

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

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

(a) Councillor Kitcat

"What progress has been made on the purchase and implementation of the transport model?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(b) Councillor Kitcat

"What if any opportunities does the Administration have to reduce the budgeted amounts allocated for spending on the transport model and will they be making use of such opportunities?"

Reply from Councillor Young, Cabinet Member for Finance.

(c) Councillor Kitcat

"Can the Cabinet Member for Environment provide an update on recycling and composting rates in the city and the rate of change in recycling and composting rates over previous years?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(d) Councillor Kitcat

"Can the Cabinet Member for Environment provide a breakdown of the replacement rate for communal bins due to breakage, damage and maintenance and what this costs?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(e) Councillor Kitcat

"Can the Cabinet Member for Finance outline when the Administration propose to implement the Government's requirement to publish all council spending, contracts and tender documents over £500 and under what licence the data will be published?"

Reply from Councillor Young, Cabinet Member for Finance.

(f) Councillor Kitcat

"Can the Cabinet Member for Central Services provide a progress report on when the council's website will receive its long overdue upgrade, and if it is still intended to be built on Microsoft software?"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(g) Councillor Fryer

I have received 3 complaints in as many months from constituents who have felt that the council has acted inappropriately in employing bailiffs and taking legal action without warning to recover council tax which has resulted in both the council and the resident paying large sums of money unnecessarily. In one case this is despite the fact that the resident had not owned or lived at the property in question for over ten years and had contacted the Council tax department to tell them this. In another case the resident was very vulnerable and it was clear from payment history that the resident made a strong effort to meet most payments in time.

1. How many cases are there of residents of Brighton & Hove a) being threatened by bailiffs b) having legal action taken against them?
2. How much money has been spent on legal action and employing bailiffs?
3. In these cases, what efforts were made by the council first to engage with the resident to resolve the situation first?

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(h) Councillor Elgood

"What progress is being made to implement the requirement by the coalition government to publish all items of spending over £500 and to publish all tender documents in full?"

Reply from Councillor Young, Cabinet Member for Finance.

(i) Councillor Duncan

Concerns have been raised with me that some associations representing tenants and residents living in some council housing blocks in the Queen's Park ward have not been publicising forthcoming meetings and publishing agendas and minutes in accordance with their constitutional requirements. Could the administration explain:

- (a) What steps it takes to ensure that all such associations do so?

- (b) Whether or not any funding from the council is dependant on associations acting in accordance with an agreed constitution?
- (c) Whether or not the council is aware of any problems in this regard, either generally or in relation to any particular association(s)?

Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

