

COUNCIL - 24TH NOVEMBER 2018

QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1.	<p><u>Question submitted by Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)</u></p>												
	<p>1) “What is the total annual salary and on cost for the 5 Sefton posts at Executive Director Level and above?</p> <p>2) What is the total annual salary and on cost for the 11 Head of Service posts in Sefton?</p> <p>3) Whether any Head of Service or Executive Director post has been filled without open advertisement?”</p>												
	<p>1)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="328 808 959 981"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Posts</th> <th>Salary plus Oncosts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Executive Leadership</td> <td align="center">5</td> <td align="center">£0.841m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="328 1081 959 1254"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Posts</th> <th>Salary plus Oncosts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Heads of Service</td> <td align="center">11</td> <td align="center">£1.228m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Based on the latest pay periods the full year payroll costs for all Council employees (excluding schools) would be £102.804m. Therefore, of the overall pay costs, the percentage relating to Executive Leadership and Heads of Service is 2.01%.</p> <p>3) “All permanent posts have been subject to open advertisement and are subject to the Employment Procedure Committee. The Employment Procedure Committee is politically balanced. One Executive Director and one Head of Service is a temporary appointment which was approved through the Committee.”</p>		Posts	Salary plus Oncosts	Executive Leadership	5	£0.841m		Posts	Salary plus Oncosts	Heads of Service	11	£1.228m
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2.	<p><u>Question submitted by Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)</u></p>												
	<p>“For each of the years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016/17 • 2017/18 • 2018/19 (to date) <p>would the Cabinet Member please supply details of (1) the number and (2) the total cost of Exit Packages to departing staff where the individual Exit Package cost has</p>												

exceeded £100,000.”

Response:

“For each of the years: -

- 2016/17
- 2017/18
- 2018/19 (to date)

would the Cabinet Member please supply details of (1) the number and (2) the total cost of Exit Packages to departing staff where the individual Exit Package cost has exceeded £100,000.

Financial Costs

	Number	Value
2016 to-date	11	£1.613m

The costs above reflect costs of a redundancy payment and Capital Costs (the latter the employee does not receive but is paid to the Pension Fund under a contractual obligation). The redundancies were as a result of organisational change that led to budgetary savings caused by substantial cuts to local government financial settlements imposed by this Tory Government.”

3. Question submitted by Councillor Sir Ron Watson the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)

“The extent to which the Council is seeking to enter the commercial world has raised concerns with many Members.

Would the Leader of the Council agree that it would be very helpful if senior elected Members on the Cabinet in particular received professional training in respect of the principles and practicalities of commercial development including finance, risk assessment and monitoring.”

Response:

“Councillor Watson states that many members have concerns, this is a scenario I do not agree with. With regards to Councillor Watson’s question, training for Elected Members is always welcome, however, Councillor Watson does not seem to realise that advice and guidance regarding finance risk assessment and monitoring is provided by the Council’s professional officers.”

4. Question submitted by Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)

“The Cabinet recently considered the response produced by officers to the LGA Peer Review Report (Agenda item 5 page 40).

The report states that Constituency Fora are well established with increased levels of partner and community participation.

	Does the Leader of the Council agree with this statement and if so would he state his reasons for his opinion.”								
	<p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>“The report does not state that Constituency Fora are well established with increased levels of partner and community participation.”</p>								
5.	<p><u>Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)</u></p> <p>“How much money was spent by Sefton MBC in respect of the last Open Golf tournament held at Royal Birkdale, either in respect of a specific allocated budget or in respect of other identifiable significant expenditure, either within existing Council budget headings or outside of such budget headings? I should be grateful if you might, please set out all significant payments for individual items or expenditure headings over £1000.</p> <p>I should be grateful if the parts of this answer could be set out within a table including the following five columns:</p> <p>(a) item/heading</p> <p>(b) total cost of expenditure</p> <p>(c) date of approval (I am happy at this time with either specific or approximate ie month) of the expenditure</p> <p>(d) person, persons or body approving the item/group of expenditure</p> <p>(e) persons or bodies consulted about the expenditure before the decision was made”</p>								
	<p><u>Response:</u></p> <p>“In 2017 Royal Birkdale hosted The Open for the 10th time, with over 235,000 people attending and millions watching worldwide it presented Sefton with strategic opportunities to stimulate the visitor economy and facilitate trade, investment and development.</p> <p>It was the most successful English Open of all time, the event had an overall economic impact of £86.1 million.</p> <p>There was simply not enough time to provide the level of detail requested as this would entail considerable officer time and would involve careful considerations of the commercial sensitivity of some of the data.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td>1,066,612</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partner Income</td> <td>-416,612</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Sefton MBC Spend</td> <td>650,000</td> </tr> </table>	Expenditure	1,066,612	Partner Income	-416,612			Total Sefton MBC Spend	650,000
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6.	<u>Question submitted by Councillor Booth to the Cabinet Member for</u>
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	<u>Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)</u>
	<p>“In previous years for Remembrance Sunday local elected members have always ‘lined up’ to walk to the cenotaph in order of ‘seniority’ or ‘length of service’. As such, they walked alongside others from different political parties as it was about the event, and not about political persuasion.</p> <p>This year, when waiting to form a line, members were advised by a Council Officer that they had to line up in ‘party order’. Labour first, then Lib Dem, then Conservative.</p> <p>It is felt that this made the whole process highly political and detracted from the occasion.</p> <p>Who authorised these changes and who was consulted before the changes were made?”</p>
	<u>Response:</u>
	<p>“The Remembrance Services were, as always, facilitated by officers from the Civic and Mayoral Service. The services in 2018 were conducted in the same manner as they have since at least 2013.”</p>