

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 4 SEPTEMBER 2013

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions

Answers

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

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| 1. At the July meeting of Council, you stated that you expect there to be a start on the Sevenstone site within the 2014/15 year. Do you still believe this to be the case? | Yes. |
| 2. What progress has been made in seeking an alternative partner to develop the Sevenstone project? | We have commenced all actions to enable the development of the Sevenstone project that we are legally able to do. |
| 3. What potential is there to progress some elements of the original development with Hammerson? | See answer above. We are considering all our options. |
| 4. Which representatives of Hammerson did you meet personally prior to the decision to end your partnership with the Company? | Be assured, I met with representatives of Hammersons. |
| 5. As recently as July, you stated that you expected Hammerson to submit a planning application for Sevenstone this year. Do you believe your faith was misplaced? | No, at the time Hammerson were still in a relationship with the Council. |
| 6. Following Lord Wolfson's comment that the Council has "closed its doors for business", what action will you take to shed your Administration's anti-business reputation? | Sheffield is most definitely not closed for business, we'll be debating this matter later in the Council meeting. |
| 7. When were you first made aware that Sheffield City Council was employing staff on zero-hour contracts? | July 2013. |

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

1. What private data, as defined by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), including number plate data, is collected by or on behalf of Sheffield City Council through the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system?

None as defined by the ICO. Our Legal advice is that we do not consider Vehicle Registration Marks (VRM's) to be personal data unless, and until they are linked to an individual. The process of linking a VRM to an individual can be carried out by anyone who can demonstrate to the DVLA that they have "reasonable cause".

Furthermore, Sheffield City Council has a protocol in place that does not allow it to seek to link data on VRM's, collected by our ANPR system to an individual vehicle owner or driver.
2. What data is sent to, and received from, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority?

No data, derived from the ANPR system has been sent to, or received from the DVLA.
3. How long is this data held in a searchable format?

All plate tag data held in the South Yorkshire Traffic Control Centre, whether encrypted or unencrypted will be destroyed 5 years after it has been collected. However, in practice data is usually deleted earlier than this due to storage capacity limits.
4. How is this data protected (for instance, is it encrypted) and has the method of storage been approved by the ICO?

The following is a short extract from our Agreed Data Security procedure that relates to the ANPR process.

"Plate tag data will be transferred from the ANPR camera to the ANPR server for processing using the secure, GPRS encrypted channel provided by the ANPR system manufacturer. Periodically, plate tag data will be transferred from the ANPR server to an archive server. Both the ANPR server and the archive server will be physically located in the access-controlled equipment room of the South Yorkshire Traffic Control Centre, currently located in SCC premises. Physical and electronic access to the

servers will only be available to named individuals approved by the Head of Traffic, Transport and Parking Services. SCC staff will not seek to obtain, use or store any other data, such as registered keeper information, which could be used in conjunction with plate tag data to identify any person”.

5. Who has access to this data and how is access controlled and monitored?

Physical and electronic access to the servers will only be available to named individuals approved by the Head of Traffic, Transport and Parking Services.

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

1. I am sure you will be aware that the final bill for the inquiry into the planning refusal for a Next homestore was more than £62,000. How much more could this bill have been if Next had pushed for the Council to cover its costs?

I am not aware of how much it would have been. However, it is important to note that part of the reason that Next did not push for costs is because the judgement actually found that the Council’s policy in this matter was sound, the Inspector however ruled that in this specific instance the site was not available within sufficient time.

2. What was the total cost to the Council of its Independent Assessment of the Retail Strategy for Homeware Retailing in Sheffield and Critique of British Land Planning Application? Please list individual invoice dates with relevant payments.

I will write to you with this information.

3. How much additional revenue has been raised in the 2013-14 financial year from hikes in city-centre parking charges?

We have not hiked city centre parking charges. When you were last in power you increased charges almost every year and off street car parking typically cost £9.30 for 6 hours, we have made off street car parking in the same car parks £5 for the whole day with no time limit. We have also reduced many off street charges. We currently do not yet have figures for the balance on the car parking income and we are assessing it as the year progresses.

4. How many Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) have been issued between 18:30 and 20:30 in the city-centre controlled parking zone since changes were agreed in operating hours?
- 514 which is fewer than 5 per day since the changes were made
5. How many schools now have legally-enforceable Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for "Keep Clear" signs?
- Work is being prioritised to link to the Streets Ahead maintenance programme, the roll out of the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy and the police's 'It's your child' initiative.
- There were 19 schools with enforceable School Keep Clear Markings in July 2012. Each of those schools has had their markings reviewed to check that they're in the best place/up to standard and some minor changes have been made where necessary.
 - Parking restrictions at another 19 schools have been reviewed with the help of the schools. 15 of them now have enforceable School Keep Clear markings, (which makes the 34 total above)
 - Restrictions at 6 more schools in proposed 20mph speed limit areas have been approved and are due to be implemented by April 2014.
 - A further 42 schools are now being consulted on with schools to identify whether the current restrictions are adequate and whether any defunct markings need to be removed. 17 of these will have a traffic regulation order advertised in September 2013, to give residents the opportunity to comment, with a view to the restrictions being in place and enforceable by April 2014.
6. Do you believe the recent changes proposed by the Sheffield Bus Partnership will lead to an improved service for bus users?
- A number of changes have been proposed to improve services and/or deliver a sustainable bus service. The Bus Partnership Agreement has

so far been successful but it is important to consider the outcome of the consultation responses in full before any changes are made.

The people of Sheffield will have a view on the latest changes as part of the recently concluded consultation process. The Sheffield Bus Partnership has worked hard to get things right and offer an improved service and the early signs are that this is working

- Overall number of passenger journeys in last three months is up 5.3%, with fare payers up by 14%
- Reduced fares are being enjoyed by around 35% of passengers

7. Do you share the concerns of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion who argued that holding a consultation over the summer holidays would be 'ridiculous'?

The comments you refer to were made with regard to changes to the library service. The practicalities of consulting over the summer will vary depending on the topic.

8. What progress has so far been made in awarding JESSICA funding?

The JESSICA fund was established in October 2012 with the Fund Manager (CBRE) appointed at the end of December. Following the necessary set up process the fund was formally launched to the development community at an event held on 26th April.

Since that time the Fund Manager has met with numerous development sponsors across South Yorkshire to assess investment potential and opportunities. At present the 3 projects (two within Sheffield and one in Rotherham) have reached the stage of detailed negotiations, with one, 3 St Pauls Place, looking very encouraging in respect of an investment before the end of the year.

Given the time it takes to negotiate commercial property deals and that other existing JESSICA's in the UK have taken up to two years to make

their first investment our progress is considered good to date.

9. How much of the £25 million allocated to Sheffield City Region through the third round of the Regional Growth Fund has been successfully awarded so far?

I will write to you with this information.

10. What steps have the Council taken to promote the new Groceries Code Adjudicator to rural businesses?

I will write to you with this information.

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

1. Have you personally met with representatives of the online Save Don Valley campaign to discuss the future of the stadium?

If the question refers to the online petition which was brought to Council in July I responded to the petitioners in person in the Council meeting and sent a written response on 18th July.

If the question refers to the group who are interested in running the stadium then the Council met with them on 12th August. As the key issue was to be able to answer questions and provide information the Council was represented by the lead officer, Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment.

2. On what dates have you visited the Woodbourn Road site with representatives of the Sheffield athletics community to inspect progress at the site?

I met with Mike Corden of City of Sheffield Athletics, and representatives of England Athletics and Sport England on the site in March before the work commenced. I am fully informed by the officers of the Council responsible for this project and receive regular updates from them. I have also met with the lead officer from Sheffield Hallam University to discuss progress on the site. Officers have held a number of on-site meetings with members of the Athletics Community to keep them informed of progress and ensure that the work will meet their needs. The Athletics Community have been fully engaged with the project and have influenced the final designs for the refurbishment work on site.

In addition I am due to visit the site on Tuesday 3 September.

3. What progress has been made since July in awarding £5 million of unallocated Olympic Legacy Funding? Has the allocation of this funding been affected by the community campaign which saved Stocksbridge Leisure Centre and the reports of a new pool at the Dransfield development?

As previously stated in answers to questions this is a city partnership project, including the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust, the Chamber of Commerce, Sheffield Hallam and Sheffield Universities and the Council. Work by this group continues on examining options and

once this is completed the partnership will be in a position to announce the allocation of the remaining £5 million. The welcome decision by 4SLC to take on community management of Stockbridge Leisure Centre and the planning application by Dransfield to build a swimming pool in Stocksbridge have not, as far as I am aware, affected this allocation process.

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

1. What measures has the Council put in place to ensure that the pupil premium is being spent effectively in Sheffield schools?

It is up to head teachers to decide what interventions to spend Pupil Premium money on. The Government believed that they are best placed to understand the educational needs of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Schools are individually accountable for their use of this funding and are required to publish on their website a) their pupil premium allocation in respect of the current academic year, b) details of how it is intended the allocation will be spent, c) details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent, and d) the impact of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school in respect of whom grant funding was allocated. These are statutory requirements as outlined in the [School Information \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2012](#).

We try and influence schools through partnership working through the City Wide Learning Body.

Actions, so far this year include:

- A joint conference hosted by Sheffield's City Wide Learning Body (CWLB)*, Birley Learning Community and the Sutton Trust. The conference included contributions from Dr Lee Elliot Major on the Sutton Trust's EEF toolkit "What works best at improving the learning of children" and a session on using and demonstrating good use of pupil premium – this conference was attended by nearly 100 Sheffield schools (represented by senior teachers and governors).

- Have commissioned via the CWLB two themed reviews of practice focused on; Provision and Outcomes of Looked After Children and Provision and Outcomes of children on Free School Meals .These reviews have been done in partnership between LA officers and Headteachers and focus on school level practice resulting in learning and actions for both the LA and the school system. The CWLB has also made closing the attainment gap between free school meals & looked after children and the city/national average one of its key strategic priorities.

In addition the Local Authority through our “Differentiated Challenge, Monitoring and Intervention” role analyse school outcomes against budget resources. Where necessary, we will challenge those schools where we feel value for money and outcomes for children and young people could be improved, including the pupil premium.

2. How many children are awaiting the outcome of admission appeals? Please provide comparative data from previous years.

All appeals that were heard prior to the end of last term will have been notified of the outcome.

For the period September 2013 to October half term, there are 234 appeals waiting to be heard.

For the same period in 2012 there were 147 appeals heard.

For the same period in 2011 there were 153 appeals heard

For the same period in 2010 there were 155 appeals heard

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

1. How many houses in Sheffield were recorded empty for more than two years in the following years; 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14?

Year	No. Empty Properties
2011/12	Council: 70 Private: 1074 HA's 41
2012/13	Council: 15 Private: 1041 HA's 41
2013/14 as at 1 st August 2013	Council: 5 Private: 856 HA's 29

2. What action is the Council taking to support Centrepoin in their successful bid for funding through the Government's Empty Property Community Grants programme?

SCC are providing on-going support in respect of the successful Centrepoin bid for funding through the Government's Empty Property Community Grants Programme.

This support is two-fold, and involves not only identifying properties suitable for purchase under the bid and acting as the initial liaison between Centrepoin and the property owners, but also in identifying and placing residents in the properties as it has been agreed that SCC will have 100% nomination rights.

3. What action will be taken to update and refresh the Council's Rural Communities Strategy 2010-13?

We are aware that the current one ends in 2013 and are reviewing this position.

Questions of Councillor David Baker to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion)

1. What consideration have you given to TUPE implications if community libraries are passed to external organisations to manage?

All issues relating to the management of a library will be considered if a community library is passed to an external organisation to manage.
2. What consideration have you given to software license fees, admin and HR costs if community libraries are passed to external organisations to manage?

All issues relating to the management of a library will be considered if a community library is passed to an external organisation to manage.
3. What consideration have you given to data protection and CRB issues if community libraries are passed to external organisations to manage?

All issues relating to the management of a library will be considered if a community library is passed to an external organisation to manage.
4. Recently the Star Newspaper claimed your Administration's "secretive" approach to the future of libraries made "no sense". How do you respond to that criticism?

The Council has had 2 very public and successful consultations about the future of its library services which have provided many viewpoints and ideas for us to take the service forward. When information has been asked for then this has been provided unless it has been commercially sensitive. All requests for information about the Library Review and/or the Future of Libraries have been responded to.
5. How many summer events were successfully funded by the discretionary ward funding that your Administration used to replace Community Assembly funding?

13
6. Will you apologise to community groups who lost out on funding over the summer as a result of your Administration's dither and delay?

We asked officers to put in place a transitional arrangement for the funding of community groups during the summer. We knew that this was important as Ward Councillors wanted to support activities run by the community during the summer. Ward Councillors successfully supported 13 activities during the summer period.

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

1. What actions are you taking to ensure that overspends within your portfolio are addressed?

The work underway to tackle the forecast overspend includes recruitment restrictions, further reduction in management and administration costs, looking at the Council's in-house services and any potential areas of duplication where savings can be made and ensuring that all spending is applied fairly and consistently across services.

Questions of Councillor Robert Murphy to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

1. With the current focus on value for money will the Council publish minutes of the Strategic Partnership Board, Management Board and Service Operations Board?

It is not our intention to publish the minutes of the various governance boards for our major contracts as these contain commercially sensitive information. However, in the interest of value for money transparency the Council internet site has a profile of each of our major contractors and this contains key information on their performance against the main Performance Indicators contained within the contract, these are usually a mixture of financial and service/quality indicators.
2. Once major contracts have passed the Preferred Bidder Stage (and therefore the need for commercial confidentiality) will the Council in future open the contracts to public scrutiny?

We are not allowed under UK law to make the content of bids or final contracts available for public scrutiny without the express approval of the supplier in respect of commercially sensitive information or proposals, etc, which may be classed as intellectual property rights. For requests about existing contracts we will when required ask the supplier for approval to publish but they may wish to refuse. To ease this process in the future we are now asking new suppliers to indicate when their contract is awarded if they are prepared for it to be published if required.

Questions of Councillor Andrew Sangar to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

1. How many times has the Council's Senior Officer Employment Committee met in the last twelve months?

Four times, for details please see SCC website for agenda and minutes.
2. How many Council employees have been appointed on a salary greater than £50,000 in the last twelve months, including new starters and internal appointments? Please list each post with corresponding salary.

There have been no appointments at this rate of pay since this question was last asked other than one internal promotion where three posts were merged into one as part of the £1 million saving in management costs.

3. What progress has been made since July in recovering outstanding Trading Standards debts from other South Yorkshire local authorities?

A meeting has been arranged to finalise the debt settlement details prior to bringing this matter to a conclusion.

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

Given the collapse of the Digital Region programme, will you reassess the report on Rural Broadband agreed by the Cabinet in March?

The immediate priority is ensuring a managed transition of customers off Digital Region and securing some on-going benefit from the network. We will be in a better position to assess the implications for rural areas when the outcomes from this work are known.

The report agreed in March suggested that Digital Region was one solution to the rural broadband challenge, but recognised that DR had not reached sufficient critical mass to make further rollout deliverable.

The recommendations of the report did not mention Digital Region but actually suggested that locally-led approaches based on the specific needs of specific communities were more likely to be deliverable and affordable as solutions to broadband issues in rural areas – and this still stands.

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

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|---|--|
| 1. When do you expect that you will be a position to brief the Council on your administration's legal attempt to secure further savings from Veolia? | This question will not be answered as the Council will not prejudice its legal position.

I refer you to the answer given on 3 rd April:
"It is a revealing indication of your approach to a serious matter that you would seek to score trite points rather than focus on securing the best deal for the people of Sheffield. As such, further questions in this vain will be referred to this answer". |
| 2. How many households in Sheffield have currently signed up to the Veolia's new charged-for green bin service? | 5812. |
| 3. How many tonnes of green waste have been collected via kerbside recycling in Sheffield in each month of
(a) 2010,
(b) 2011,
(c) 2012
(d) 2013? | See attached Appendix A |
| 4. Excluding Sheffield Homes, how many incidents of fly-tipping have been recorded by the Council in Sheffield in each month of
(a) 2010
(b) 2011
(c) 2012
(d) 2013? | See attached Appendix B |
| 5. How many complaints have you received regarding the failure of operators to correctly return bins to residential properties for each of the last three years? | 2010/11: 9
2011/12: 11
2012/13: 4
2013/14: 1 |
| 6. In November 2011, the Cabinet Highways Committee granted the power to remove a vehicle, where "if left in its current position, would impede the undertaking of highways works by the PFI Service Provider on a highway to | 73 have been removed since the start of the contract.

We have undertaken improvement works covering the location of approximately 35,000 cars |

which a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order applies". How many times has this power been used since the start of the Streets Ahead project?

Appendix A (Question 3)

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April-July Total	April – July City Total
2010/11 Kerbside	981.5	1,199.61	1,286.95	1,137.50	1,227.24	1,175.64	897.82	647.42	24.58	219.73	238.91	416.58	4,605.56	7,246.55
2010/11 HWRC	498.6	514.72	942.58	685.09	664.71	396.2	301.8	186.53	25.48	118.2	141.18	397.16	2,640.99	
2011/12 Kerbside	835.28	1,192.61	1,152.70	1,250.50	1,061.65	880.79	1,056.38	373.54	0	0	0	0	4,431.09	6,733.57
2011/12 HWRC	674.18	573.82	558.84	495.64	450.98	332.8	333.61	219.62	78.9	113.4	100.4	470.14	2,302.48	
2012/13 Kerbside	434.34	567.12	155.44	188.09	177.9	171.2	154.54	117.84	11.02	8.6	0	0	1,344.99	3,603.37
2012/13 HWRC	322.76	626.7	523.62	785.3	781.92	626.76	475.04	299.8	108.5	111.1	115.02	128.66	2,258.38	
2013/14 Kerbside	0	211.02	228.44	258.72									698.18	3,823.06
2013/14 HWRC	428.12	771.18	999.06	926.52									3,124.88	

Appendix B (Question 4)

FLY TIP INCIDENTS (excl Sheffield Homes) 2010-2013

Full Year	Incidents			
10-11	3551			
11-12	2605			
12-13	3370			
Period	Incidents			
			Nov-11	227
Apr-10	312		Dec-11	156
May-10	276		Jan-12	230
Jun-10	309		Feb-12	257
Jul-10	400		Mar-12	200
Aug-10	335		Apr-12	180
Sep-10	379		May-12	256
Oct-10	264		Jun-12	247
Nov-10	289		Jul-12	347
Dec-10	133		Aug-12	386
Jan-11	279		Sep-12	322
Feb-11	266		Oct-12	241
Mar-11	309		Nov-12	325
Apr-11	201		Dec-12	215
May-11	247		Jan-13	259
Jun-11	190		Feb-13	303
Jul-11	265		Mar-13	289
Aug-11	224		Apr-13	320
Sep-11	206		May-13	388
Oct-11	202		Jun-13	334

NB: At the Questioner's request, these figures are partial, as they do not include any fly-tipping from Council estates

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