

CITY OF SHEFFIELD

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL – 4 JULY 2012

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. The Chief Executive's review of senior management is now nine months late. Can you confirm whether the review will be published within twelve months of the original proposed date for completion? | Our Administration's commitment was to save around £1million on top of the £500,000 already saved in the 2011/2012 financial year. These extra savings are necessary because of the continued destruction of our public services and the extreme and unfair cuts by your Conservative/ Liberal Democrat Government and according to the Treasury and civil servants these unfair cuts will continue until at least 2020 further decimating our public services. |
| | I understand the main opposition group have been offered a briefing by the Chief Executive. |
| 2. How many times have you met with GMB officials in your capacity as Council Leader to discuss strikes at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres? | Sheffield City Council, Veolia and SOVA have met with GMB on numerous occasions to discuss the strikes. |
| 3. How many times have you met with workers at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres in your capacity as Council Leader to discuss strikes? | Sheffield City Council, Veolia and SOVA have met with GMB on numerous occasions to discuss the strikes. |
| 4. What correspondence have you had with GMB officials with regards strikes at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres? | We liaise with partners across the City regularly. |
| 5. Has the Council signed up to the Government's offer on the retention of receipts from right-to-buy sales? | The Council has signed up in time for the first deadline of 27 th June. |

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| 6. What progress has been made in delivering more shared services with other authorities within Sheffield City Region? | Legal Services have commissioned a piece of work to establish a structure for working as a shared service with other South Yorkshire Council's legal teams in the future. They are currently working towards jointly procuring some external services and joint teams in some work areas |
| 7. Has a new Corporate Communications Strategy been produced yet as you set out as a top priority for your Administration? | Our priorities are clearly set out in the corporate plan. |
| 8. Earlier this year Liberal Democrats and local businesses launched a campaign to bring a new High Speed Rail Station to a City-Centre location in Sheffield. Do you support this campaign? | As a member of the LEP and the Sheffield City Region Leaders Group we have collectively made representations and held discussions with the Secretary of State for which I signed a confidentially agreement. |

Question of Councillor Roger Davison to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore)

At what point since the introduction of Scrutiny Committees have all Scrutiny Committee Chairs represented the same group as the Administration?

16th May 2012

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

1. Regarding the transfer of Bishops House to the "Friends of" group, will you commit to providing funding for the facility in 2013/14?

Plans for the future budget cycle are yet to begin.
2. What is the projected income in 2012/13 and subsequent years from parking charges in Millhouses Park?

Estimated annual income from car parking at Millhouses is around £18,000 per year
3. What is the gross cost in 2012/13 of introducing charging for parking in Millhouses Park?

The one-off set up cost in 2012/13 for Millhouses Park is £22,000. This is made up of ticket machines, tariff boards, signage and improved disabled parking. These costs are one-off – for example ticket machines are not expected to need renewing for at least 10 years. The £22,000, albeit funded from separate capital sums, will still be exceeded in less than 2 years and over say 10 years, the payback will be more than 6:1 with all income credited to supporting the parks revenue budget

Of course, the income return on any capital investment has to be calculated over the lifespan of the investment – looking at income in first year only is a highly partial representation of the scheme
4. What is the projected income in 2012/13 and subsequent years from parking charges in Graves Park?

Estimated annual income from car parking at Graves Park is around £9,000 per year
5. What is the gross cost in 2012/13 of introducing charging for parking in Graves Park?

The one-off set up cost in 2012/13 for Graves Park is £10,800. This is made up of ticket machines, tariff boards and signage. Again, these costs are one-off – for example ticket machines are not expected to need renewing for at least 10 years. The £10,800, albeit funded from separate capital sums, will still be exceeded in less than 2 years and over say 10 years, the payback will be more than 6:1 with all income credited to supporting the parks revenue budget.

6. What dialogue has the Administration undertaken with the University of Sheffield to ensure a permanent solution is found for the Traditional Heritage Museum on Ecclesall Road, so that this treasured local asset can be re-opened to the public?

The Council asked the City's two Museums Trusts to make contact with the University and offer advice and help. This has been done. The collection is owned by the University and it is their responsibility to find a solution

7. What steps will your Administration take to ensure the collection of the Traditional Heritage Museum is preserved and retained?

The Museum is owned and managed by The University of Sheffield. It is not a City collection. Colleagues from the Industrial Museums Trust/Museums Sheffield and the Council's Archives Service have advised the University about the content of the collections and possible solutions for the future security of key elements of the collection.

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

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| 1. What is the cost to the Council of each of Sheffield's children's centres? | Following this question to Council three weeks ago, I believe you have now been provided with this information. |
| 2. What percentage of each of these costs can be attributed to management costs? | See above |
| 3. When do you plan to announce which children's centres will face reductions as a result of your early years review? | The Early Years review is in its third stage and we are hoping that the Early Years Strategy and the implementation proposals will be ready for discussion with providers and other interested parties by early autumn. |

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

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| 1. How many children were not successful in their applications to Lydgate Junior School? | There were 48 pupils who were not successful in their application for Lydgate Infant School of which 20 were from catchment, 6 were siblings from out of catchment and 22 were others from out of catchment. We have provided additional reception places within the locality at Westways and Hallam Primary Schools as alternatives to expansion at the Lydgate Schools as there is no space on the site to do so. |
| 2. How many appeals have been lodged against decisions regarding Lydgate Junior School? | 17 appeals were originally lodged. 3 appeals have been withdrawn and 14 appeals are to be heard. |
| 3. How many of these appeals have been successful? | The outcome of the appeals will be known once they are heard on 2 nd and 3 rd July 2012 |

Questions of Councillor Colin Ross to Councillor Harry Harpham (Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods)

1. How much of the Local Growth Fund has so far been allocated to specific projects? Please list all spend agreed within this fund.

Local Growth Fund gets its funds from the New Homes Bonus which is given to the Local Authority for new homes built and for empty homes brought back into use in the City. It has been agreed that investment made through this fund should encourage new development of homes and bringing empty homes back into use. Therefore projects funded through the New Homes Bonus are aimed at these objectives.

Schemes funded so far are:

- Long Term Empty Homes
- Place Making Services
- Infrastructure Delivery
- Grace Owen Nursery
- Don Valley
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment
- Stuck Sites
- Successful Centres
- Spital Hill
- Green Links
- Chaucer District Centre
- Skinnerthorpe Road
- City Centre Sites Initiative
- Local Authority Mortgage Support Scheme
- Purchase of Sites in Future Housing Investment areas

The Local Growth Fund investment is targeted and focussed investment to support future developments. In total approximately £10m has been allocated to the above schemes over the next few years. Other investment opportunities are being considered at present and will go through normal approval routes.

2. What is the current employment status of the Chief Executive of Sheffield Homes, following the decision to bring Council Housing management in-house?

Any matters in relation to Sheffield Homes and its employees are dealt with by Sheffield Homes, therefore it is not for the Council to comment on these matters. In addition we do not comment

on individual circumstances.

3. What is the estimated planned redundancy payment for the Chief Executive of Sheffield Homes, following the decision to bring Council Housing management in-house?

As above.

4. Does the Council still hold information on the former tenants of Park Hill, who expressed an interest in returning when asked upon moving out?

When residents moved out from the vacant phases of Park Hill (Phases 1 - 4) we asked them if they would be interested in returning. We recorded these details and still have them. Currently we still have a phase which is tenanted (phase 5) and this was declared on the 14th May 2012. We are now carrying out the process of nominating phase 5 residents to the new properties within Flank A on Park Hill. This is because they have a current demolition priority so they are nominated first. If we do not fill the RSL units on Flank A (of which there are 26) with residents from phase 5 then we will revisit the list of former tenants of Park Hill, starting with phase 1, and they will be given the option of being nominated to the units. Once work begins on Flanks B & C we will also go to the list of former tenants to ensure that all ex-residents have the opportunity to be nominated to the new properties on Park Hill.

5. If so, how many have so far been approached in order to offer them a place?

See above.

Questions of Councillor Alison Brelsford to Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion)

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| 1. Will you provide the Council with an update on your Administration's ongoing review into Community Assemblies? | We are undertaking a review of Community Assemblies. As the new Cabinet Member, I will be taking this review forward and it will report back before the end of the financial year. |
| 2. Which officers and Councillors are leading on the review? | See above. |
| 3. How many times has the review panel met since the start of the review? | See above |
| 4. Which officers have been called to give evidence to the review? | I have not called any to date. |
| 5. Have any reports been presented to the review and if so, can they be shared with all Council Members? | None have been presented. |
| 6. When do you plan to consult Community Assembly Chairs as part of the review? | This will form part of the review, but we do not currently have a date. |
| 7. When do you plan to consult community groups as part of the review? | This will form part of the review, but we do not currently have a date. |

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

What progress has been made in the last month in locating a site for the proposed 120-bed intermediate care unit?

NHS Sheffield has confirmed it is still actively considering the proposed facility. NHSS have given us a commitment to keep us updated on progress.

Questions of Councillor Simon Clement-Jones to Councillor Bryan Lodge (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

1. How much of the Keep Sheffield Working Fund has so far been allocated to specific projects? Please list all spend agreed within this Fund.

We are currently working on a range of projects to meet the aims of the fund which are to create the conditions for private sector growth and get behind new ideas that will help create jobs and drive our economy forward.

2. What is the ongoing cost to the Council of Sorby House?

As you know we are still in the process of reconfiguring our budgets to reflect the changes following service reorganisation. The portfolio inherited from Burngreave New Deal for Communities (Sorby House, Burngreave Vestry Hall and Forum House) are currently managed on our behalf by KAPS as part of the Civic Estate until the issues with the DCLG over capital clawback are resolved so the revenue costs and income associated with Sorby would be incorporated within the charges and recharges against the KAPS contract within the P&FM budget.

Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to Councillor Jack Scott (Cabinet Member for Environment, Waste and Streetscene)

1. Why has your Administration decided to close Blackstock Road recycling centre three days a week, while Longley Avenue recycling centre will remain open seven days a week?

The distribution of reductions in opening hours across Household Waste Recycling Centres have not been politically motivated in any way as you have inaccurately claimed.

In 2009 Sheffield City Council produced a new Waste Management Strategy for the City. This strategy set out how the Council, working with Veolia and other partners, would manage all waste produced in Sheffield between 2009 and 2020, not just household waste.

The long term aim of this strategy is for zero waste to landfill and that value is recovered from all the waste that is produced in the City. To achieve these aims, the strategy had 27 actions, with one of these actions being to explore the option of providing a recycling centre for commercial waste that could be used by businesses in Sheffield.

Currently businesses pay to use commercial waste sites that offer limited or no recycling options. By providing an alternative, that was affordable, businesses could be supported in diverting their waste from landfill and increasing recycling in the City. This has benefits for everyone in Sheffield, not just the businesses that use the site.

Director of Finance and Corporate Services at SOVA has confirmed :-

"SOVA Recycling Ltd were asked, as were all those organisations who submitted a tender to run the sites in 2011, how they proposed to allow commercial waste to be accepted at the sites. Due to the licences under which the sites operate, household waste and commercial waste must be kept separate. This meant that a site had to be chosen which would need be closed to the public during the periods it would be accepting commercial waste. SOVA specifically chose

Blackstock for this purpose, with the decision being based on its more central location, with Douglas Road being deemed unsuitable due to its layout and the fact the buildings on the site were needed to process recycling materials."

2. How many times have you met with GMB trade union officials to discuss strikes at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres?
Sheffield City Council, Veolia and SOVA have met with the GMB on numerous occasions to discuss the strikes.
3. How many times have you met with workers at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres to discuss strikes?
Sheffield City Council, Veolia and SOVA have met with the workers on numerous occasions to discuss the strikes held.
4. Please publish all correspondence between GMB trade union officials and yourself regarding strikes at Sheffield's five household waste recycling centres.
We liaise with partners across the City regularly.
5. Please publish all correspondence between GMB trade union officials and yourself regarding proposed strikes in the collections of Sheffield black bins.
There is no proposed strike in the collections of Sheffield black bins
6. As you will know Veolia have offered to continue to collect green bins for a charge of £57.60. What is the cost to the Council of this service?
There is no cost to the Council for the collection of garden waste.
7. How many local residents have so far opted-in to the charged-for service for the collection of green bins?
At the end of May, there were just under 3,500 residents who had opted in to this service.
8. Will you write to Veolia to ask them to consider offering a green bin collection service to areas of the City that currently do not benefit?
I have already done this and negotiations are ongoing to secure this service.
9. How many green bins have so far been collected in by the Council?
At the end of May, just under 27,000 had been collected.
10. What value is gained by the Council for each bin that is sold on following collection?
We receive £200 per tonne
11. Do you agree with your predecessor
See Councillor Bramall's answer to

who stated to this Council, on the 6th July 2011, that the £300,000 allocated to roll-out the flexible choice for the blue bin and box was not “sufficient money” to deliver the scheme?

exactly the same question

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

Regarding your plan to issue more fixed penalty fines for littering in Sheffield's parks, how many fines have been issued since the last Council meeting?

The full information is not yet available. We are in the process of implementing a range of additional enforcement measures.

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

1. With regard to the Highways PFI, what measures have been built into the contract to future-proof the highway infrastructure against extreme weather conditions?

As part of the Bidders' Method Statements on Environmental Issues, Bidders were required to set out how they would design and manage the project in order to maximise Highway resilience to the potential impacts of climate change, and Bidders' proposals in this regard were evaluated as part of their overall environmental proposals.

Other partners, such as Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency will also need to be involved in this area of work.

2. With regard to the recycling centres:

1. How much is demand likely to increase due to
a. the introduction of fortnightly black bin collections?

a) Consultation with other local authorities has shown there may be a small period of time when additional waste is presented through the household waste recycling centres as customers adapt to the service change.

b. the withdrawal of the free garden waste collections?

b) Green waste is very seasonal and linked to weather conditions. Given we are experiencing one of the wettest summers on record, it is difficult to accurately predict the impact on green waste.

2. How much profit per year is currently made from recycling the following waste streams via the

As previously disclosed and widely published, income to the Council via a (50/50) profit share with Veolia was:

- recycling centres?
- a. Paper and card
 - b. Ferrous metals
 - c. Non-ferrous metals
 - d. Textiles
 - e. Batteries

- Paper £12,494
- Non-ferrous metals £213,228.

Income streams from other items are retained by the sub-contractor at their risk.

3. What is the Council's policy on collection and disposal of waste wood?

Where practicable we seek to treat waste as high up the waste hierarchy as possible. The new guidance issued by the European Commission confirms that departure from the hierarchy for specific material streams where this can be justified on grounds of overall environmental impact.

3. With regard to consultation and collaboration with all partners when tendering out Council services:

- a. Did the GMB sit on the tender evaluation panels for the Highways PFI contract?

This was a Council tender.

Yes – representatives from Unison, Unite and GMB formed part of the evaluation team which evaluated the Bidders' proposals on Employment and Pensions.

- b. Did the GMB sit on the tender evaluation panel for managing the recycling centres?

This was not a Council tender.

Veolia is responsible for market testing / tendering the operation of the Household Waste Recycling Centres.

- c. How many meetings did your predecessor have with local businesses, such as Green Estate and Reclaim, involved in recycling and waste management?

My predecessor had numerous meetings with local organisations involved in recycling and waste management.

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

1. What progress have you made in the last month on delivery and expansion of Traffic Regulation Orders outside more schools in Sheffield?

Following on from Cabinet Highways Committee's approval of an allocation to increase the number of Traffic Regulation Orders outside schools in Sheffield, I instructed officers to seek appropriate financial approval for the project through the Council's Capital Approval process. Officers in our Road Safety and School Travel Planning teams have been working together on developing an implementation plan to start delivering as soon as full financial approval is gained.
2. Since May 2011, how much has been spent from the corporate transport and highways budget on developing a 20 mph strategy for the City?

Between 11th May and 12th June, about £32,000 has been spent on this project.
3. Since May 2011, how many 20 mph zones have been delivered and how have each of these schemes been funded?

The forward design programme for all schemes is lengthy. I believe that three areas have been created in the period at Stradbroke, Shiregreen and Wisewood.
4. What are the current timescales for determining an informal challenge to a Penalty Charge Notice?

4 weeks.
5. In the last 6 months how many Penalty Charge Notices have been cancelled due to failure to respond to formal representation within the statutory timescale of 56 days?

In the last six months, we have cancelled 278 Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). This has been due to a combination of factors that occurred together - the introduction of a new system for processing PCNs, long term sickness absence, and an unusually high number of appeals being received - that incurred delays. This situation has now been resolved and all statutory timescales are being met.

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

You previously stated to this Council, on the 6th July 2011, that the £300,000 allocated to roll-out the flexible choice for the blue bin and box was not "sufficient money" to deliver the

The original estimate for city-wide roll-out of 'Flexible Choice' was £600,000. 'Flexibility' makes it impossible to determine actual take-up by the public and so the £600,000 figure related to the

scheme. Do you still believe this to be the case?

cost of full take-up. It is therefore perfectly true to say the previous Liberal Democrat Administration did not allocate sufficient money to cover the cost of implementation, when it only allocated £300,000.

As a responsible Administration, and with the budget cuts from Government, we had to ensure sufficient resources were in place, rather than gamble, as you did. We rolled out phase 1 and monitored take-up. This showed that far fewer people than anticipated swapped the use of their receptacles, with only about 16% doing so. Once this became clear, we felt able to allocate sufficient resources in this current financial year to roll-out 'Flexible Choice' city-wide with evidence to support the expectation that other essential services would not have to be cut to fund any gap.