

## CITY OF SHEFFIELD

### METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

#### MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2014

#### 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. What support for your proposal for a city-centre High Speed Rail station have you gathered from your Labour colleagues across South Yorkshire?     | We continue to work with colleagues across South Yorkshire and Sheffield City Region as a whole to ensure that we maximise the potential of HS2 in our region. |
| 2. Were you disappointed to see the Shadow Chancellor once again cast doubt on the Labour Party's support for HS2 on the Andrew Marr Show in January? | The Shadow Chancellor has not cast doubt on the Labour Party's support for HS2.  |

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

1. Out of the 108 work zones set out under the Streets Ahead project how many zones
- (a) have been completed;
  - (b) were scheduled to have been completed but have not been completed;
  - (c) have started but are not scheduled to have been completed; and
  - (d) were scheduled to have started but have not yet started? Please list each zone in each category.

10 zones have been completed. Work is ongoing in a further 16 zones.

The start and finish dates of zones is affected by many issues. The most challenging is to fit in other works at the same time which inevitably extends the duration. Extra work includes:

- The LTP programme which comprises several hundred scheme (now around £9m pa of works – originally this work was expected to be around £2m per annum),
- Streets Ahead Opportunities works
- Extensive investment programmes by the utilities companies as they repair and replace their pipes and cables across the City
- Flood schemes,
- Watercourse reinstatements,
- Supertram track replacements
- Most recently the Tour de France.

It is good news that the programme shifts to accommodate other work, particularly as this is the largest regeneration scheme in the country.

As you are aware, we do not offer a running commentary for each zone due to the complexities outlined above and the scale and pace of the work.

2. When will your Administration finally publish its much discussed strategy for verge protection and management?

It will be published when it is ready.

We are in discussion with a number of external organisations to ensure we produce the right solution for Sheffield.

3. How many dog bins have been removed from road verges in each of the past two financial years and how many are scheduled to be removed in this financial year? In each instance please list how many have been replaced.

I am surprised to receive the question as Streets Ahead is not responsible for dog bins.

We have not removed any.

4. When will you publish gritting routes set to be removed as a result of your budget recommendations?

Consultation about gritting changes will commence in June.

The consultation will focus on the *criteria* for gritting. This means the new gritting routes cannot be drafted until this is complete.

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

1. When will the Environmental Performance Working Party meet?

Democratic Services advise me that it is likely this group has not met since around 2010. I have never attended a meeting of it.

2. What involvement does Sheffield City Council have with the South Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership (which has been described as the “green mirror to the Local Enterprise Partnership”)?

I do not accept that the SYLNP is a “Green mirror to the LEP”, as it implies a false dichotomy between the economy and the environment. It would also suggest that the LEP does not need to consider environmental impacts in its work, which this Administration also rejects.

The Council works very closely with the SYLNP. Officers have attended a range of meetings to support the SYLNP in its strategic development. The South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, which the Council hosts, provides the Secretariat for the SYLNP.

We also work closely with the Peak District Local Nature Partnership.

3. Why is there no political representation from Sheffield City Council on this group?

The SYLNP decided their own governance arrangements in their submission to DEFRA. Therefore, this question is clearly better directed at the group itself.

Our view is that it is important that

the SYLNP is sufficiently independent in order that it can effectively champion strategic environmental matters.

For information, the Director of Regeneration and Development Services and the Head of Service for Planning attend the SYLNP and represented the Council, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.

Other authorities are also represented by Officers. If political representation was to be introduced, it would need to be requested by the SYLNP, in line with other representation requests.

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

1. How much specific investment have you personally secured for Sheffield's New Retail Quarter as a result of your much publicised trip to the South of France?

I was part of a team that undertook a presentation to potential investors and launch a city centre investment fund. The presentation was well received and formed an important part in moving continued regeneration of the city centre forwards. The fund will be officially launched in the summer, at which time there is the opportunity for investors to invest in the fund.
2. How much will agreed Tax Increment Financing powers be worth to the New Retail Quarter assuming work begins in each of the following years

  - (a) 2017;
  - (b) 2018;
  - (c) 2019;
  - (d) 2020; and
  - (e) 2021?

The amount of Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) is based on the final rateable value of the buildings built not only on the Retail Quarter, but also the new Primark and Cinema Block on the Moor and Office 3 St Pauls. Early phasing of work will help deliver the business rates uplift required to fund the tax increment financing. That is why we have helped to bring forward development of St Paul's Office Block 3 and Scottish Widows are getting on with their development. In addition, to ensure that no time is wasted, we have launched our intention to set up a fund to deliver the retail quarter and other schemes over the summer, the precise development and how fast it is delivered will be decided once the fund is operating. Therefore TIF does not deliver a set amount as it is based on the ultimate rateable value of new developments in the TIF boundary.
3. What percentage of Section 106 funding has been successfully collected by the Council for each of the last three financial years?

There are multiple elements to Section 106 agreements. There are in excess of 1,000 agreements which are recorded in order of the date on which they were signed. A large number of these agreements are never activated because the development to which they are related never happens. Those that are '*triggered*' can generate a series of payments prompted by reaching a predetermined trigger stage – such as commencement of site works or occupation of the first property etc.

All outstanding payments are regularly monitored. Those that go beyond the stipulated payment period are taken forward with debt recovery and legal services. However, they are not referenced back to the total of payments triggered within any given year. Therefore, the information requested cannot readily be provided in exactly the form suggested.

The figures below show the total amount of money currently outstanding from payments triggered in the past three financial years. For comparison included are figures for the total amount of Section 106 monies received during each of these years.

Financial year 2010-2011 -  
money currently outstanding from triggered agreements is £16,000,  
money received is £488,234.50

Financial year 2011-2012 –  
money currently outstanding from triggered agreements is £64,716.60,  
money received is £1,705,091

Financial year 2012-2013 -  
money currently outstanding from triggered agreements is £8,397.35,  
money received is £ 2,123,541.

Question of Councillor Roger Davison to Councillor Leigh Bramall (Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development)

Why was a proposed 20mph zone for Greystones dropped when Streets Ahead works were still underway in the area?

In the next phase of 20mph area roll outs all but the very highest zones for accident rates are to be rolled out to co-ordinate with Streets Ahead works. The Greystones area does not have one of the very highest accident rates that would see implementation done irrespective of Streets Ahead works, and so it was planned to be done via Streets Ahead. Phase 2 of 20mph areas will be done in the next financial year, which is when

the Greystones zone was planned in for Streets Ahead works. However, the Streets Ahead works for the Greystones zone were actually brought forward ahead of the next financial year. This meant that the timescales for the delivery of 20mph area no longer fitted with Greystones and Streets Ahead works and so it was removed from the 20mph programme. The removal had nothing to do with Greystones being represented by Liberal Democrats as you have claimed. Indeed precisely the same circumstances exist in relation to the Deerlands zone, which is partially in the ward I represent of Southey.

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

1. What are the arrangements for negotiating, tracking, obtaining and spending 106 monies?
2. Which officer has overall responsibility?

As the reply to this is quite long, I've asked officers to respond directly by email.

As with many City Council processes there is no single officer with overall responsibility for Section 106, as various aspects cut across a number of services.

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

1. What effect will the £2 million overspend in tendering for Tour de France services reported in the Yorkshire have on Sheffield City Council's financial contribution to the event?

The question refers to the media reporting of a joint report from Leeds City Council and TdF Hub 2014 Ltd, the company set up to coordinate the organisation of the Grand Depart. The report is available on the Leeds City Council website and sets out a number of actions to ensure that the three day event across Yorkshire, Cambridge and London is delivered inside its £27 million budget which includes £2m of contingency funding for exactly this type of possible overspend.

The increase in cost is for the procurement of a central supplier to manage the production of the following specialist services to the event:

- a) Traffic Management (Route Road Closures and Traffic Management (Wider Event Impact));
- b) Barriers, Fencing and Trackways;
- c) Stewarding and Marshalling;
- d) Medical Support and First Aid;
- e) Temporary Toilet Facilities;
- f) Radio Communications;
- g) Signage and Wayfinding.

The report indicates that almost half of the projected overspend can be saved in 'value engineering' - asking each authority to reassess its needs in terms of barriers, signage, temporary toilets and so on - while a further £120,000 could come from the local authorities which so far have not contributed.

In Sheffield we are reviewing our requirements and working with TdF Hub 2014 Ltd to ensure we can deliver the race safely within budget.

2. What discussions have you held with South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner regarding charging for

Council officers continue to engage in dialogue with the Police over the charging policy for events. I have



events since the February of Council?

not had a conversation with the Police and Crime Commissioner on this topic in the last two months.

Questions of Councillor Andrew Sangar to Councillor Ben Curran (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

1. What specific progress has been made since you joined the Cabinet to recover outstanding debts relating to South Yorkshire Trading Standards?

As I have said previously, I have given the Chief Executive a mandate to take any action he feels appropriate.
2. How many external organisations does the Council pay subscription fees to? Please list each organisation with relevant costs.

Up to date figures for the year 2013/14 aren't available yet because the financial year only ended on Monday.
3. How many social media accounts are managed by council officers on behalf of council services or departments?

There are approximately 46 social media accounts (mainly twitter and Facebook) managed by Council officers on behalf of Council services.
4. How much has the Council spent in each of the last three years on buying 'likes' or 'followers' for council managed social media accounts or on 'boosting' posts on social media accounts?

We have not bought any 'likes' or 'followers'. We have spent £524 on 'boosting' posts for the Big Sheffield Switch in 2013/14. We assessed this form of promotion as representing good value for money as approximately 23,500 people viewed the boosted posts, compared to approximately 200 people who viewed the un-promoted posts. We did not spend anything on boosting posts in 2011/12 or 2012/13.
5. I'm sure you will be aware that 12 months have passed since Richard Caborn, MP announced his vision for the Don Valley Stadium site. What progress has been made on this vision?

The Don Valley site is subject to complex negotiations. Information will be disclosed in due course.
6. When will you be in a position to brief the Council on the eleven expressions of interest in the Don Valley stadium site?

The Don Valley site is subject to complex negotiations. Information will be disclosed in due course.
7. How much of the £250,000 allocated for the demolition of Don Valley Stadium has so far been spent and how much is expected to be spent upon completion? Please list all spend and income.

As I said last month, £24,774.33 has been spent so far. Officers estimate that £124,284.81 will be spent on completion. The remaining amount has been used to fund the feasibility study to remediate the site.
8. I have not received a briefing from

I'm sorry that you were unable to

officers on the value of scrap metal at the Don Valley Stadium as promised in February. Please can you now confirm whether any assessment was made of the value of this scrap metal?

arrange the briefing. I would be happy to make sure that one is arranged for you.

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

1. What targets have you set for the next financial year for the take up by two year olds in Sheffield of fifteen hours a week of fully funded childcare?

The target we are aiming for is to provide 2,300 places by January 2015 as Department for Education expectations are for us to work towards a “reasonable target” based on our places development and expected natural increase in the take-up of FEL.
2. What further work has been undertaken in identifying an alternative site for a merged Tinsley Junior and Infants School?

On 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 Cabinet resolved to work with a group of local representatives and stakeholders in Tinsley to review the options for a site to rebuild the merged Tinsley Primary School. The group has met five times and has identified a potential alternative site which is in the ownership of Rotherham United Football Club (RUFC). Officers have been instructed to explore whether this site would be a feasible alternative to Tinsley Green. That work is ongoing, including discussions with RUFC.

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

1. Sheffield has been allocated £652,277 from the SEN Reform Grant. This funding is intended to support local authorities in the implementation of the SEN reforms, but is not ring-fenced. Please would you provide a breakdown of planned expenditure from this grant?

A proposal is under development.
2. The Council’s 2014/15 Budget includes a £300,000 saving on Inclusion and Targeted Services, which includes the SEN Assessment and Placement Team. The transition from Statements of SEN to Education, Health and Care Plans will have major resource implications for this team. Are there any plans to increase the capacity of the SEN Assessment and Placement Team to cope with the increased workload?

The £300,000 saving for 2014/15 does not involve any reduction in the SEN Assessment and Placement Team. Additional resource to cope with the transition from Statements of SEN to Education Health and Care Plans will form part of the CYPF proposal for the deployment of the SEN Grant referred to in the answer to the previous question.

3. At the Budget Council meeting a scheme to mitigate against the impact of travel pass restrictions on young people with disabilities travelling to their place of education was announced. Could you clarify the age range this will apply to and whether parents and personal assistants will still be able to use the "With Carer" travel pass to escort disabled young people to their place of education before 9.30am?

The age range is 0-19 resident in Sheffield in school or full time education and 19-25 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The 'with carer' option is available to existing holders/applicants who can request this on phone application. Young people will qualify for the interim pass if they use the disability pass to get to school or college on the bus or the tram before 9.30 in the morning

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

1. How much capital funding came into Sharrow Surestart from the Department for Education (DfE) and what was it spent on?

This capital funding went directly to NHS (previously NHS PCT). The money received was spent on refurbishment of the building (which was originally a public house).

2. What services for children and families do you plan to continue providing in the Surestart building on Sharrow Lane which was specifically refurbished to have a welcoming reception area, kitchen, meeting room, fully equipped sensory nursery, and space for health visitors, midwives and the Surestart prevention team?

The health visitors will continue to be based in the Sure Start building at Sharrow and the building will continue to be available for community use, if agreed by NHS properties e.g. the dad's group for example will be able to continue.

3. If the building is no longer going to be used for these services, what alternative venues will be provided, in particular midwifery and health visitor clinics and sessions such as breast feeding advice, lunch and story sessions, and the dad's group now run by volunteers?

It is proposed that the midwives and the Children's Centre co-ordination will be based at Highfield Library.

4. When did you last hear from the DfE about the legality of transferring capital resources to NHS Property Ltd and what did they say?

I refer to a letter sent on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2014 from Ian Atkinson to David Blunkett relating to Shiregreen Children's Centre (same principle applies to Sharrow but with the addition of Sheffield South West Primary Care Trust). "Ownership transferred to Sheffield South West Primary Care Trust (SSWPCT) and following the demise of SSWPCT

passed to NHS Sheffield. The property was then passed to NHS Property Services Limited, following the demise of NHS Sheffield on 31st March, 2013. It is therefore NHSPS' responsibility to determine the future use of the building".

5. When did you last hear from NHS Property Ltd about its rental policy, which is forcing out any remaining primary care and community use, and what did they say?

Discussions have been held with NHS Property Limited (last discussion on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2013) about its rental policy whereby it has been established that they have no resources to fund the building as an effectively commercial organisation and subsequently would be looking to achieve market rent for occupation of the building.

6. What is the current budget for prevention services other than the targeted prevention and intervention provided by MAST?

The prevention and intervention service allocates funding across a range of activities, which is defined by the needs of families. Following the procurement which took place in Autumn 2013 and the lack of take up for prevention services we are currently in a position of reviewing the type of prevention activities which will best meet families' needs.

7. Following the collapse of the tender process to continue these services beyond September 2013, what consultation about the future of prevention services has been undertaken and is any further consultation planned?

There was a lack of take up for the commissioning of prevention services, which led to the consideration of different ways in which to deliver services and an opportunity to look at ways to fund services to meet the needs of as many families as possible. Users of those prevention services affected were consulted at the time. Over the coming months we will be engaging with stakeholders and users to review the types of services families need, how they want these services delivered, and in particular what is working and making a difference to children's lives and ultimately their health and attainment.

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

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|---|---|
| 1. How many new homes have already been delivered through the Sheffield Housing Company?      | 91  |
| 2. How many landlords have so far registered for the Page Hall Selective Licensing Scheme?    | As of the 27 <sup>th</sup> March, we have received 20 payments for selective Licensing and 11 applications. |
| 3. How many landlords have so far registered for the Page Hall Voluntary Registration Scheme? | In the voluntary area, we have not received any applications so far.  |

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

1. What progress has been made since the agreement of the libraries Cabinet Report in February in developing sustainable business plans for co-delivered and associate libraries?

Work is continuing with the groups and a series of workshops (some have already happened) and training sessions are being planned for groups in partnership with Voluntary Action Sheffield. A second guidance pack has also been issued to help with business planning

2. What guarantees can you make to library users if their management of their local associate library collapses subsequent to handover?

We are working hard to ensure this does not happen with guidance packs, workshops, training, support etc and groups are engaged with this work. We are giving them a development plan that will ensure they have sufficient capacity to run an associate library service. People will continue to have access to hub libraries as described in the cabinet report and the needs assessment

3. Will associate libraries finally be given access to professional staff as has been consistently requested by community groups?

As described in the Cabinet report, Sheffield City Council staff will provide support wherever possible through a cluster support system, an 'ask the librarian' Q&A system and the support of the volunteer co-ordinator.