

Agenda Item 6

Council Meeting – 2nd October 2024

Remaining Written Answers Provided To Members' Questions

(Published on 17th October 2024)

Questions of Councillor Will Sapwell to the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee (Councillor Douglas Johnson)

- Q.1** Does the Council, as the freeholder, have a legal responsibility to share information concerning the presence of asbestos within a leasehold property during the conveyancing process?
- A.1** In the first instance of a Right to Buy application, the Council is obliged to disclose information available on asbestos within the leasehold property. Once the leasehold property is sold on, then it is the leaseholder's (Vendor) responsibility to provide this information to future purchasers.
- Q.2** During the conveyancing process, what obligation does the Council, as owner of the freehold, have to disclose unresolved disputes with current tenants and leaseholders regarding the disrepair of the property?
- A.2** The duty is in accordance with conveyancing forms, which request the information and as far as is in the awareness of the parties at the time.

Questions of Councillor Barbara Masters to the Council's representative on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (Councillor Tom Hunt)

Sheffield has declared a Climate Emergency. At a previous meeting I asked about green roofs for bus shelters and was informed it fell within the responsibility of the Mayoral Combined Authority.

- Q.1** There are two new proposed bus shelters for Arundel Gate at stops AG123 and AG124. Will these have green roofs?
- A.1** The Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) does have responsibility for bus stops and shelters and can consider green roofs where it has the budget to do this. Whilst it is planning some improvements to the site, this is dependent upon external funding.

Q.2 There are plans underway to improve the experience of bus users along the Ecclesall Road/Road South and the Abbeydale Road/Road South corridors. What has been done to take advantage of this opportunity to install green roofs on new shelters?

A.2 The MCA are currently reviewing the physical shelter provision, including green roofs, together with the Enhanced Bus Partnership.

Questions of Councillor Douglas Johnson to the Council's representative on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (Councillor Tom Hunt)

Q.1 How much revenue did SYMCA receive in the last financial year from advertising at bus stops and interchanges?

A.1 £1.22 million.

Q.2 The bus Franchising Assessment is a critical step to bring bus services under public control. However, the Combined Authority has kept it from public view so far and even from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Do you support SYMCA making this document publicly available?

A.2 The draft bus franchising assessment was audited by independent auditors and was reported to the MCA Board on 8th October. The MCA Board agreed to move forward with franchising and a consultation will start on 23 October, when the full assessment will be released. SYMCA officers are happy to provide Member briefings in advance of 23 October, if required.

Questions of Councillor Alexi Dimond to the Council's representative on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (Councillor Tom Hunt)

Q.1 When will the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority ensure that all the timetables at bus stops are up-to-date and are not advertising services that were withdrawn in September?

A.1 The Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) are aware of a small number of timetables across the region that have been unable to be updated ahead of the recent service change in September. This is due to damage to the timetable holder, preventing the old timetable from being removed and replaced with an up to date one. As an interim measure, a vinyl sticker is

being applied to damaged stops until the holder can be repaired or replaced. The vinyl sticker contains SYMCA's freephone number 0800 952 0002 for those without access to a smartphone as well as a QR code for those that do. The Traveline contact centre is open 7am-7pm weekday and 8am-7pm on weekends to respond to any journey and ticketing queries.

Please provide details of the timetables that are not up-to-date directly to SYMCA by emailing Melanie Cocoran, Executive Director of Transport: melanie.cocoran@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Q.2 What plans does the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority have to ensure that all bus stops have bus shelters and accurate electronic timetables?

A.2 The MCA is currently developing proposals for bus stop standards to ensure bus stops have provisions and information users need. This includes a review of bus stop shelters, use of electronic timetables and real-time information. The MCA has worked in collaboration with SCC and there are three new electronic timetables on Rockingham Street.

Unfortunately, the MCA are not able to commit to converting every stop to a shelter due to lack of funding and affordability. They are rolling out replacement shelters and real time screens as and when funding becomes available but are unlikely to get to the position that every stop becomes a shelter, and every shelter has real time information.

In total, the MCA has more than 6000 bus stops and approximately 450 real-time information displays across South Yorkshire.

Q.3 What actions will the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority be taking to ensure that South Yorkshire Police improve their record on road danger, given that the three metropolitan boroughs with the worst rates in England for Kills and Serious Injuries of children aged 0-15 in road traffic collisions are in South Yorkshire? * (4 of the worst 6 are in South Yorkshire).

*https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=1016&mod-period=2&mod-area=E08000019&mod-group=AllMetropolitanBoroughLainCountry_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup

A.3 The Mayor committed in his election manifesto to adopt 'Vision Zero', a multi-national approach to ending deaths and serious injuries on our roads. This commitment and an associated programme of work will be included in the Mayor's first Police and Crime Plan which will be published before the end of the financial year.

SYMCA is also taking action to ensure that the South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership is able to co-ordinate the work that will follow from this Plan. It is exploring the most appropriate host authority, reviewing terms of reference and membership of the Partnership and is about to undertake a needs assessment/problem profile to inform its plans and work.

Questions of Councillor Peter Gilbert to the Council's representative on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (Councillor Tom Hunt)

Q.1 Marking the 40th anniversary of Threads, the seminal and horrific film depicting the impact of a nuclear blast on Sheffield, how does the development of the nuclear industry help Sheffield towards a nuclear-free world?

A.1 Civil nuclear power is an essential source of low carbon energy. Globally 10% of the world's electricity comes from nuclear power reactors, making it the second largest low carbon energy source (after hydroelectric). Existing nuclear capacity displaces 1.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, four times the UK's total emissions in 2022. In the UK there are five nuclear power stations, providing around 16% of the country's electricity and employing around 64,500 people.

Q.2 Why is the Mayoral Authority backing Nuclear Power when Renewables and Battery Storage are cheaper, cleaner, quicker to build and far safer to dispose of at the end of their life?

A.2 The Mayoral Authority is pleased to be promoting South Yorkshire as a leading destination for the development and manufacture of small modular nuclear reactors, taking advantage of the well-established ecosystem of world-leading advanced manufacturing businesses and university energy engineering researchers. Small modular reactors offer clean energy generation with characteristics not available to other methods: a small site could generate up to 300 megawatts of electricity (around 100 wind turbines) without dependency on the weather, and this energy can be generated near to where it is needed meaning that industrial development does not have to depend on connection to an electricity grid.

The OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency projects that up to 21 gigawatts (several hundred reactors of varying sizes) could be built globally by 2035. The modular nature of these reactors means that if they are made in South Yorkshire they could be exported across the UK and internationally – securing a share of this new and growing market and bringing sustainable high-value employment into the region.