

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: Janio

In 2017, Brighton and Hove City Council removed 'The Coal Yard adjacent to Sackville Trading Estate' from the *East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan*. Why did the Labour Administration not attempt to remove Hangleton Bottom from the plan, and do the Labour administration have any plans to remove it at the earliest opportunity?

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

(2) Councillor Mac Cafferty

An astonishing 1 in 6 people in the city wait a whole week to see their GP with too many waiting longer; 10 GP surgeries in Brighton and Hove have now closed in the last couple of years. What representation has the Administration made about this intolerable situation to the Clinical Commissioning Group and when are these waiting figures going to decrease?

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

(3) Councillor Mac Cafferty

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services described this year's proposed government funding settlement for adult social care as "both inadequate and temporary." How is the Administration lobbying government for adequate long-term funding for adult social care?

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

(4) Councillor Mac Cafferty

As ownership figures for electric vehicles continue to rise in the city what work is being done to ensure that the location of charge points does not take valuable pedestrian space? This could include for e.g.: designs which are integrated into a street lamp column or are attached to it; and installing build-outs where footway widths are not sufficient.

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

(5) Councillor Mac Cafferty

In a Yougov ClientEarth poll* from August 2018, two thirds are in favour of breaking up the Big Six's share of the energy market to favour smaller, cleaner, and locally owned energy systems. The poll also indicated that over 60% of U.K. households want to install solar plus storage solutions. 1 April marks the closure of the favourable feed-in tariff scheme to new applicants despite the large growth of sustainable energy achieved under the scheme. What support is the Administration offering to the many local sustainable energy cooperatives to continue their valuable work?

*<https://www.documents.clientearth.org/wp-content/uploads/library/2018-08-20-clientearths-climate-snapshot-coll-en.pdf>

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

(6) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Across the entire council workforce, how many staff in which departments are currently engaged in a redundancy consultation process?

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

(7) Councillor Sykes

Libraries: Please can Councillor Daniel provide the current annual value of the Book Fund and how this has changed since 2010. In addition please can Councillor Daniel give the separate annual cost to the Council of the bibliographical services provided by Bertram's and how this has changed if at all since 2010?

Reply from Councillor Daniel, Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee

(8) Councillor Sykes

Waste and recycling: Please can Councillor Mitchell provide an annual figure (in kilogrammes) for Brighton and Hove per household domestic waste arisings (to the Energy Recovery Facility), domestic recycling (to the Hollingdean Materials Recovery Facility) and domestic garden waste (to Veolia's composting facility) from 2010 to date?

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

(9) Councillor DrUITT

Impact of Brexit:

On 21 July 2016 Councillor Deane and I submitted a Motion to Council which was passed on the impact of Brexit. The Motion requested that:

- the Chief Executive write to the Government's new EU unit setting out concerns with the local impact of any loss of EU funding in research, higher education, infrastructure and community support, the value of free movement of people to Brighton & Hove's economy, as well as the impact on workers' rights and the environment in Brighton and Hove if legal obligations and protections under EU law are weakened on leaving the EU;
- Officer reports be presented to future meetings of the relevant Committees setting out the likely impacts of Brexit, and recommendations on appropriate mitigation measures that could be taken within areas of each committee's portfolio;
- the Chief Executive ensure Brighton and Hove plays a full part in the national feedback process initiated by the LGA on the fallout of Brexit.

The motion was passed but I haven't seen officer reports of the kind described above presented to any committees I have been on, and I have never heard of the outcome of any actions taken by the Chief Executive as a result of this Motion. Can I ask what has been done in response to this motion, which committees have received specific Brexit impact reports and what actions have been taken as a result to prepare the city in the eventuality that Brexit, in one form or other, actually happens?

Reply from Councillor Yates – Leader of the Council

(10) Councillor DrUITT

Making vacant council buildings available for use as homeless shelters:

On the 26th January 2017 Councillor Gibson and I submitted a motion to Council asking that the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee commission and give consideration to an urgent report that would enable the City Council to:

- Make policy that allows for all vacant City Council buildings to be made freely available for use as temporary homeless shelters, to be run by community charity and voluntary organisations that are able and willing to do so;
- Publicises the availability of vacant City Council buildings to the voluntary and community sector, and calls for expressions of interest from the community to operate these spaces;
- Make preparations for this at the earliest possible time, given the onset of winter, and offers clear guidance frameworks and assistance to all interested groups, particularly with navigating any regulatory requirements; and
- Sets Terms of Reference for use of the spaces, conditions of use and clearly details the arrangements for reclaiming possession of the relevant premises when circumstances require it.

We all know about the Brighton Centre Night Shelter that was set up in response to this Motion, and I am very grateful to the Administration and officers

for making this happen – it has no doubt made a world of difference to those using it. However, this Motion called specifically for vacant Council buildings to be made available to the community, that availability of buildings be publicised and that guidance was developed to facilitate the use of Council buildings for this purpose. Given that this motion was passed can I ask what has been done to make this happen?

Reply from Councillor Moonan – Lead Member for Rough Sleeping

(11) Councillor Drutt

Cycling Strategy:

On 20th July 2017 Councillor Littman and I submitted a Motion to Council to request that a report be brought to Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee outlining options for implementing a specific and ambitious cycling strategy for Brighton and Hove, with information included that would help to:

- Identify what progress has been made against the cycling goals of the Local Transport Plan, to encourage a healthy cycling culture whereby cycling is safe, easy and enjoyable;
- Explore options for the continued development of better cycling infrastructure such as the creation of a ‘Brighton and Hove Cycle network’ (modelled on the successful London Cycle Network) of joined up and marked routes, connecting sections of ‘stranded’ routes and improving the cycling experience across road junctions;
- Explore the funding options available (such as grants, Section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy) to support improved cycling infrastructure, more cycle parking and greater use of initiatives like personal travel planning, employee purchase schemes and rider and maintenance training;
- Facilitate greater engagement with residents and cycling groups in the city to ensure maximum support for a cycling strategy and to encourage the creation of political ‘Cycling Champions’ across all parties.

The Motion was passed and I am aware that each political group has now has a Cycling Champion (or two in the case of the Green group). Can I ask whether a report such as the one described above was ever brought to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee and whether we now have the ambitious strategy that was called for? And further to that, what cycling infrastructure and other measures have been developed as a result?

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

(12) Councillor Gibson

Please provide a table for each year starting from 2011 up to 2018 with a row giving the numbers of rough sleepers assessed estimates and another row for the number found when counts were undertaken (in March and November in these years). For years in which both a count and estimate were undertaken (2011,2013 and 2014) please provide the % that the count number is of the

estimate for that year and show how much more in % terms estimates have been compared to counts on average for all years in which both a count and estimate have been undertaken?

Reply from Councillor Moonan – Lead Member for Rough Sleeping

(13) Councillor Gibson

How many properties have been sold under the Right to Buy between 1st April 2018 and 22nd January 2019?

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

(14) Councillor Gibson

Please provide a table for each year from 2011/12 up till 2017/18 showing the expenditure per property on HRA properties for each of the following areas:

- Responsive repairs,
- Cyclical maintenance and voids
- Major (capital) repairs
- Total expenditure on all repairs maintenance and major repairs
- Housing management

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

(15) Councillor Gibson

What was the average number of people rough sleepers housed per night in December 2018 and in January up to 22nd 2019 in

- Council night shelter (Brighton centre)
- Rough sleeper hub
- Churches night shelter
- Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) for the nights it was open

Reply from Councillor Moonan – Lead Member for Rough Sleeping

(16) Councillor Gibson

Following the unanimous motion passed on the 14th of December 2017 (and supported by Housing Committee in January 2018) calling for business case investigations into the spend to save benefits for the council that can flow from providing short term homeless accommodation in-house and given that:

- such a purchase offers the opportunity to the council to obtain a capital asset and receive the benefit income currently being paid (predominantly) to private landlords,
- also net spending on temporary accommodation continues to increase (draining current council budgets);

Can we be assured that the long anticipated business case will be provided back to committee before April 2019?

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

(17) Councillor Gibson

The answer to the breakdown of temporary accommodation (Dec 2018 Full council) states that there are 441 households housed in temporary accommodation with seaside homes on 31st March 2018, since the council nominates to all Seaside's leased 499 homes, what was the use of the put to the other 58 properties by the council?

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

(18) Councillor Gibson

(As requested previously) For the table provided at Decembers 2018 council meeting providing numbers of special conditions applied to the licence applications for the Lewes road additional HMO licensing scheme where 90% of the conditions were satisfied overall, please can the number (and %) be provided showing how many of each of the special conditions were met enabling the total of 90% to be calculated?

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

(19) Councillor Gibson

Over the city there are 44 recognised tenants , residents and community association covering 57% HRA housing areas (Housing committee 16th Jan 2019) Please can these numbers of representative associations and the % of HRA properties within the area of benefit be broken down for each of the housing panel areas? (East, West, Central and North).

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