

COUNCIL – 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015

QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

“Can the Leader of the Council please confirm the amount of reserves both allocated and unallocated as of the 31st March 2014 held by Sefton Council and could these figures also include details of reserves both ring-fenced and non-ring fenced.”

**Response:**

**Council Balances**

- Council £10.066m
- School Balances £17.792m (inc. School Supply Teacher balances)

<b>Sefton Council Reserves</b>	£m
<b>Transformational</b>	
Modernisation Fund	0.536
Redundancy Reserve	5.974
Transforming Sefton	12.549
<b>Specific</b>	
Environmental Warranty	13.000
Insurance Fund	1.573
Pensions Reserve	0.798
Capital Priorities Fund	0.747
Community Transition Fund	0.684
Contamination Clear Up	1.500
NNDR Appeals / Reduction in income	1.582
Other Specific Reserves	8.335
<b>Schools' Earmarked Reserves</b>	6.864

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

1. For each of the following day care centres serving the residents of the Southport & Formby areas, could the Cabinet Member inform the members of the Council:-
  - (a) the theoretical maximum places per week or month 'on offer'
  - (b) the average number of places 'booked in' in a week or month
  - (c) the average number of places actually taken up (ie 'b' above minus absences due to sickness etc):-
    - The Orchards
    - Mornington Road
    - Sandbrook
    - The Poplars
    - West Park
    - Chase Heys
    - Brookdale
    - Other (including private and voluntary sector)
2. For each of the day centres listed above, in the model for the future which was being proposed during the October 2014 consultation (including closure of Brookdale), what were the predicted (a) number of staffed day care places on offer and (b) predicted likely average take-up rate of day places in the model for the future which was being proposed during the 2014 consultation (including closure of Brookdale)
3. For each of the day centres listed above, under the new proposals agreed by Cabinet in February 2015, what will be (a) the number of staffed day care places on offer and (b) predicted likely average take-up of day places.
4. Under the new proposals agreed by Cabinet in February 2015, what is the new proposed timescale for (a) the likely closure of Chase Heys Day Centre and (b) the increase in the number of Day care places available in the Southport & Formby area?
5. Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the current and past under-occupancy levels in the Southport day care centres has not been due to either (a) inappropriate assessments or (b) lack of 'marketing' of the facilities by Social Service, NHS or voluntary sector staff - or both.

**Response:**

I understand that Councillor Dawson has already received answers to some of these questions from Director of Older People. Bearing in mind the amount of information required to answer the question a full written response will be provided to Councillor Dawson in due course.

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

Ordinary members and officers of several local authorities in England have recently received considerable public criticism for failing to ensure that their Councils and their officers operate appropriate procedures and investigate properly, with due transparency and confidentiality, when allegations are made concerning inadequate or inappropriate procedures where children or vulnerable adults are at risk.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm:

- (a) that the last time when a child in Sefton MBC's care died in circumstances of concern that ordinary members of the Council, and even the Leader of the Council of the time were not informed?

and assure councillors

- (b) that, in the event of any future death or serious issue of concern regarding a child in care or vulnerable adult being brought to light within the Authority then there are now procedures in place to ensure that all Councillors will be appropriately informed both about the events and the measures being taken by the council to address them?

**Response:**

In response to (a)

I can confirm that 'ordinary' members of the Council were not informed. I cannot confirm whether the statutory director for Children's Services at that time did or didn't inform the then Leader of the Council.

In response to (b)

In the event of any future death or serious issue of concern regarding a child in care or vulnerable adult the Council will comply with statutory guidance and regulation regarding reporting those concerns. In the case of children this is described in the Working Together document.

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

In respect of the deployment of winter grazing livestock on the Ainsdale & Birkdale Nature Reserve, what risk assessment has there been, in conjunction with Merseyside Police or otherwise, in respect of the potential for (a) sheep or (b) cattle to wander from the fenced area onto the Coast Road?

Is there a traffic management plan in place for such an eventuality?

**Response:**

The risk assessment for the grazing project identified the fencing, gates specification followed standard guidelines and the risk of sheep or a cattle wandering onto the Coast Road was assessed as unlikely or low risk.

Merseyside Police were not consulted in respect of the potential for cattle or sheep to wander onto the Coast Road and there is no traffic management plan in place.