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 Elgood

"The NLC (NCP) on-street parking enforcement contract includes a clause to allow for a two year extension when it expires please could the Cabinet Member state:

- Has the council undertaken this extension?
- Who made a decision on this and on what date?
- What member involvement did this include?
- What consultation was undertaken with residents to assess their views on potentially extending it?
- What is the total value of any extension?
- When they would be informing residents of this decision?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(b) Councillor Carden

"Following a number of accidents to elderly residents tripping on poor paving, will the council reduce the mismatch for repair from 19mm to 12.5mm to make it safer for them?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(c) Councillor Carden

"As there still are not enough grit bins in North Portslade will the council provide several more in areas that are not covered?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(d) Councillor Kitcat

"Could the Cabinet Member for Central Services please list which publications the council's media monitoring service surveys and does it include Private Eye which often has stories of relevance to this authority. What is the cost per annum of providing this monitoring service?"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(e) Councillor Kitcat

"Given, as reported in Private Eye, Vodafone's avoidance of at least £6 billion in UK taxes, will the Cabinet Member responsible make a statement on whether the council will continue to use Vodafone's services noting that, if Vodafone are cheapest, that low price has come at a cost to the tax payer.?"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(f) Councillor Kitcat

"Will the council consider using a free YouTube Partner account to host webcast videos in a low-cost and accessible format for online access – as other councils, including Calgary City Council, are considering?"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(g) Councillor Kitcat

"Cllr Mears' previous response to my question; 'Will the Leader of the Council commit to wherever possible now publishing Council information, including spending data, under an open licence such as Creative Commons or the National Archive's new Open Government Licence?' failed to address the issue of licensing, but instead spoke of data formats and transparency.

I am once again asking the Leader if she will commit the Council to using more permissive terms than straight copyright on the Council's publications and data. This is so that others can remix and reuse the work of this council, paid for by taxpayers, in new and imaginative ways.

Will the Council commit to using an open licence and which one will it use?"

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(h) Councillor Kitcat

"Given the ongoing cold snaps, will the Council administration now agree to implement an ambitious insulation scheme for homes in our city, as proposed by Green Councillors at budget councils in previous years? This would keep residents bills down, homes warm and reduce the city's carbon emissions."

Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

(i) Councillor Hamilton

"In October you told me that there were career pathways in some areas of the council, including legal services. In a review situation, where job losses are likely, do you agree that it is important to provide career pathways for all staff, especially those on low grades or with many years of service? This would give staff greater prospects of redeployment within the authority, reduce redundancies, save money, and retain staff that are already familiar with the council and its work culture"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(j) Councillor Mitchell

"In light of recent government statements that would indicate a rethink of its withdrawal of funding from Schools Sports Partnerships, including the Brighton and Hove Schools Sports Partnership, will the Leader of the Council commit the council to pro-actively working with and maintaining a dialogue with schools, sport leaders and partners in the city to ensure that the expertise, significantly increased participation and enthusiasm for the varied programme of sporting and healthy activities supported by the Partnership to schools across the city is maintained during any changes to the funding regime?"

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(k) Councillor Kitcat

"What is the pay multiple in Brighton & Hove City Council between the lowest paid and highest paid members of staff."

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(l) Councillor Kitcat

"I refer Councillor Geoffrey Theobald to section 7.4 of the minutes for the City Sustainability Partnership Meeting of 1st November 2010:

"PB inquired after the usage of communal bins and their effect regarding individual responsibility for waste recycling. JJ answered that they were monitoring the levels of recycling in relation to the introduction of communal bins. PB asked if this monitoring was focused solely on the bins in the city centre. JJ replied that this monitoring was focused on both residential and city bins and he stated that there did seem to be a contingent drop in the levels of recycling."

How is it that when I have repeatedly asked the Councillor whether recycling rates are lower in communal bin areas than elsewhere he has said he is unable to answer. Yet here one of our officers is able to report that monitoring shows

drops in levels of recycling? Will Cllr Theobald explain himself and report what is being done to remediate the drop in recycling rates that I have long argued was likely to happen in communal bins areas?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(m) Councillor Meadows

"In Wild Park there is a by-law/highways permission allowing cyclists to ride on the pavement beside the main Lewes Road although there is a perfectly safe cycle lane on the Lewes Road. The police believe it is a by-law so when cyclists use this path without lights they won't enforce it, some council officers believe it is highways permission so they won't remove signage, either way it means that pedestrians have to share a narrow path with cyclists leading to confrontation and residents almost getting run over. Will the council rescind the by-law or revoke that permission to allow pedestrians to take precedence on this pathway and to ensure that cyclists use the cycle lane provided for them?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(n) Councillor Steedman

"The Council's Corporate Procurement Team are not currently able to mandate that all procurement by Council officers goes via central corporate contracts, which offer the efficiencies of bulk purchasing and the opportunity to set minimum standards for product specification, environmental performance, support for local buying, etc. As a result, individual departments or teams can – and do – bypass corporate procurement contracts. Does the Cabinet Member for Central Services believe that this situation represents good value or that it accords with the Council's corporate priority of 'better use of public money'?"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(o) Councillor Steedman

"None of the Council's committee reports – including the Council agenda paper in which this question appears – are printed on recycled paper. Does the Cabinet Member for Central Services believe that this is acceptable and that it accords with the Council's corporate priority of 'protecting the environment while growing the economy'?"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(p) Councillor Steedman

"We welcome the announcement that the Council is considering how to insulate homes and install renewable energy technologies through the creation of an energy services company. The Birmingham Energy Savers programme, already up and running, uses an innovative 'pay as you save' mechanism to recycle the savings from the energy bills of households that have benefited from insulation and low-carbon technologies, to ensure that the maximum number of houses can be reached, in the private as well as the social housing sector.

Given that the Council has missed its carbon savings target for the local authority area by nearly 50%; that the domestic sector accounts for 42% of Brighton and Hove's carbon emissions; and that there are nearly 14000 households in fuel poverty in the city as we enter another freezing winter at a time of rising fuel bills, will the Cabinet Member for Housing:

a) set out how the Council's housing policies will deliver at least a 42% cut in carbon emissions by 2020 from the domestic sector, and an 80% cut by 2050, as agreed in the Sustainable Community Strategy?
b) ensure that any energy services company scheme targets deprivation and fuel poverty first, and benefits residents living in the private (especially private rented) sector as well as the social rented sector?
c) seek to take advantage of the money available to local authorities for energy efficiency projects under the recently revised rules of the European Energy Recovery programme?
d) commit to a 'pay as you save' mechanism like Birmingham's for Brighton and Hove to ensure that we make our money go as far as possible?
e) join me in meeting the architects of the Birmingham scheme to learn from their experience?"

Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

(q) Councillor Allen

“The announcement that the new owners of Anston House are preparing a plan for a mixed-use development of the whole site is excellent news for the city. Residents of Dyke Road Drive in particular will be delighted to see that the pressure they exerted on the council to sort this problem out has been so successful. Would the Leader of the Council agree with me that it will now be important to give local residents, above all those in Dyke Road Drive whose views of Preston Park will inevitably be affected, every opportunity to influence the plan as it moves forward?”

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(r) Councillor Duncan

"Could Cllr Theobald describe the measures taken to ensure the paths inside and roads surrounding Queen's Park were safe for pedestrian use during the recent cold weather, and reassure residents that adequate resources will be available to ensure park users' safety in any future 'cold snap'?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.