

COUNCIL – 22 JANUARY 2015

QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1. **Question submitted by Councillor Booth to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment (Councillor Hardy)**

“Following the tragic accident involving a Glasgow refuse lorry; are Sefton’s refuse lorry crews, who do not drive and are in the cab, given instructions how to stop the vehicle in an emergency.”

Response:

As the investigation into this tragic incident is ongoing it would be inappropriate to make any further comment on this matter at this stage. Obviously if at the conclusion of the investigation there are any lessons to learn we will change our practices accordingly.

2. **Question submitted by Councillor Papworth to the Cabinet Member for Transportation (Councillor Fairclough)**

"What is the total cost so far (parts and labour) of installing 20 mph signs in the Borough? And why is it necessary to display signs every 100 yards or so, by contrast with the established methods for 30 mph?

Given that most cars emit 20% more pollution at 20 mph than at 30 mph because lower gears are used, and given that there is no evidence that accidents have been, or will be, reduced, does the Cabinet Member seriously believe that this has been a sensible use of scarce money?

Response:

The total cost from a Government Grant is £210,014. The scheme is implemented in accordance with Government Guidelines. If the grant provided by the Government saves lives and prevents accidents, as the evidence does indicate, it is money well spent.

ITEM NO. 6

3. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Corporate Services (Councillor Tweed)

Given that Sefton Council cannot sue itself for neglect, what measures are available to the people of Southport to ensure that listed buildings, such as the Victoria Baths on Southport's Promenade are maintained adequately?

Response:

If a Council owned Listed Building is deemed to be "at risk", then this is highlighted (along with a list of works required), to the relevant portfolio holder within the Council, and essential works undertaken

4. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member for Performance and Corporate Services (Councillor Tweed)

How many hours officer time and what level of total expenditure has there been in the past year on the matter of letting out shops in the Cambridge Arcade? Given the immense difficulties which the Council appears to have experienced in letting out the two vacant shops in the Cambridge Arcade, will the Council consider offering the other tenants of shops in the arcade the job of letting these premises?

Response:

1. No records of these specific costs are kept.
2. No, for both legal and insurance reasons.

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

Will the Cabinet Member join with me in congratulating the Southport BID group on the greatly improved Christmas lights in the trees of Lord Street and will he give assurances that before next Christmas this lighting will be supplemented by the replacement of the **numerous basic street lighting units** in the town centre which have been out or missing altogether for many months?

Response:

1. Yes
2. Yes subject to available funding

6. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member for Health and Older people (Councillor Cummins)

What is the current combined number of day place attendances per week in all Southport Day Centres; what are the equivalent numbers in the previous two years and what is this number anticipated/projected to be in the proposals currently being put forward for consultation by Sefton Council?

Response:

1. w/c 1.12.14 - 495
2. December 2013 – 504
December 2012 – 671
3. 600

7. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member for Health and Older people (Councillor Cummins)

Will the Cabinet Member give assurance that social service clients in the Borough receiving Direct Payments financial support from Sefton MBC will not be discriminated against in terms of the increase in financial support which has been provided this year to Mears and Delta care services this year - including backdating where appropriate?

Response:

Yes.

8. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member for Health and Older people (Councillor Cummins)

Is the Cabinet Member aware of any discharges from hospital of Sefton MBC residents recently being delayed as a result of the lack of sufficient trained Care Workers being available within the various private agencies in any part of the Borough or insufficient intermediate care beds being available to provide the level of care assessed as being necessary for each individual?

Response:

No