

## COUNCIL - 28 FEBRUARY 2013

### QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**1. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor P. Dowd)**

“The report submitted to the Cabinet on 14 February 2013 shows that the respondents in the scientific and 'representative' survey commissioned by the Cabinet into the willingness of Sefton MBC residents to pay an additional £1.50 per week in Council Tax, representing an approximately 6 percent average increase in Council Tax this year, showed an overwhelming 63 per cent of households questioned within the Borough were willing to pay this level of increase.

Would it be the view of the Leader of the Council, on the basis of such a 'scientific sample', that the Council Tax should, therefore, be increased by such an amount or perhaps more?

If not, could he inform the Council what would be the percentage level of support for such a move, obtained in such a 'scientific' and 'representative' survey, which have been necessary for him to recommend a local referendum being held on this issue this year?”

**Response:**

- i) No
- ii) I refer to my previous answer, i.e. No.

**2. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Tourism (Councillor Maher)**

“Concerning the announced relocation of the Musical Fireworks event from the Kings Gardens to Victoria Park, Southport, could the Cabinet member inform the Council what consultation with local resident in the Westcliffe Road area and Rotten Row was there before this decision was made and what noise-impact assessments have there been of moving the event so much closer to people’s homes?

Given the disappointment with previous published predictions on this matter, does the Cabinet Member believe that the Coast Road will be fully-open and its drains properly-maintained on a regular basis by the time this event takes place in October?

What contact has he had from English Nature exercising their role as supervisor of Sefton Council’s role as drainage manager for the Site of Special Scientific Interest under the Higher Level Stewardship Agreement?”

**Response:**

- i) None
- ii) None
- iii) This is not my area of responsibility.

**3. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools, Families and Leisure (Councillor Moncur)**

“Does the Cabinet Member recognise the worry caused to proprietors and customers of the Cambridge Arcade, Southport (which will shortly again become a major thoroughfare for Atkinson Centre customers) due to the apparent inability of the Local Authority and Police to exercise any sanctions at all over Skateboarders using Chapel Street, the Arcade and the Town Gardens for their recreation?”

Will he agree to meet with me, traders and skateboard representatives to see whether there is any way forward in this matter, including looking at the wider aspects of skateboard provision locally?”

**Response:**

This is not my area of responsibility.

**4. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Transportation (Councillor Fairclough)**

“Could the Cabinet Member - Transportation inform me:

- (i) how many Residents’ Parking Bays are there and how many residents’ parking passes were issued in the past year for them in (a) Southport (b) Bootle (c) Sefton MBC as a whole?
- (ii) what are the presumed annual costs for (a) monitoring (b) marking these bays and (c) administrating the residents parking scheme?
- (iii) what is the gross income and overall net cost/income of these schemes throughout the Sefton MBC area?
- (iv) what are the comparable costs charged to residents for residents parking in Liverpool, Wirral, and any directly-comparable local authorities?
- (v) in how many streets of Southport and Sefton MBC have residents submitted expressions of interest for residents’ parking schemes in the past five years?”

**Response:**

As this is part of the car parking review, I will provide appropriate information upon completion.

**5. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Transportation (Councillor Fairclough)**

“Bearing in mind that some of the measures which are likely to be put forward by consultees in the planned parking consultation are likely to decrease net revenue, could the Cabinet Member give some indicative charge rates as to what the likely increase in parking fees would have to be in order to generate the £300,000 which is included in the present budget proposal budget?”

**Response:**

I refer you to my previous response.

**6. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Transportation (Councillor Fairclough)**

“Could the Cabinet Member give consideration to public assurances given previously to Councillors concerning the proper re-instatement of the large paving flags in Chapel Street and Tulketh Street, Southport, and give his own assurances about a date by which this area will be restored to previous condition?”

**Response:**

- i) Yes
- ii) No

**7. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (Performance and Corporate Services) (Councillor McGinnity)**

“Could the Chair explain why his committee only permitted scrutiny of the budget consultation, not the contents of the budget?”

**Response:**

The Committee has had that opportunity over a number of meetings.

**8. Question submitted by Councillor Tonkiss to the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools, Families and Leisure (Councillor Moncur)**

- “i) In relation to the Libraries Review report to Cabinet on 14 February there appears to be an absence in the report of any reference to the importance of Carnegie Library on College Road as a Grade 11 Listed Building and its important history as a library originally funded by the philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. As the only 'Carnegie' library in Sefton it beggars belief that this was not mentioned in the report and given the due attention it deserves. Can the Cabinet Member explain why there should have been an omission in the report?
- ii) Item 7.3 of the report refers to the options for disposal in the event of closure needing to be agreed by the Cabinet or Cabinet Member. It also states that 'any mothballing/demolition or other costs included in the overall implementation and financial plan'. Would the Cabinet Member not agree that the Carnegie Library is of such importance that it should remain open from a conservation point of view as well as it being well supported as a Crosby library? What comments has the Conservation Officer made on this library?
- iii) In view of the uncertainties of redevelopment affecting the Crosby Civic Hall library would it be premature to include the Carnegie library in 'option B' of the report as residents in Crosby and Waterloo might be without a library during the time of any redevelopment?”

**Response:**

- i) The Listed status of the building is not relevant to the use as a library.
- ii) Yes, if feasible and sustainable. None
- iii) No it isn't premature.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor Tonkiss to the Cabinet Member – Transportation (Councillor Fairclough)**

- “i) When is it likely that Corporate Commissioning will be able to seek sponsorship of the Borough's traffic islands? Crosby and Waterloo in Bloom has received interest from landscape contractors to sponsor the traffic island on the A565 at Crosby Village at the junction of Moor Lane and the Bypass.

- ii) Can small contractors or individuals sponsor the flower beds to help maintenance in Crosby Village?"

**Response:**

- i) This is not my area of responsibility.  
ii) Yes they can.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor Robertson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor P. Dowd)**

"What individual precepting amounts have been notified to Sefton Council by the precepting bodies and parish councils who raise money within the Borough for 2013/14?"

**Response:**

The following precepting amounts have been received: -

	2013/14 £
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority	5,256,663
Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner	11,755,180

Parish Precepts: -

Aintree Village	90,000
Formby	44,930
Hightown	4,166
Ince Blundell	1,430
Little Altcar	2,500
Lydiate	129,903
Maghull	555,871
Melling	18,000
Sefton	2,779
Thornton	4,500

**11. Question submitted by Councillor Keith to the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools, Families and Leisure (Councillor Moncur)**

"Could the Cabinet Member say when he believes that the vacant offices in the Southport Town Hall which are to be taken up by Children's' Social Service staff, will actually be occupied?"

**Response:**

No

**12. Question submitted by Councillor Welsh to the Cabinet Member – Transportation (Councillor Fairclough)**

“Is the Cabinet Member confident in the value for money and effectiveness of the present service being provide to the residents of the Borough in respect of surveying and identifying hazardous defects in the highways, including damaged grids and manholes which are the responsibility of United Utilities?”

**Response:**

Yes

**13. Question submitted by Councillor Preece to the Cabinet Member – Transportation (Councillor Fairclough)**

“Could the Cabinet Member provide the Council with a brief timetable of the search for and discovery of drains in the area around the Coast Road, Southport, which has been undertaken by Council officers to identify and cure the flooding problems of the past few months?”

Could the Cabinet Member identify what discoveries there have been in this process, what actions have been taken and what preventative processes have been scheduled for the future in order to prevent a repetition of the recent flooding?

Could the Cabinet Member provide a statement as to what contacts and when there have been during the past three months between the Council and Natural England in relation to the Council's responsibility to maintain the drainage of the sensitive ecosystem through which the Coast Road passes?”

**Response:**

This is not my area of responsibility.