

Agenda Item 5

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 13 JUNE 2012

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. When will the Council Chief Executive's review of senior management be published? | When it is complete. |
| 2. Will you offer an amnesty on open bin lids and extra rubbish bags when the Council moves to fortnightly black bin collections as reported in the local media in January 2012? | We'll take all appropriate measures to ensure that Alternate Weekly Collections are implemented as smoothly as possible and we will ensure that Veolia's representatives are as helpful as possible whilst at the same time encouraging householders to properly dispose of their rubbish.

However, the policies for closed bin lids and all waste to be contained within the black bin for collection are unchanged and were clearly stated in the Cabinet report approved on 15 th February. |
| 3. Do you agree with your Cabinet Member for Waste that there was no alternative to cutting opening hours at household waste recycling centres? | Yes |
| 4. Do you support your Cabinet Member for Waste's plan to tackle litter in Sheffield's parks? | Yes |
| 5. Will you apologise to users and staff of three Sheffield Children's Centres who found out their centres were threatened with closure on the front page of The Star? | As I've repeatedly said before I can't control what the local press choose to print |

Question of Councillor Diana Stimely to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

We have in Sheffield one of the brightest stars that will be performing in the 2012 Olympics in Jessica Ennis. Will you come and join me on the Town Hall steps on Friday 27th July to ring out bells to show our support for, not only Jessica, but all the athletes taking part?

I'm away on leave on the 27th July but will of course be supporting our athletes in the Olympics.

Question of Councillor Roger Davison to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

At what points in the last twenty years have all Scrutiny Board Chairs represented the same group as the Administration?

Scrutiny Boards have not been in existence for 20 years

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

1. Will you provide a guarantee to residents across Sheffield that service reductions will not be a part of any proposed Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement?

The Council does not directly control bus routes and therefore is not in a position to give guarantees on bus routes. We believe the Bus Partnership Agreement will ultimately benefit the vast majority of passengers and support consultation to hear people's views.
2. Do Quality Contracts still remain your Administration's long term aspiration for Sheffield?

Our aspiration is to deliver the best bus service possible, be that by a Quality Contract or Bus Partnership Agreement and we support the twin track approach to these two options approved by Integrated Transport Authority members, including yourself.
3. What progress have you made on delivery and expansion of Traffic Regulation Orders outside more schools in Sheffield?

The Council is actively looking for opportunities to include improvements to reducing the risk of accidents outside schools through its annual capital programme.

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

What plans have been made to preserve the remains of Sheffield Castle, which lie beneath Castle Market, should the market be demolished?

South Yorkshire Archaeological Service, the Council's Archaeological Advisors, are advising on appropriate methods of demolition for the Castle Market, to ensure that any work undertaken leaves the archaeology of the site undisturbed. In the longer term, further investigation is planned but can only be undertaken once the market hall is vacated.

Once this happens, archaeological investigation can be undertaken. The information gained from this evaluation phase will be crucial in informing the way forward for development of the site and developing a strategy which will ensure that the Castle remains are fully protected, preserved and enhanced.

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

1. What plans do your Administration have to maximise opportunities for Sheffield resulting from the 2012 London Olympics?
 - Sheffield's adult (16 years and over) participation rate in sport and active recreation has increased ever since 2006 - against a static national picture since 2008. Figures show 23% of adults regularly taking part at least 3 x week. Five years ago our figure was 19%. One of highest rates of increase of any City
 - £10M capital investment secured for the City as part of the 2012 Legacy programme (in partnership with Universities, Sheffield City Trust, Chamber of Commerce and NHS)
 - 61 national and international events and training camps
 - 46,192 additional people visiting the City (as a result of the above)
 - £18.9M - additional economic benefit (based on Local Authority Business Growth Initiatives investment of £1M)
 - Over 70 potential Team GB athletes competing at the games
 - At least 10 Sheffield businesses have won direct contracts to supply the Olympics Delivery Authority who are building the Olympic park e.g. Arnold Laver & Pitchmaster PMB
 - Sheffield has held 43 performances connected to the Cultural Olympiad, with at least another 10 to come
 - 11 'Games Inspire' projects have been commissioned in Sheffield e.g. Care Home Olympics

Next step – working up sport and active recreation strategy for post-Games period.

2. What is the projected income in 2011/12 from parking charges in Millhouses Park? £0

3. What is the gross cost in 2011/12 of introducing charging for parking in Millhouses Park? £0
4. What is the projected income in 2011/12 from parking charges in Graves Park? £0
5. What is the gross cost in 2011/12 of introducing charging for parking in Graves Park? £0

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

1. Will you apologise to users and staff of three Sheffield Children's Centres who found out their centres were threatened with closure on the front page of The Star?

I'm sorry if any upset was caused to staff, children and families by the front page of the Star.

The information in the Star was not taken from any discussions held regarding the future of children centre services or future plans.

Although it was made clear to the Star their information was incorrect and they were professional enough to print the quote from me which explained the truth of the situation, unfortunately we have very little control over what the Star decide to print as their Front page headline.

It is no secret that the amount of funding available to Early Years provision has been cut significantly in recent years by this Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition Government.

In March we announced the findings of the first stage of our early years services review. Work is now ongoing to reshape our services to best reflect what parents and carers said was important to them and their children.

The needs of young children and their parents and carers remain our priority. We want them to have access to quality provision, in the right place and at the right time. We are working to make sure young children and their families receive high quality care so they are ready for school when the time comes.

I would like to stress that no decisions have been made yet. The review was an open and transparent process involving everyone concerned about services for young children and families. Their views were vital, so we will continue to work with them to develop future provision,

sharing our proposals with them as soon as we can.

All the 3 centres were contacted by Officers and reassurances given that the information in the Star was incorrect as no decisions have been made at this time. Managers were asked to make sure that both staff and parents were given the same message. I have also written to each centre Manager to explain the wider position and asked them to inform parents and staff that any proposals will be brought forward for discussion.

2. What is the cost to the Council of each of Sheffield's Children's Centres?

The Council spends £9.9 million on children's centre activity in Sheffield. This includes numerous centres including phase 1, 2 and 3 Sure Start Centres, Young Children's Centres, Maintained Nurseries. I will ensure a more detailed breakdown is provided to you.

3. What percentage of each of these costs can be attributed to management costs?

I will include this information in the breakdown referred to in question 2.

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

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| 1. Regarding the £1,400,000 allocated to Sheffield in 2012/13 through the New Homes Bonus, what plans are there to spend this fund? | There are various projects funded by the New Homes Bonus including Place making services, gaining housing market intelligence, infrastructure delivery plan, bringing stuck sites back into use, successful centres, bringing Long Term Empties back into use. |
| 2. Regarding the £1,900,000 allocated to the Local Growth Fund in 2011/12, how much of the fund was spent within the 2011/12 financial year? | £279,000 was allocated to various projects in 2011/12 |
| 3. How many empty homes have been brought back into use by the Council since May 2011? | 137 properties have been brought in to use following at least two contacts with the Council. |

Questions of Councillor Alison Brelsford to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion) to be answered by Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods)

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| 7. What is the total number of cases that have passed through the Community Justice Panels set up by the previous Administration? | 444 cases have been dealt by the Community Justice Team since inception. |
| 8. How many cases have passed through the Community Justice Panels setup by the previous Administration since May 2011? | 133 cases have been dealt with since May 2011. |

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

1. When will the findings of the Community Assembly review be available? When it is completed.

2. What steps has your Administration taken to ensure residents of Stocksbridge continue to receive advice services following your Administration's decision to cease funding to Stocksbridge Advice Centre? Stocksbridge Advice Centre has been successful in securing funding from the Lottery and will be continuing to deliver a service in the Stocksbridge area for the timebeing. We will monitor this carefully and if this situation changes we will identify another provider to cover the Stocksbridge area.

3. What steps has your Administration taken to ensure residents of Darnall continue to receive advice services following your administration's decision to cease funding to Darnall and District Advice Service? Darnall and District Advice Service has been successful in securing funding from the Lottery and will be continuing to deliver a service in the Darnall area for the timebeing. We will monitor this carefully and if this situation changes we will identify another provider to cover the Darnall area.

4. What steps has your Administration taken to ensure residents of Chapelgreen continue to receive advice services following your Administration's decision to cease funding to Chapelgreen Advice Service? Face to face outreach services to people living in the Chapeltown and High Green areas of the City will be provided in future by the Foxhill and Parson Cross Advice Service who will be recommended for funding from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund.

5. What steps has your Administration taken to ensure residents of Manor continue to receive advice services following your Administration's decision to cease funding to Manor Rights and Advice Centre? Face to face outreach services to people living in the Manor area of the City will be provided in future by the Sheaf Citizens Advice Bureau who will be recommended for funding from the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund.

6. Has your Administration decided to cease funding for any further advice centres? No, all the other advice services met the standard benchmark assessment for the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund and will be recommended for funding.

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| 7. What is the total number of cases that have passed through the Community Justice Panels set up by the previous Administration? | To be answered by Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods) |
| 8. How many cases have passed through the Community Justice Panels setup by the previous Administration since May 2011? | To be answered by Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods) |

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

1. What progress has been made in locating a site for the proposed 120-bed intermediate care unit since the meeting of Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 30th April 2012?

Following the Cabinet decision on 23rd May, which accepted the recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee, officers have commenced discussions with NHS colleagues, although the initial emphasis has rightly been on the immediate actions to be taken by the NHS and the Council in relation to the ensuring people continue to have access to intermediate care services during the decommissioning of the two Resource Centres.
2. What steps have been taken by your Administration to ensure the skills and expertise of the staff at Sevenfields and Hazelhurst are retained?

Negotiations are on-going with the trade unions in relation to the options that will be available to our staff and in line with our agreed Human Resources policies and procedures.
3. Will your Administration follow the recommendation of the Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee to ensure a model of a social enterprise is explored as an option in the earliest stages of any future proposals involving the decommissioning of services?

Whenever it is appropriate to do so, we will explore the idea of a model of a social enterprise as one of a number of options for evaluation when considering proposals to decommission services.

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

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| 1. When will the Council publish its review of trade union facility time? | The Trade Unions Facilities Time Review is to be completed by the end of July | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Please list all communication between yourself and trade unions, regarding the Council's review of trade union facility time? | I have had no communication with the trade unions on this issue | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. 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. | <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Head of Locality Management</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of Improvement & Development</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of Planning</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£63,828</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Director Youth Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of Quality and Safeguarding</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Programme Director Strategy & Investment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Director - Operations</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of Parks and Public Realm</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£63,822</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of Highways Maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£63,822</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Programme Director - East</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of Business Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Head of Customer Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Director Commercial Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Director Commercial Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54,250</td> </tr> </table> | Head of Locality Management | £54,250 | Head of Improvement & Development | £54,250 | Head of Planning | £63,828 | Assistant Director Youth Services | £54,250 | Head of Quality and Safeguarding | £54,250 | Programme Director Strategy & Investment | £54,250 | Director - Operations | £54,250 | Head of Parks and Public Realm | £63,822 | Head of Highways Maintenance | £63,822 | Programme Director - East | £54,250 | Head of Business Services | £54,250 | Head of Customer Services | £54,250 | Assistant Director Commercial Services | £54,250 | Assistant Director Commercial Services | £54,250 |
| Head of Locality Management | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head of Improvement & Development | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head of Planning | £63,828 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assistant Director Youth Services | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head of Quality and Safeguarding | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Programme Director Strategy & Investment | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Director - Operations | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head of Parks and Public Realm | £63,822 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head of Highways Maintenance | £63,822 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Programme Director - East | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head of Business Services | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Head of Customer Services | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Assistant Director Commercial Services | £54,250 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. What is the ongoing cost to the Council of Sorby House? | This information is available in the 2012/13 Budget documentation. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. What measures are being taken to reduce Sheffield City Council's obligation under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)? | <p>With regard to the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment, the Sheffield City Council are registered with the scheme and are complying with its requirements in terms of reporting and taxation.</p> <p>In addition, in order to avoid a 10% uplift in CRC allowance costs for any supply that is estimated and also to avoid penalties for inaccurate meter readings, we are progressing with the installation of Automated Meter Reading (AMR) measures.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

CRC action and AMR measures are project managed in accordance with the Council's project management process and report progress to the Asset Management Group.

We have reduced the CRC allowance cost for 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 by approximately £200,000 by changing street lighting from dynamic to passive metering.

Additional actions that will improve energy use include:

- the Accommodation strategy and asset rationalisation, including improvements at Moorfoot as part of its refurbishment.
- Properties and Facilities Management/ Energy Unit using better data to work with building users to reduce energy use (planned for this year) – following improved data through the introduction of AMR.
- Salix investment in carbon saving projects.
- Other actions through the capital programme, such as boiler replacements with higher efficiency, also add to measures for reducing energy consumption.

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

1. Regarding your proposal to reduce weekly bin collections to fortnightly, at what point in 2012/13 would this proposed change be implemented?

Implementation will be in two phases - July and September.
2. What is the cost to the Council of operating each of its five Household Waste Recycling Centres?

As you know, this information is commercially sensitive. The total management cost for the five sites is £744,000.
3. Does your Administration plan further cuts to Household Waste Recycling Centres in next year's budget?

Plans for future budget cycle are yet to begin.
4. How many local residents have so far opted-in to the charged for service for the collection of green bins?

Figures are available to the end of May. Approximately 3,500 have opted-in.
5. How many green bins have so far been collected in by the Council?

Figures are available to the end of May. Approximately 27,000 have been collected.
6. What process is undertaken following the collection of green bins by the Council?

The majority are chipped and the pellets are then sold, which offsets the cost of collecting the bins. Approximately 10,000 will be stored by Veolia for potential future use/re-use.
7. What value is charged for any bins or material that is sold on following the collection of green bins?

Income is approximately £200 per tonne.
8. What communication has been undertaken to inform residents of the charged-for green sacks service?

Information has been distributed through press work and Sheffield City Council and Veolia website. We have written to existing customers.

Further work is planned as part of communication for the move to alternate week collection.
9. Do you support plans to import waste from other local authorities to Sheffield's incinerator?

Yes.
The energy recovery facility has an important role to play in reducing landfill and generating sustainable heat

10. How many fixed penalty fines have been issued by Sheffield City Council in each of the last five municipal years?

Year	Total
07/08	464
08/09	270
09/10	217
10/11	212
11/12	129

11. Regarding your plan to issue more fixed penalty fines for littering in Sheffield's parks, when do you envisage implementing this plan?

We have already reached agreement with South Yorkshire Police for Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) across the city to gather evidence to tackle those who litter. The use of PCSOs will start in phases, due to training and monitoring requirements.

Staff resource within Environmental Protection Service are being targeted to tackle hot spot issues. This will include unannounced patrols of parks areas. We are recruiting extra temporary staff (1 FTE) to provide especially targeted interventions.

Parks staff and Rangers will also be trained in June to ensure that they are confident to engage / challenge people in parks who drop litter or cause other forms of antisocial behaviour.

We are continuing to work up plans with Sheffield Homes and the City Centre Ambassadors to ensure that littering is challenged and Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued.

Question of Councillor Diana Stimely to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Streetscene)

How should residents who do not want to pay for the green waste service dispose of their garden waste?

Home composting is a low-carbon option which can be managed naturally. A bin is not required, but these are available widely and comparatively cheaply.

Residents can also make use of recycling centres to dispose of garden waste for free.

Question of Councillor Robert Murphy to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Streetscene)

What consideration has been given to those suffering light sensitive disorders in the decision to change Sheffield's streetlights to LEDs?

This has been considered carefully.

It is understood that light sensitive disorders are particularly exacerbated by ultra-violet light, which LED lights do not emit. Current arc lamps can emit UV light, albeit at an extremely low level.