remediation strategy, the actual costs will be known. It is anticipated that this amount will reduce. |

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Jackie Drayton (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families)

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all Councillors after the meeting which clearly sets out the position, this position is the same as when you were a Cabinet Member until May, 2011, therefore you will be fully aware of the procedure

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

1. What is the current situation regarding an application for a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the Abbeydale area?

The Council was asked to consider the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order for Abbeydale over the period of Dark Nights in October/November 2016.

Having considered the evidential basis for pursuing such an order, the view was taken that there were sufficient existing powers to deal with the issues occurring at the time, supported by a multi-agency action plan.

This approach led to a 23% reduction in anti-social behaviour (-26 incidents) in the area over the period. Furthermore, there was a 60% reduction in firework related ASB (-21 incidents). There were no incidents recorded in either category on 5th November.

2. Given the seasonal changes in temperature and daylight hours, coupled with the reduction in police personnel available, are you in the process of seeking a PSPO?

Given the success of the approach in 2016, we are not, at present, considering a PSPO for the area, but are currently working with partners to introduce a fresh action plan for the area.

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Housing)

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Questions of Councillor Joe Otten to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

As I have not received an answer to my questions asked at the February meeting of Full Council, despite me chasing the answers, can you now please provide an answer to the following;

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| (1) Under exactly what legal powers were vehicles towed on Rustlings Road on 17th November, 2016? | The legislation that was used by the Police came under Regulation 4 of the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1986 on the basis of Regulation 3(1)(a). |
| (2) the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) relating to Rustlings Road provided in response to a question from Councillor Ian Auckland at December's Council meeting contains a condition that: "The restriction specified will only have effect at such times and to such extent as indicated by the display of notices." Can you explain why any actions taken under this TTRO were legal when such notices were deliberately not displayed? | The notices were not required as the Police used their powers to remove vehicles. |

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

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|--|--|
| 1. How much money from Sheffield City Council has been spent on the Green Commission project so far? | £8,486. |
| 2. Are you satisfied with the performance of Parking Services? | The men and women in Parking Services do a difficult job that few envy. They enforce parking restrictions put in place to ensure transport in our city is as efficient and effective as possible.

They support our communities by patrolling schools each morning and afternoon, working with local police, head teachers and school crossing |

patrols to make it a safe environment.

They help keep our bus services running to time by monitoring the bus lane on key arterial routes.

They help ensure that people with disabilities can park where they need to without battling with fraudulent blue badge users by cracking down on those fraudsters.

They ensure businesses in our city centre economy can be sure of a turnover of vehicles so that people can get to the shops, restaurants and business meetings.

The service is continuing to change and develop for the better. In February we launched a new appeals website that supported customers appealing Parking and Bus fines. It now supports them to gather the right evidence in advance of an appeal, and for appeals that are unlikely to be successful it gives the policy behind that, so the customer can make an informed decision to appeal or not.

Last month we launched paperless parking permits to respond to complaints over the length of time it took to process paper permits. Now customers are in charge of their own account online and can change vehicle details for free rather than by £20 for the privilege. No one is digitally excluded as customer services support people who don't have access to a PC to do it over the phone or in person.

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

1. Can you provide information about the agreement Sheffield City Council has with the Road Haulage Association and clarify how it is enforced?

There is no agreement with any haulage association (Road Haulage or Freight Transport).

2. Please explain how you will assess priorities for dealing with HGV hotspots?

Since we only have a limited budget for 2017/18, to prioritise the hotspots we would have to undertake a desktop exercise and select a few from the wider list for investigation. This investigation would need to:

- quantify and understand the problem (require surveys);
- determine what level of expenditure could be justified to deal with it; and
- determine whether a solution could be developed within budget.

This is costly and each scheme would then be prioritised for value for money taking into account cost, deliverability, expected degree of compliance, absolute and percentage numbers of vehicles over 7.5t, air quality levels, accidents involving HGVs (currently very low across the whole of Sheffield).

Unfortunately, funding is very constrained and with potential changes to the way Local Authorities receive funding for Transport projects, the issue is a little less clear after 2017/18. Any proposal would have to be considered on its merits against other highway/ traffic schemes.

3. Please clarify whether Psalter Lane will be considered for speed restrictions?

Psalter Lane is within an area that has been identified as a potential future 20mph speed limit area, however it is not yet in the programme for implementation. Therefore there are no immediate plans to implement a scheme here.

If we were implementing a 20mph area then Psalter Lane would be assessed at that time (by carrying out speed surveys) to see if it was suitable for a 20mph speed limit as it

is a classified 'c' road. The Council's policy is that classified roads be primarily assessed using speed survey data when we are looking at introducing a 20mph limit in a certain area.

Residential roads on which average speeds are 24mph or below will automatically be considered suitable. Any roads with average speeds of between 24mph and 27mph (which is above the current DfT guidelines) will be considered for a 20mph speed limit on a case by case basis using current DfT guidelines. Average speeds of 27mph and over, will only be considered if capital funding can be identified for the appropriate traffic calming measures that would be needed to reduce vehicle speeds. It should be noted that funding for such works is extremely limited due to continued reductions in the funding allocated by central government for highway works.

4. What pedestrian safety measures have been requested and are being considered on Psalter Lane?

Any requests that have been received are plotted and available on the City Council web page:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/roads/works/schemes/transport-service-requests/scheme-request-map.html>

These include pedestrian requests as well as traffic calming and management schemes.

Scheme requests have been processed as follows:

- Every year, 18 months ahead of the anticipated date that zones are due to receive Streets Ahead Core Investment maintenance, all requests are assessed and scored using the Council's approved set of questions.
- The assessment process considers accidents, speed of traffic, number of pedestrians and cyclists, access to schools and local amenities as well as public transport.

- The requests are then sifted further using officers' knowledge of the requests and local conditions and the feasibility of building the request.
- Schemes are selected on their priority assessment score and deliverability in alignment with Streets Ahead works.
- Once an initial number of feasible and deliverable schemes has been shortlisted, all Ward Councillors for the relevant zones are contacted and invited to discuss local priorities and issues with officers, talking through the content of the requests list and the basis for the sifting.

A pedestrian island has been built on Psalter Lane near the roundabout at Sharrow Head (at The Stag). This provides pedestrians with an opportunity to cross the road in two sections.

5. What is the update on the cut through walk way in Broomhall (Broomspring Lane)?

Whilst we recognise there may be a desire line for residents to cut through from Broomspring Lane to Wilkinson Street, it has been established that there is no public right of way through 156 Broomspring Lane and 85 Wilkinson Street, as advised on notices erected by the University. In the absence of the route being a public right of way, there was no reasonable planning requirement on the basis of which the local planning authority could require a public access through the site as part of the grant of planning permission for the conversion of 85 Wilkinson Street to residential use.

We welcome the goodwill shown in offering up a strip of land to allow public access. However, unless the path became an adopted public right of way and incorporated into the Council's highways maintenance contract, the Council would not be

willing to take on the upkeep of a permissive footpath as is proposed.

Clearly it remains an option to keep open and maintain the footpath on a permissive basis. This would give the landowners the right to close the footpath at night to offer security to neighbouring occupiers and reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour.

A rough estimate to create an adopted footpath route which gives the path highway status and means we would accrue it into the Streets Ahead contract is given below:

General repairs to bring the route up to standard including installation of studs to delineate the route and work to the ramp to make it safe for pedestrians will be around £7,000. Installation of street lighting to highways standards will be around £13,000 and there would be a commuted sum to Streets Ahead of £5,000. So in total the cost would be in the order of **£25,000**.

A further concern is that there are two gates that appear to be locked outside working hours. These would need to be unlocked or amended to ensure the footpath route was a minimum of 2m width along its entire length and accessible 24 hours a day.

In addition the owners of the land need to be made aware that once this is created as a public highway we will not be able to legally close the route for any reason other than it being no longer required for public use or a development is approved that builds over it. Nuisance or anti-social behaviour is not a valid reason to close the path.

It is recommended that if this is to continue as a pedestrian route, it is as a permissive route not accrued to Streets Ahead with all the restrictions that highway status brings. It is realised the land owners do not want to pay for maintenance but if another part of the Council were to pay for maintenance they would need a robust and recorded inspection regime to mitigate against any claims for accidents on the path.

Currently there is no budget to pay for the works considered to be necessary. I am not aware of any funding that could be used to support the maintenance of an unadopted footpath from S106 funds.

Question of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Transport)

Are you able to view full, unredacted copies of the following contracts/deals under the criteria of 'need to know' set out by the Monitoring Officer:

Veolia - waste management

Amey – Streetsahead

Chinese investment deal

This question was answered at the February Council Meeting. The Monitoring Officer sent a more detailed explanation of this answer to all Councillors after the meeting which clearly sets out the position, this position is the same as when you were a Cabinet Member until May, 2011, therefore you will be fully aware of the procedure.

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