

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2015

#### COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

##### Questions

##### Answers

#### Question of Councillor Colin Ross to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

Following the recent announcement about Manchester taking over responsibility for the NHS and Social Services, what is Sheffield City Region doing to advance this concept?

Sheffield was the second Authority to secure a devolution deal and the first to do so without having an Elected Mayor imposed upon them by Central Government. We continue to lead on the devolution debate including playing a central role in developing the proposals outlined in the Transport for the North report launched on Friday. What we now need to see from the Government is the real commitment and funding to deliver these projects, instead of just warm words and empty rhetoric weeks before the election.

Whilst we want to see the devolution of more NHS funding to a local level, following the Manchester model would not necessarily be the best solution for realising this for Sheffield. We are committed to working with any future Government to secure integration of health and social care services.

#### Questions of Councillor Jillian Creasy to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

1. What actions did the Council take to ensure that South Yorkshire Police investigated cases of child sexual exploitation referred to them in the past?

Sheffield was quick to recognise and address the issue and has had a dedicated Child Sexual Exploitation Service (CSE) since Feb 2001. We recognised that CSE was an emerging and significant issue warranting dedicated staff time to develop specialist understanding and

effective responses. We also set up robust reporting and governance processes to ensure transparency in relation to this issue.

Action taken to get South Yorkshire Police to recognise the issues and engage effectively in the pursuit and prosecution of perpetrators has included:

Establishing a monthly Sexual Exploitation Enforcement Group which had a specific objective of developing a more proactive police response, including sharing information and identifying courses of action to tackle or disrupt the activities of suspects.

Meeting with key strategic leads within the police in 2006 and 2009 to raise concerns and ensure they had detailed information on young people and adults involved in CSE, and to ask for dedicated police resources.

Sheffield City Council Managers sought the Head of the UK Human Trafficking Centre's support and assistance in using his influence with ex- colleagues in South Yorkshire Police.

SSCB published annually the numbers involved in CSE in Sheffield in 2003.

In 2010/11, in order to clearly signal the urgency and demonstrate the importance/ priority Sheffield City Council attached to CSE work, Sheffield City Council committed a total of £50k funding to support dedicated police officer time and activity until such time as South Yorkshire Police could identify the budget to pick this up (which they did, fully, in 2011).

2. What action is the Council taking now to ensure that their failure to do so is

Given the recent emergence of further allegations from

investigated?

whistleblowers within the South Yorkshire Police, Dr Alan Billings, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), has indicated intent to commission a thorough county review of South Yorkshire Police. He is in discussion with the Home Office and the Terms of Reference are to be determined.

Sheffield City Council supports the Police and Crime Commissioner's decision for a review into how South Yorkshire Police have responded to child sexual exploitation and through the Chief Executive, made a commitment to the process.

Tackling child sexual exploitation is, and always has been, a key priority for us and we will support the review in any way we can. We have already carried out a review of our own child sexual exploitation services, which reported to our full Council meeting in January this year.

Questions of Councillor Brian Webster to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health)

1. How many of the associate and co-delivered library branches have formal, written leases and/or tenancy agreements with the Council?

None at the moment but we are hopeful to have these in place by the end of April.
  
2. How many of the associate and co-delivered library branches have formal, written service-level agreements with the Council?

None. This is because we have not commissioned a service from the groups.
  
3. If any associate or co-delivered branches do not already have formal, written leases/tenancy agreements and/or service-level agreements with the Council:
  - (a) Why have these not been forthcoming?

This is due to the negotiations that have been taking place with the groups to ensure they received lease agreements that worked for them and Sheffield City Council.
  
  - (b) When will these agreements be in place?

Likely to be the end of April as we have agreed the terms for the Leases and we are currently drawing up the agreements.
  
4. Will the level of Council support to associate and co-delivered libraries be subject to review? If so:
  - (a) When is it envisaged that this review will take place?

The packages of support given to the associate and co-delivered libraries are specified in the Cabinet Report. After one year of operation an appraisal of the situation will be undertaken.
  
  - (b) What factors will be taken into consideration when considering the efficacy of both the co-delivered/associate library branches, and the Council's support for the same?

We are working with the associate and co-delivered libraries re effectiveness. The factors taken into consideration are:

    - Library Opening Hours
    - Managing and Co-ordinating Volunteers

- Service development and sustainability
- Financial plan
- Policies and procedures
- Library function

(c) Will alternative or additional models of Council support for associate and co-delivered branches be considered at this point?

As stated in answer (a) we will be appraising the situation after one year of operation.

5. Is the Administration committed to keeping all co-delivered and associate library branches open for the long term?

Despite the Government taking away more than 50% of our main grant since they came to power, not one library in Sheffield has closed, despite closures in other areas. We are committed to continuing to work with co-delivered and associate libraries, as we have done over recent years, to make sure this continues.

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

1. Is there any evidence of an improvement in the speed and quality of assessments in adult care?

In 2012-13 the average waiting time for assessments was 78 days. We have done a lot of work since to improve the speed of assessments and by quarter 2 of 2014-15, we had reduced this to 35 days. Assessment waiting times have continued to improve to 22 days on average in quarter 3 against a target of 28 days, which we are now meeting consistently. We use a programme of file audits to assure the quality of assessments.

2. Has there been a fall in the complaints for the above?

In previous years, our complaints system has categorised the number of adult social care complaints about delays, but not the detail about which of these were specifically about assessment delays. Through further analysis, we are now trying to get a much better understanding of the reasons for people complaining. In 2013-14, 69 complaints were about delays, from a total of 320. (Please note that there were fewer individual complaints received in total as each complaint can include more than one issue). From a total of 165 adult social care complaints received in 2014-15 by quarter 3, 11 complaints were primarily about assessment delays (with a further 14 complaints about other assessment-related issues). Over the same period, the total number of complaints about delays in general is 35, so we are on track to have fewer complaints about delays than last year.

3. What changes have taken place in respite provision over the last 12 months, and what future changes are being put into place?

**Adults with a learning disability.** Last year we set out our vision for respite care for adults with a learning disability in the Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy approved by Cabinet in December 2014 (see sections 8.4 and 8.5). This included the intention to engage

with customers to review current provision. The aim is to increase the variety and choice of good quality respite care. This includes increasing respite care provided by Adult Placement Shared Lives (there is currently a media campaign to recruit more approved carers).

We are currently having conversations with different groups of customers who are interested in the future of respite care services to make sure people are involved in shaping them. We are also working closely with Children, Young People and Families Portfolio and the Clinical Commissioning Group on the plans and will be consulting jointly on draft plans this spring.

There have been early discussions with commissioners and a voluntary sector organisation about their ideas for a new respite care development in the city. We'll make further information available when we have it.

The vast majority of the residential respite services for older people are purchased on an "as and when" basis (spot purchasing) from care and nursing homes in the City. The providers of these services can determine how many of the beds they have will be used for this purpose. This is likely to fluctuate as vacancies become available. In addition, the Council currently purchases 20 respite beds on a block basis for people with dementia. Over the last 12 months this has increased from 19 to 20 and three of the beds have transferred from Sheffcare to newly refurbished facilities at Hurlfield View.

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

Given the "pause" in the process for seeking a solution to the Primary School places issue in South West Sheffield, can you outline the revised timetable for bringing forward proposals to solve the crisis?

Following the Cabinet decision on 18<sup>th</sup> March, we would envisage a period of further exploration of all options over the next period. This would lead to a further proposal coming forward in May. That further proposal would then be subject to a 4-week consultation period, with a final decision coming in late June and ultimately delivery of the extra places in time for September 2016.



Question of Councillor Colin Ross to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene)

Following the severe winter weather a number of roads are now beyond patching. Some of these are not due to be resurfaced until 2016 or 2017. What plans are there to resurface these roads ahead of their scheduled zone?

We would ask which roads are being referred to in the question as without that information it is both difficult to answer and we are concerned about the safety of road users. If anyone is aware of any unsafe areas, we urge them to tell us about them as soon as possible. Damage to road surfaces following a severe winter is not a new issue, and we have dealt with this in the past by make safe repairs (such as patching and pothole repairs) and are continuing to do so now. As a result, there are no current plans to resurface roads ahead of their scheduled zone, however we will continue to monitor the situation and may review this position later.

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

1. When will the verge protection strategy be agreed?

As previously answered the verge strategy is a follow up to a previous report in 2009 and will identify what treatments will be carried out to deal with damaged verges. The strategy is planned for publication in the coming months.

2. What changes were made, between the dates of 1st July, 2014 and 1st February, 2015 to the planned commencement dates of any Streetsahead zones?

As noted last month, this question has been answered in previous years and the points made that the programme is subject to other factors on the highway, including the work utility companies plan (the Streets Ahead works have an added benefit to the City of a £65m programme of utility upgrades which is good news for the City and its future), the extensive investment in transport projects, the huge regeneration programme and the investment by others such as the universities. The programme seeks to complete the zone works by the end of 2017. The zone programme is constantly flexing to reduce disruption and improve the efficiency of the works to the benefit of road users. Our programmed dates are

communicated to residents and businesses within the zones around six months before work starts and then at our road shows where further information can be obtained.

Specifically as at the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014, 65 zones were due to commence after 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2014. With regards to changes to the planned zone commencement date, following discussions with your office, it was agreed that this should be answered in relation to the date that street lighting works were programmed to commence as this is generally the first of the “major” activities that take place in a zone. Of the 65 zones referred to above, programme changes made during the period 1st July, 2014 to 1st February, 2015 have resulted in 21 zones having had their street lighting commencement dates brought forward, 38 having had their street lighting commencement dates delayed and six have remained unchanged. As previously noted, we expect changes to zone dates and that is what has happened.

3. Why did the response to my question 2 at the February 2015 Council meeting not list any of the changes that together would have comprised the answer to the question?

This was not a simple question. Officers from the Highway Maintenance Division have been in contact with your office to establish exactly what you require and this has resulted in the answer to Question 2 above.

Put simply, the question was not specific enough as, for example, it was not clear whether you meant changes as compared to e.g. the original start dates as at the commencement of the project or whether the date six months ago was to be used as a base line for comparison. In addition, it was not clear what you meant by the zone commencement date, as within any zone, many activities take place e.g. gully replacement, tree works, street lighting, footway surfacing, carriageway surfacing etc. The only dates we publish on the internet are those for street lighting works and carriageway

resurfacing. Furthermore, within any zone it is possible that one activity, such as street lighting, has been delayed but another activity, such as carriageway resurfacing has been brought forward.

Question of Councillor Jillian Creasy to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene)

Since coming into post as Cabinet Member, what have you done to help resolve the long-running dispute at the Household Waste Recycling Centres?

Since I came into post, I have, through officers, asked a number of questions about the practices of Green Co. to date Green Co have failed to provide satisfactory answers to any of these questions I have raised.

Therefore I can repeat the statement I made last month, that the length of time that has passed without satisfactory answers being given about the practices of the Company, means I can no longer have confidence in Green Co as the operator of Sheffield's Household Waste Recycling Centres.

The Leader has spoken to Salvaire and Green Co previously, however, they have reneged on a number of assurances that we had been given that specific steps would be taken which we believed would have resolved matters.

We do not want contractors of this kind delivering Council services in Sheffield and are working to try to resolve this issue, however, despite my view that they are acting in a manner that is against the values of the Council or any responsible organisation, it appears that none of the operations of Green Co are illegal which is making it difficult to resolve these matters, however, we are determined to find a solution as quickly as possible.

Questions of Councillor Steve Ayris to Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods)

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| 1. With one year left until the proposed completion of Phase 1 of the Council Housing New Build Project, what is the progress on this project? | The project is progressing on target.                                                                                                                                                |
| 2. When will work under Phase 1 start on site?                                                                                                 | 5 <sup>th</sup> August                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3. How many sites have been identified for Phase 2?                                                                                            | We have identified a shortlist of sites, some are quite small. A decision will be taken shortly which sites are appropriate for phase 2.                                             |
| 4. How many developers have been identified to work with Sheffield City Council on each Phase?                                                 | We used the HCA developer partner Panel to procure a developer for the two existing sites, as they have already passed all the OJEU criteria and been assessed on quality and price. |
| 5. Who are the developers that are working with Sheffield City Council for each Phase?                                                         | The developer for phase 1 has not been finalised contractually so we cannot release the details.                                                                                     |

Question of Councillor Jillian Creasy to Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods)

What progress has been made on issuing Hanover Tenants' and Residents' Association with a lease for land on Upper Hanover Street, adjacent to St Silas Church?

This is presently with our legal team and we will be able to confirm the details of the lease with the TARA within the next two weeks.