

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 4TH FEBRUARY, 2015

COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THERETO

Questions

Answers

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

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| 1. In spite of warm words following the visit to Cannes in 2014 little seems to have progressed in the development of the New Retail Quarter. How many of the 20 plus expressions of interest are still in negotiation with the Council? | All the developers / investors who expressed interest in the scheme will be invited to tender in accordance with the process that was announced in December. Interest from the developers has been maintained but there is a tendering process to go through. |
| 2. When will the detailed Prospectus be issued? | March 2015 |
| 3. Press reports indicate that locally based consortiums are interested in developing a proposal. Have discussions been held between representatives of this consortium and the Council? | Initial discussions have been held, as with the other developers who have shown interest, in compliance with the procurement procedures. |
| 4. Is there a target date for when a partner to develop the NRQ will be announced? | September 2015 |

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

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| 1. When will the conclusions of the Sheffield Bus Network Review be available? | Initial work is ongoing. Once complete there will be public consultation before proposals are refined. |
| 2. Have the outstanding issues in connection with the Gleadless Key Bus Route corridor been resolved? | We continue to work with the community to arrive at the best proposals possible. |

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

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| 1. Please detail the efforts made to secure a tenant for Cobnar Cottage, part of Graves Park? | The last tenancy administered by Sheffield Homes finished around 2006. The property requires significant investment to bring it up to a decent homes standard. |
| 2. Are you intending to demolish the Modern Glasshouses in Graves Park? | No |
| 3. The Council appears to have formalised the use of part of Graves Park as a Council Depot? As Trustees what process have you followed to agree the terms such as the financial contribution made? | If this question refers specifically to the Norton Nursery site, a financial contribution is made from the Parks Service into the Graves Park Charity account (£10K per annum). The use of the Nursery area by the Parks Service directly supports the upkeep and maintenance of the Graves land gifts, by providing ancillary facilities and equipment storage for the estate's workers. The site has been used as a Parks depot for over half a century. |

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

There is pressure to provide extra Primary school places in south west Sheffield. These have caused concern amongst some parents. Alternative proposals to expanding Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools have been proposed by Ecclesall and Clifford Schools. Can we be reassured that all possible alternatives will be fully considered?

When we carry out consultations we always listen, note and value all the viewpoints and suggestions that come forward.

As part of the consultation on extra places at Dobcroft Infant and Junior School, we are pleased that alternative ideas have been proposed. These, of course, will be considered alongside the original proposals. We are aware of the specific ideas put forward by Ecclesall and Clifford schools and we are actively exploring their feasibility.

A report on the feedback from the Dobcroft School consultation, appraisals of the alternative options and other long term solutions to the issue of providing extra school places across the city will be presented to Members at the end of the consultation and before any decisions are made.

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?

The strategy is planned for publication in the coming months.
2. How many Streets Ahead Zones due to start in 2015 have had their planned commencement dates altered in the last six months? Please list the changes.

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. Where the public are concerned about the condition of any road across the City regardless of any zone programme dates, they should contact the Council and we will make any necessary repairs.
3. Will the Administration review its grit bin policy in light of the current winter weather?

There has been a minor reduction of 6% in the number of grit bins across the City. The number of grit bins across the City remains at six times the average number per kilometre of road of other Councils we have investigated. For example, both Nottingham and Manchester have only 180 grit bins across the City and Sheffield has around 1,900. The grit bins are now located in the areas of greatest need so the Council is using its resources on a priority basis.

4. Will the Administration review its snow warden policy in light of the current winter weather?
5. What performance data exists on the alacrity with which grit bins are refilled when reported empty?

The new snow warden system remains in place which resulted in the increase from around 60 wardens to almost 600.

The Council has recently improved its service by taking grit bins refill requests through our Streets Ahead twitter account. The new option has proved to be very popular. The Council has received many complements about the speed that grit bins have been refilled. The average time it has taken for grit bin refill requests to be completed is within 24 hours

Questions of Councillor Penny Baker to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health)

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| 1. Will the volunteer library groups be able to carry over any remainder of their 2014/15 grants to the 2015/16 financial year? | If a group is experiencing this problem we would be happy to speak to them about this. |
| 2. When will the volunteer library groups receive updated heads of terms for their leases? | Expected beginning of February 2015. |
| 3. How many library overflow facilities exist within Sheffield? | There are no specific overflow facilities. |
| 4. How many books are currently stored in the overflow facilities? | Please see answer to question 3 above. |
| 5. How many books have not been loaned out for more than: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 years• 5 years | In terms of the % of the overall book stock available for loan (currently 506,617):- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 Years – 4.9% (24,711) (of which 8,281 and 6,903 items at Manor and Central Stores respectively).• 5 years – 12.0% (60,571) (of which 10,187 and 9,974 items at Manor and Central Stores respectively). |
| 6. How many books have never been loaned out? | In terms of the % of the overall book stock available for loan (currently 506,617), 3.1% (15,618) |
| 7. How many books have been purchased in the last 2 years? | 63,078 |
| 8. What is the cost of these? | £359,554 |
| 9. Of these how many have never been loaned out? | 3.4% (2,158).
N.B. Some of these books will be very new and will only just have been put on shelves. |

Questions of Councillor Martin Smith to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health)

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| 1. How many lease agreements have been signed with volunteer groups for the Associate Libraries? | This is a work in progress |
| 2. When will this process be completed for all of the Associate Libraries? | We hope to have the process concluded as soon as possible. |