

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer which will be included in an addendum that will be circulated at the meeting:

(1) Councillor Inkpin-Leissner – Wild Park:

Could Councillor Mitchell please explain how was the funding that BHCC have been receiving from Natural England to maintain Wild Park precisely been used and why did Rangers not check on the pond in Wild Park, when it was drying out?

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(2) Councillor Phillips – HIV & Sexual Health Services

Since 2015 what has been the annual council spend on HIV and sexual health services, year by year?

Reply from Councillor Barford – Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board

(3) Councillor Gibson

Please can you indicate:

- when each of the current contracts with Baron Homes, Helgor Trading, Colgate and Gray to provide temporary/emergency accommodation are due to end?
- when consideration of extension or replacement (recommissioning) of each of these contracts will commence?
- how members of the housing committee will be involved in decisions around future provision?

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

(4) Councillor Gibson - Providing council owned emergency accommodation.

Last year there was unanimous support for looking into providing council owned emergency accommodation as a “matter of urgency.”

To progress this, a subsequent Housing & New Homes agreed to:

“call for a report on the business case modeling for a “spend to save” purchase of emergency accommodation, so that the council may directly provide its own emergency accommodation

That this modeling:

- a) Estimates revenue savings on current expenditure of private provision
- b) Estimates the capital appreciation that would flow to the council through ownership of Emergency accommodation
- c) Explores the potential to offer greater support to residents of emergency accommodation from any savings achieved

Since the provision of council owned emergency accommodation has the potential to save money and improve the quality of provision and the motion received unanimous support in Council and in Housing Committee, can you indicate when the report will come to Housing & New Homes Committee?

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

(5) Councillor Phillips

How many educational psychologist assessments for primary aged children have been undertaken in the city over the past six months, and of those how many resulted in statements being issued?

Reply from Councillor Chapman – Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee

(6) Councillor Sykes

Please could a statement be provided on progress this financial year with the negotiations with Network Rail, repairs and refurbishment of Hove Station footbridge, including investment projections for the next 18 months?

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(7) Councillor Sykes

Please could a statement be provided on progress this financial year with Brighton Town Hall Workstyles, including investment projections for the next 18 months?

Reply from Councillor Hamilton – Deputy Chair (Finance) of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(8) Councillor Sykes

Please can an update be provided on the status and progress this year of any work being undertaken by BHCC on district heat initiatives, and what is planned over the next year?

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

(9) Councillor Sykes

Please can an update be provided on the status and progress this year of any work being undertaken by BHCC on a Solar Farm on BHCC land, and what is planned over the next year?

Reply from Councillor Hamilton – Deputy Chair (Finance) of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(10) Councillor Sykes

Please can an update be provided on the status and progress this year of any work being undertaken by BHCC on food waste collection initiatives in the city, and what is planned over the next year?

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(11) Councillor Sykes

Please can a statement be given on the status of and projections for Warm Safe Homes grants, an element of the revised Disabled Facilities Grant?

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

(12) Councillor Sykes

Please can the lead Councillor state how many BHCC sheltered housing schemes have access to Wi-Fi for residents?

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

(13) Councillor Taylor - School Crossing Officers

Can the Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee echo our support for the campaign by Withdean residents in securing the much loved lollipop service for students of Stanford Infants and Junior School and outline what the Administration will do to assist residents and schools in getting this vital service back up and running?

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(14) Councillor Nemeth – King Alfred

Given the estimated £669,000 that has already been expended by the Council on the latest King Alfred project (£409,000 officer costs and £260,000 consultant costs), what further costs are envisaged between now and project completion, and are such funds already in place?

Reply from Councillor Yates – Leader of the Council

(15) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Further to my written question to Councillor Cattell two years ago about the roof audit study of 2014* which found that the equivalent of up to 100 Olympic swimming pools of water could be held back from the city's roads and drains, could I ask how this study is informing the city's future resilience?

*<https://building-green.org.uk/2015/01/24/huge-potential-for-green-roofs-to-improve-the-centreof-brighton/>

Reply from Councillor Cattell – Chair of the Planning Committee

(16) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Further to my written question to last full Council about the Council Tax Protocol, new figures from debt help charity StepChange tell us that in the first half of 2018, more than 30 per cent of new clients were behind on their council tax - by far the highest category of debt arrears. Given that paying council tax continues to be a struggle for many in the city can I ask for an update on how this is being understood by the administration the Corporate Debt Board?

Reply from Councillor Hamilton – Deputy Chair (Finance) of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

(17) Councillor Mac Cafferty

A survey this month by childcare.co.uk reveals that 3 in 4 teachers have daily teeth brushing sessions for primary pupils who do not do it at home. In Brighton & Hove 131 of the 305 children admitted to hospital for teeth extraction in 2015 /16 were aged 5-9 years. Given the importance of dental hygiene and increased knowledge about its connection to heart conditions later in life, can the administration inform me of what work they are doing to bring down this number of largely preventable hospital admissions and improve dental hygiene for primary pupils?

Reply from Councillor Chapman – Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee

(18) Councillor Mac Cafferty

According to the Grimsey Review* from July this year, lease lengths for high street shops have decreased and will continue to do so creating increased uncertainty for investors “which will have an impact on investment decisions.” What assurances can I have the Administration will absorb this information in good time for any major development decision involving retail?

*<http://www.vanishinghighstreet.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/GrimseyReview2.pdf>

Reply from Councillor Robins – Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee

