

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 Littman

Further to my Oral Question to you at Full Council in November, and my Written Question to you at Full Council in December; I'm afraid I am still unclear.

In November you said you were: "pretty proud to have raised our recycling levels to the highest rate ever from the 24% under your administration to the 29.1% now" In December I pointed out that annual recycling rates were never as low as 24% under the Green administration, and that they were higher than 29.1% in 2008/9.

You responded by saying: "The figure of 24% relates to Q4 for the year 2014/15 (actual rate 24.14%)." And "The 29.1% rate is the highest ever compared to those achieved by the previous two political administrations on leaving office" In the first instance, you are comparing annual rates with quarterly rates, when it is clearly only valid to compare annual rates with annual rates. The only year in which the annual rate of recycling fell to 24.1% was your first year in charge of ETS; 2015/6.

In the second instance, you use 'ever' to mean, 'by comparison to two other instances', as opposed to its usual usage meaning. Do you acknowledge that in both cases your response could appear to be extremely misleading?

As noted, the rate of recycling which makes you feel 'pretty proud' is slightly lower than that achieved ten years ago. In the interim; the Green administration introduced initiatives capable of significantly boosting rates. Across the country, authorities which collect garden waste, have a second wheelie bin, and collect communal recycling, as we now do, thanks to the Green administration, are among the highest scorers. However, under the current administration, even given all these inherited advantages, Brighton and Hove still languishes near the bottom of the league. Can you explain why this is?

Further, on the question of garden waste recycling, how successful has it been? What percentage of the 29.1% you cited, is represented by the garden waste collection which our administration passed on to yours?

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

(2) Councillor K. Norman

There are currently a number of public highways mostly in residential areas within Brighton and Hove where vehicle hire companies use those highways to park numerous vehicles, mostly cars and vans, that seriously affect the lives of many residents.

Can the Council provide information regarding the legality or otherwise of this process regarding the operation of a business and/or storage of vehicles in pursuit of a business on the public highway?

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

(3) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Further to the unanimously supported Green Group motion on Single Use Plastics at November's Full Council, can the Chair of the Policy Resources & Growth Committee please outline a full written timetable for the rollout of the actions the City Council intends to take including key decisions, committees and proposed budgets?

Reply from Councillor Morgan – Leader of the Council

(4) Councillor Mac Cafferty

In the wake of the damning National Audit Office report into Private Finance Initiative (PFI) deals can the Labour administration lead on Finance please outline:

- each outstanding PFI deal;
- the monetary value of the original deal;
- how much payment is outstanding;
- the date when each was signed;
- how many years are left in each deal;
- what the City Council's auditors say about each of the deals in terms of value for money; and
- what work, if any, has been done to reduce the monetary value of each deal and achieve greater value for money for the council taxpayer.

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

(5) Councillor Mac Cafferty

The Chair of the House of Commons Health Select Committee, Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, has written to the Secretary of Health and Social Care asking him to

“delay the introduction of the new contract for Accountable Care Organisations until after the Health Committee has taken the opportunity to hear evidence on the issues around the introduction of accountable care models to the NHS.”

Can the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board please outline what, if any, discussions he has had with the Clinical Commissioning Group and other NHS partners in the city and region about Accountable Care Organisations in Brighton and Hove?

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

(6) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Hove Lawns are in a terrible state following a summer where they were overused from events and effective remediation work wasn't carried out before the onset of winter. Can the Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee outline when urgent remediation works will be carried out?

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

(7) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Further to the collapse of Carillion and several London councils taking provided services in-house again, can the administration's finance lead outline any contracted and sub-contracted work that was performed by Carillion and what provision the City Council has made to ensure any work or services are not disrupted?

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

(8) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Morgan Sindall took over a £160m contract on 5 January as the council's principal contractor from Westridge Construction, given that Morgan Sindall has a number of project and joint ventures with Carillion can the administration identify if any of the contract involves Carillion and if an assessment has been done by the administration of any impact from the collapse of Carillion?

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

(9) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Laing O'Rourke was appointed as the lead contractor for the redevelopment of the hospital in December 2015. Given that Laing O'Rourke has filed its accounts late with Companies House raising concerns about its financial health what work is the administration doing to ensure the 3Ts is unaffected?

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

(10) Councillor Gibson

- a) Hanover and Elm Grove CPZ

Please can you provide as of the 1st of January:

- 1) The total number of permits issued for zones V and zone S?
- 2) The numbers of annual and of 3 month permits issued for each of zones v and S?
- 3) The total permit income paid to the council from permit fees for zones V and S up until 1st of January?
- 4) The total capital expenditure incurred on markings, signage and other works needed for implementation of the CPZ in zones V and S?
- 5) The total capital expenditure from other budgets headings spent at the same time as the CPZ (ie cycle racks)

If community groups and local residents are able to fundraise the money needed for a covered cycle storage facility (at no cost to the council) and have identified a suitable location, can you confirm that, in the interests of supporting cycling with all the associated health benefits, the council will give the necessary permission to enable the facility to be installed? (subject to any consultation + planning that may be needed)

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

(11) Councillor Gibson

- a) Numbers accommodated in emergency and temporary accommodation

For 2016/17, please can you provide the number of households that were housed by each provide by:

- i) Helgor Trading
- ii) Baron Homes

- b) How much under the HRA borrowing cap was BHCC on 1st April 2016 and the 1st of April 2017?

- c) Financial modelling of new council homes

Please can you provide the figures for the estimated surplus/deficit over the 60 year financial modelling period (currently used-indicating for each scheme whether the most current assumptions have been made or those used previously) for:

- Aldwick Mews
- Brook Mead
- Darwell Court
- Flint Close
- Hobby Place
- Kite Place
- Pierre Close

- Preston Rd
- Robert Lodge (N)
- Robert Lodge (S)
- Lynchet Close
- Kensington St

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

(12) Councillor Deane

Yet more months have slipped by since Surrey Street residents were assured that a solution was in hand to their daily and nightly suffering from taxis ranking outside their homes. However, nothing seems to have happened and the deplorable situation remains the same. Could Cllr Mitchell please provide an update on where things currently stand, and things have developed since the last update?

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

(13) Councillor Deane

Further to the report brought to Licensing Committee consistently stating 'no queuing', can the Chair of the Licensing Committee please provide an update on whether there has been any further monitoring of taxis in Surry Street to coincide with busy periods such as the arrival of trains from London, and what action has been taken as a result? Can the Chair of Licensing Committee also confirm whether such monitoring can be carried out on a regular basis?

Reply from Councillor O'Quinn – Chair of the Licensing Committee

