

**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 Gibson - Home Conversions:**

Please can you provide:

- a) The total number of home conversions over the last 3 years
- b) The number expected to be completed by May 2019
- c) The Number of housing units that will be achieved by the conversion of 43 Manor Hill

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

**(2) Councillor Gibson - Net costs of spot purchase and short term emergency accommodation:**

Please can you provide a table setting out for the each years 2013/14 to 2017/8 net costs reported to housing and New Homes committee on 13<sup>th</sup> of June, a breakdown of each net cost of by each provider (i.e. Helgor, Baron, Colgate and Gray, spot purchase + any others used over these years) along with the number of places for households/individual placements offered by each provider?

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

**(3) Councillor Gibson**

For each of the years 2013/4, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 please can you provide a breakdown of the net costs/surplus (i.e. net HB income) along with the average number of placement properties provide by each category over each of the years for:

- a) Properties private sector leased for temporary accommodation (on leases of 10 years or less)
- b) Properties leased to Brighton and Hove Seaside Homes as temporary accommodation
- c) Bed and Breakfast

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

#### **(4) Councillor Wares**

On 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016, ETS Committee approved item 30, Pedestrian Crossing Assessment Priority List. Table 1 identified 10 top locations (an 11<sup>th</sup> location was added) and in particular crossing 9, Mackie Avenue. The proposed actions stated “implement”, the funding source was identified as from the 2016/17 Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the project was noted as requiring no additional funding.

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 18 months after the crossing list was approved, the Chair of ETS Committee advised that only 4 of the 11 crossings had been completed and “work is ongoing to..... identify additional sources of funding”.

Please could the Chair of ETS confirm the following:-

1. What has happened to the funds allocated in the 2016/17 LTP budget not spent on crossing 3 and 4 on Table 1 and Marine Drive on Table 1A. Crossing 5 was to be funded from s106 monies.
2. Which position is correct, the financial data confirming the available LTP funds for crossing 9 not requiring additional funds upon which the Committee decision to accept the recommendations was made or the Chair of ETS’ advice that additional funding to undertake crossing 9 had yet to be found.
3. The timetable to implement crossing 9, Mackie Avenue.

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

#### **(5) Councillor Deane**

Current work by Exeter University shows that effective action being taken against predatory species such as the Asian hornet, which presents a significant threat to our bee population, relies heavily on them being spotted and reported by members of the public. In view of Brighton & Hove’s position on the south coast and proximity to Europe where they have become a major problem, what measures are being taken by BHCC along with partner agencies to enable residents to identify such species and to know where to report them..

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

#### **(6) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Council Tax Protocol**

In areas where UC has been rolled out, demand for food banks has increased by 52%; while of the 498 Households on Universal Credit in the city 68% are in rent arrears.

Universal Credit (UC) is now live in Brighton and Hove. A person on UC can also claim Council tax reduction separately, and CTR entitlement is based on their UC award. However the nature of some of the language used in council tax

collection letters can leave some of our residents afraid of engagement with the Council.

Council tax arrears is now the most common debt issue Citizens Advice help people with. Citizens Advice is calling on councils to commit to fair and effective debt collection around Council Tax and has set up a council tax protocol with the Local Government Association.

The protocol is already signed by 56 councils around the country and asks that Councils implement a range of proposals, including that they:

- do not use enforcement agents where a resident receives council tax support;
- publish their policy on residents in vulnerable circumstances;

Would the Administration please consider signing up to the protocol also?

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/CitizensAdvice/campaigns/Council%20Tax/Citizens%20Advice%20Council%20Tax%20Protocol%202017.pdf>

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

