

Agenda Item 6

Council Meeting – 6th November 2024

Remaining Written Answers Provided To Members' Questions

(Published on 28 November 2024)

Question of Councillor Peter Gilbert to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt)

- Q. You have been invited to the Artists Against The Bomb exhibition at the Dorothy Pax, launching on 6th November and running for 1 month. Will you attend?
- A. The diary over the next month is extremely busy. I'll consider whether I can fit this in, alongside other pressures.

Question of Councillor Maroof Raouf to the Chair of the Finance and Performance Policy Committee (Councillor Zahira Naz)

- Q.7 How does the above [pay ratio] compare to the last 5 years at SCC and to other core cities?

- A.7 The information is included below. The Council does not hold pay information for other Core Cities.

2023/24 The highest salary point was £213,454 and the lowest NJC Grade was Grade 1 SCP2 which was £22,366 – The ratio was 9.54:1

2022/23 The highest salary point was £206,236 and the lowest NJC Grade was Grade 1 SCP1 which was £20,258 – The ratio was 10.18:1

2021/22 The highest salary point was £204,311 and the lowest NJC Grade was Grade 1 SCP1 which was £18,333 – The ratio was 11.14:1

2020/21 The highest salary point was £201,292 and the lowest NJC Grade was Grade 1 SCP1 which was £17,842 – The ratio was 11.28:1

2019/20 The highest salary point was £195,905 and the lowest NJC Grade was Grade 1 SCP1 which was £17,364 – The ratio was 11.28:1

Questions of Councillor Qais Al-Ahdal to the Chair of the Finance and Performance Policy Committee (Councillor Zahira Naz)

Q.1 You previously declined to contact Islington Council for details of the discussions they have had with Barclays Bank, citing that our contract with Barclays ends on 30 September 2027. However, we know that a review of the Council's existing Ethical Procurement Policy is due to be reported to the Strategy & Resources Policy Committee in December. Ultimately, that Policy will affect the Council's decision on the Barclay's contract when that contract comes up for renewal, so why do you still refuse to reach out to Islington Council regarding their reasons related to Barclays' involvement in Israeli human rights abuses in occupied Palestine, as this information is vital for developing the new Ethical Procurement Policy?

A.1 As outlined in my answer at the Council meeting in October: there is nothing legally stopping the Council having a conversation with Islington Council and I was clear we can have that conversation. It is worth stressing again, however, that the situation in Islington is very different as their contract was up for renewal, whereas ours is not currently.

However, you will recall I also did provide a verbal response at the November meeting to say I have made contact with Islington Council, and when I have further information I would be happy to share it with you.

Q.2 Despite the intended aims of the new Ethical Procurement Policy, how can Sheffield residents have trust in its development if engaging with Islington Council isn't considered in relation to Barclays?

A.2 As stated previously, Islington Council have been contacted.

Question of Councillor Dianne Hurst to the Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (Councillor Kurtis Crossland)

Q. With the enactment of the Environment and Nature Recovery Act, SCC now has a statutory duty to recover biodiversity. We will not be able to achieve our duty without holistic landscape scale environmental management of grasslands, meaning the issue of biomass disposal is acute. The issue of biomass disposal was identified at the beginning of the Urban Nature Park project some ten years ago. SCC has now acquired cut and collect mowers, but this is only half of the picture. How far progressed are plans to acquire and use a biomass digester, especially in association with a food waste collection service?

A. *Answer from Councillor Joe Otten, Chair of the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee –*

With regard to food waste, Sheffield City Council has been granted and applied for a transitional arrangement to exempt it from the requirements to operate domestic food waste collections. This will require regular review but currently there are no plans to introduce a domestic food waste collection service.

Answer from Councillor Kurtis Crossland, Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee –

Currently green waste that is collected through the Parks and Countryside Service is managed through composting routes. This does involve costs, and the Service is exploring alternative options collaboratively with the waste team to improve this process and reduce costs and increase our biodiversity offer. The Service is in the initial stages of identifying the feasibility of a project such as this, that would include identifying a suitable site and understanding how the site would be managed and maintained.

As outlined in Councillor Otten's response regarding food waste, Sheffield City Council has been granted and applied for a transitional arrangement to exempt it from the requirements to operate domestic food waste collections. This will require regular review but currently there are no plans to introduce a domestic food waste collection service.

Without food waste collections, large scale biomass digester plants would not be feasible and whilst small scale plants exist, they can be prone to issues caused by their scale and are not always a suitable disposal route for organic materials without food waste being in the mix. As mentioned above, options are being explored for the disposal of biomass materials.

Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to the Chair of the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee (Councillor Joe Otten)

Q.2 How many successful prosecutions were made for (a) fly tipping and (b) littering incidents in the same period, and the equivalent period in 2023?

A.2 (a) Waste offences prosecution cases submitted between:-

April & Sept 2023 = 18;

April & Sept 2024 = 14

(b) Litter cases taken to Magistrates court where Fixed Penalty Notices

(FPN) were unpaid:-

April - Sept 2023 = 167

April – Sept 2024 = 203

Any income from fines imposed by the court do not come back to Sheffield City Council.

NB. The Enforcement team can only investigate cases of fly tipping where evidence is available and FPNs can only be issued where the offence can be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The Enforcement team only have the opportunity to investigate a relatively small proportion of all reported fly tipping in the city because there is often no evidence upon which to base a case. All partners are encouraged and do make evidence referrals where it is available.

The majority of detected fly tipping offences involve vehicular fly tipping that is captured on the overt Sheffield City Council CCTV units, most of which have been installed in either fly tipping hotspots where the offences occur in a confined location that can successfully be monitored and many of them have been installed at recycling points to tackle the illegal deposit of general waste.

It is generally appropriate to deal with detected fly tipping incidents by means of a FPN and a prosecution case is undertaken either when an offender has failed to mitigate the offence by payment of a FPN or the case is so serious an FPN is deemed inappropriate to deal with the offence.

Q.3 What was the total value in fines for (a) fly tipping and (b) littering incidents in the same period, and the equivalent period in 2023?

A.3 (a) Fly tipping Fixed Penalty Notices issued between April 2023 and Sept 2023 = 51 (some at the discounted rate of £300 and some will have been at the non-discounted rate of £400). I cannot get that data, so working on the discounted rate as a guide, this would equate to £15,300.

The figure for fly tipping Fixed Penalty Notices between April 2024 and Sept 2024 is the same, at 51 being issued, so the total is the same - £15,300, although this is an estimate only.

(b) For paid litter FPNs, see below:

Between April & Sept 2023
446 x £80 litter FPNs were paid = £35,680

Between April & Sept 2024
339 x £80 litter FPNs were paid = £27,120

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