

Agenda Item 5

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 3 OCTOBER, 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. Please list all meetings you have personally attended in your capacity as Council Leader with GMB officials to discuss strikes at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres? | This question was asked in September. I suggest you read the reply I gave then. |
| 2. Please list all meetings you have personally attended in your capacity as Council Leader with workers at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres to discuss strikes? | This question was asked in September. I suggest you read the reply I gave then. |
| 3. Please publish all correspondence between yourself in your capacity as Council Leader and GMB officials with regarding strikes at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres? | This question was asked in September. I suggest you read the reply I gave then. |
| 4. Has the Council's review of trade union facility time been completed? If so, what were the conclusions of the review and will it lead to a reduction of trade union facility time? | The review is yet to be completed. |
| 5. What progress has been made since the last Council meeting in delivering more shared services with other authorities within Sheffield City Region? | The position is the same as at last month's meeting. |
| 6. When do you estimate work will begin on Sevenstones? | This question was asked in September. I suggest you read the reply I gave then. |
| 7. Please publish all correspondence between yourself in your capacity as Council Leader and Hammersons regarding the Sevenstones development? | I can assure you that I have had correspondence with Hammersons in my capacity as Council Leader. |

8. Please list all meetings you have personally attended in your capacity as Council Leader with Hammersons regarding the Sevenstones development?

I can assure you that I have had several meetings with Hammersons in my capacity as Council Leader.

9. At the June meeting of Council, you informed the Council that the policies for closed bin lids and all waste to be contained within the black bin for collection were unchanged. When was it decided to reverse this policy for the starting weeks of fortnightly black bin collections and how was this decision communicated to members of the public?

Policies for closed bin lids and all waste to be contained within the black bin are unchanged.

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

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| 1. Regarding the £5.2 million that has been allocated to the Council's Local Growth Fund, how much has so far been spent? | We have not been able to obtain this information for today's meeting, I will make sure this information is provided to you as soon as possible. |
| 2. Please list the specific budget allocations for each project funded through the Council's Local Growth Fund. | We have not been able to obtain this information for today's meeting, I will make sure this information is provided to you as soon as possible. |

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

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| 1. What progress has been made since the last Council meeting in your Administration's ongoing review into Community Assemblies? | I have nothing further to add to my answers at the last three Council meetings about the Community Assembly review. |
| 2. How many meetings has the review held since the last meeting of Council? | See above |
| 3. How many officers have been asked to provide evidence to the review since the last meeting of Council? | See above |
| 4. How many Community Assembly Chairs have been consulted as part of the review since the last meeting of Council? | See above |
| 5. How many community groups have been consulted as part of the review since the last meeting of Council? | See above |
| 6. How many public meetings have you personally attended as part of the Council's review into library services? | 4 |
| 7. What other work have you undertaken to promote the Council's review into library services? | I have promoted the review to the public through various media channels, through speaking at Community Assembly meetings, asking people to give their views and opinions by encouraging them to complete a questionnaire, worked with officers on the consultation plan and held several Task and Finish Groups. |
| 8. How many responses has the Council so far received as part of the Council's review into library services? | Online responses - 2,851 (up to 13 th September)

Hard copy questionnaires - 984

Responses through Dead Earnest Arts Company - 600 approx.

Total 4,435

Consultation closes on 8 th October, 2012 |

9. How many members of staff does the Council library service employ? 209 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
264 members of staff (excluding vacancies)
10. How many members of staff are based in a library as their principal location of work?
171.43 FTE (excluding Mobile and Home Library service)
180.47 FTE (with Mobile and Home library service)
222 individuals (excluding Mobile and Home Library service)
234 individuals (with Mobile and Home Library service)

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

What progress has been made in locating a site for the proposed 120-bed intermediate care unit since the last meeting of Full Council?

NHS Sheffield's Clinical Commissioning Group will be reviewing the issue at its meeting in October and we will be updating the Council subsequently.

Questions of Councillor Rob Frost to Councillor Mary Lea (Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living)

1. I note that the report Supporting Sheffield People with Dementia to Live Well will be coming to the Cabinet on 17th October. Will this report recommend closing any Dementia Care Centres in Sheffield?
As officers are still analysing the results of the consultations, we have deferred the Cabinet report until the Cabinet on 31st October, 2012. This will allow for full consideration of all the issues to be presented to Cabinet.
2. Will the Administration bring forward any plans to close dementia care centres in Sheffield this financial year?
See above
3. Can the Administration guarantee that they will not close any dementia care centres in Sheffield in the next financial year?
See above

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

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| 1. What estimate has been made of the annual revenue cost to the Council within the 2012/13 financial year of a) Sorby House, b) Vestry Hall and c) Forum House? | This question has previously been asked and responded to. |
| 2. How many Corporate Joint Committee meetings have you personally attended since becoming Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources? | All of them. |
| 3. At how many of these meetings has the Council's review of trade union facility time been discussed? | None |
| 4. Please list all other communication between yourself and trade unions, regarding the Council's review of trade union facility time. | None. |
| 5. How much has been spent on the Council using focus groups in this financial year so far and each of the previous three financial years? | This information is not available centrally. |
| 6. What was the cost to the Council of moving two Deputy Directors in Children, Young People and Families into new offices in the Town Hall on 3 rd November 2011? | The move is part of the Council's wider office accommodation strategy and is an effective use of resources by the City Council. Reductions in the cost of accommodation mean savings generated will assist with the provision of key services to Sheffield people without unnecessary expenditure on office space. It also means that through a reduced office estate, the carbon footprint of the office estate is reduced, thereby adding to the improvement of our environment. |
| 7. What was the cost to the Council of moving the Kier mail-room out of the Town Hall and into new offices in Moorfoot on 3 rd November 2011? | See above |
| 8. What was the cost to the Council of moving the Communications Department out of the Town Hall and | See above |

into new offices in Moorfoot on 16th December 2011?

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| 9. | What was the cost to the Council of moving the Licensing Department out of the Town Hall and into new offices on Staniforth Road on 6 th January 2012? | See above |
| 10. | What was the cost to the Council of moving the Emergency Planning Department to a new office within the Town Hall on 18 th January 2012? | See above |
| 11. | What was the cost to the Council of moving Future of Council Housing team into new offices in the Town Hall on 3 rd February 2012? | See above |
| 12. | What was the cost to the Council of moving the Lord Mayor's Secretariat to a new office within the Town Hall on 25 th May 2012? | See above |
| 13. | What was the cost to the Council of moving members of the Highways Department to new offices within the Town Hall in August 2012? | See above |
| 14. | What was the cost to the Council of moving the Legal Department to new offices within the Town Hall on 14 th August 2012? | See above |
| 15. | What was the cost to the Council of moving members of the Highways Project Department to new offices on 1 st September 2012? | See above |

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

1. Please list all meetings you have personally attended in your capacity as Cabinet Member with GMB officials to discuss strikes at Sheffield's five Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)?

You have asked for this on several occasions over the last five months. I suggest you read the answers I have previously provided.
2. Please list all occasions on which you have personally met with workers at Sheffield's five HWRC in your capacity as Cabinet Member?

You have asked for this on several occasions over the last five months. I suggest you read the answers I have previously provided.
3. Please publish all correspondence between yourself in your capacity as Cabinet Member and GMB officials with regarding strikes at Sheffield's five HWRC?

You have asked for this on several occasions over the last five months. I suggest you read the answers I have previously provided.
4. What steps has the Council taken to mitigate the effect of reductions in Blackstock Road recycling centre's opening hours for residents in the south and south-west of the City?

Due to your Government's ideological attack on public services, SOVA have been forced to reduce the opening times of recycling centres.

Around 80% of visits take place on Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday – when all five sites are open, including Blackstock Road.

The Council has supported residents to make alternative arrangements by informing customers at Blackstock Road of other sites and through the distribution of a recycling options booklet to every home – something you opposed.

Residents are also able to use other sites – particularly the Beighton site, which is open six days a week and located in the south of the City.

The Council has also rolled out the flexible choice option for kerbside recycling, giving people more choice and reducing demand.

5. Will you rule out further reductions to Household Waste Recycling Centres next year?
- You have asked for this on several occasions over the last five months. I suggest you read the answers I have previously provided.
- I note that your budget amendment for this financial year contained no mention of Household Waste Recycling Centres.
6. How many local residents have so far opted-in to the charged-for service for the collection of green bins?
- 3,464 at the end of August, 2012.
7. How many local residents, outside of the area that is currently offered the green bin, have expressed an interest to Veolia in the charged-for green bin service?
- Up to 24th August, 2012: 228 customers had expressed interest
8. At the June meeting of Council, you informed the Council that up to May, 27,000 green bins had been collected. In total, how many green bins have now been collected in?
- This figure has not changed substantively
9. At the June meeting of Council, you informed the Council that the majority of green bins collected would be chipped and that the pellets would be sold. In total, how many green bins have now been chipped?
- This figure has not changed substantively
10. At the July meeting of Council, you informed the Council that you had written to Veolia to ask them to consider offering a green bin collection service to areas of the City that currently do not benefit. Will you provide the Council with a copy of this correspondence?
- Yes
11. Will you provide the Council with an update on the ongoing negotiations regarding the green bin service?
- The Council is continuing to work with Veolia to review the service offer. It is expected details will be available early in 2013.
12. To your knowledge, how many residents, outside of the current area provided with a green bin, have expressed an interest in receiving the charged-for green bin service? If
- See question 7.
- We do not have the postcode data on this.

possible, please breakdown your response by postcode.

13. What steps has the Council taken to mitigate the effect of fortnightly bin collections on charities who previously benefited from a weekly service?

We are continuing to offer a collection service to charities. Charities may choose to purchase additional residual capacity if they are unable to separate their waste for recycling collection, or they may wish to use an alternative provider.

14. How many tonnes of green waste have been collected via kerbside recycling in Sheffield in each month of a) 2010, b) 2011, and c) 2012?

See the attached table.

You will note that this year, the cumulative amount of green waste collected through HWRCs is at its highest ever for this time of year.

The overall reduction in green waste recycling can largely be attributed to an increase of composting across Sheffield and the wettest summer in 100 years.

15. Will your Administration be continuing the successful snow warden scheme?

Yes

16. Do you intend to increase the number of snow wardens across the City this year?

Yes. Amey are now responsible for the delivery of this scheme. They have written to existing snow wardens and will be undertaking further recruitment in the near future.

Question 14:

	2010			2011			2012		
	Kerbside	HWRC	TOTAL	Kerbside	HWRC	TOTAL	Kerbside	HWRC	TOTAL
January	5	52	56.9	111	120	231.44		116	115.7
February	99	70	168.96	154	139	293.36		100	100.4
March	390	263	652.9	322	397	719.16		470	470.14
April	716	484	1200	682	681	1362.84		323	322.76
May	923	500	1422.68	828	577	1405.45	573	627	1199.7
June	1173	639	1812.32	768	559	1326.84	155	527	682.24
July	836	506	1341.57	660	500	1159.56	188	785	973.3
August	881	534	1414.58	568	451	1018.98	178	788	966.34
September	736	396	1132.2	468	333	800.8			
October	542	302	843.8	515	338	853.01			
November	329	187	515.53	184	223	407			
December	2	25	27.48	0	79	78.9			

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

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| 1. Regarding the £400,000 that has been allocated to the Council's Keep Sheffield Working, how much has so far been spent? | £90,000 has been allocated to an export market development pilot working with up to 30 companies to provide intensive export support over a fixed period of time. |
| 2. Please list the specific budget allocations for each project funded through the Council's Keep Sheffield Working Fund. | £90,000 has been allocated to an export market development pilot working with up to 30 companies to provide intensive export support over a fixed period of time. |
| 3. How does the Council intend to spend funds allocated by the Government as part of the High Street Innovation Fund? | We are working to develop an independent incubator zone to revitalise Chapel Walk. Work is ongoing. |
| 4. Could you provide the Council with an update of your Administration's city-wide review of HGV routing? | A paper is coming to Cabinet this autumn. |

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

1. How much income has the Council so far generated from the policy of charging for parking in a) Graves Park, b) Millhouses Park and c) Hillsborough Park?

Graves £9,086
Millhouses £9,335
Hillsborough £4,705
Total £23,126
2. Has the Council recovered costs from the BBC regarding damage following the One Show Roadshow in Endcliffe Park?

The BBC has agreed to meet full cost of repairs and we are invoicing them.
3. What consultation has been undertaken with Friends of Bishop's House regarding the proposed trim-trail in Meersbrook Park?

Parks officers have met with Friends Group to discuss the trail. The Group is satisfied with proposed trail
4. What provision has your Administration made to maintain green or open spaces previously maintained by Street Force that will not be maintained by Amey?

There are a number of private sites which the Council has maintained in recent years. Rightly the Private Finance Initiative process has identified these sites as private and the Council is now working through the list to determine whether maintenance is still required and if so, who should pay for the work. In the meantime, basic maintenance has been delivered by the Council this summer.

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

Sheffield Children's Centre on Shoreham Street, which was recently assessed as "outstanding" by Ofsted, has been issued with a Statutory Notice to cease grant funding. With regard to this notice:

A statutory notice was not issued – a letter was sent to all providers fulfilling our obligation to allow a 6 month minimum notice period, given that the end date for the existing funding agreement to provide child care is 31March 2013.

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| (a) Has she already made a definite decision to withdraw the funding? | A statutory notice was not issued |
| (b) How does she envisage the centre continuing without this grant funding? | A statutory notice was not issued |
| (c) What discussions has she or officers had with Sheffield Children's Centre about its future? | A statutory notice was not issued |
| (d) When will they get a response to their request for asset transfer of the buildings they currently use? | A statutory notice was not issued |
| (e) If the centre is no longer financially viable, how and where will the childcare and family support currently provided there be replaced? | A statutory notice was not issued |
| (f) What is the policy context for the decision to issue the Statutory Notice? | A statutory notice was not issued |