

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

**(i) Mr. C. Hawtree**

Can Councillor Mears please confirm that the closing date for public consultation about the Libraries Plan has been extended until December 31st?

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**Response from Member**

Thank you for your question Mr Hawtree.

I can confirm that the closing date for public consultation on the Libraries Plan has been extended to the 31 December 2008.

**(i) Mr. N. Furness**

Could Councillor Mears please tell us how many of the conditions within the King Alfred planning permission were met by Karis?

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**Response from Member**

Thank you for your question Mr Furness.

Of the 48 planning (of a total of 98) conditions needed before Karis/ING could start work on the King Alfred site, only one planning condition was approved. The condition met was for the highway Stopping Up order which went directly to the Government Office for the South East for a decision and was approved in October. However, as the Karis/ING scheme is no longer going to take place, this order is no longer valid.

**(i) Mr. P Poole**

The Council has neglected both the King Alfred and Brighton Centre in the hope of redevelopment. Both are vital to residents. Surely it would be wrong to re-direct any funds to the Brighton Centre, at the expense of the King Alfred, if Hove is an equal partner in the city?

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**Response from Member**

Thank you for your question Mr Poole.

The Brighton Centre remains this administration's number one priority for redevelopment and as we have also made clear with the report brought to Cabinet today on the King Alfred – keeping the King Alfred open is also a high priority for us.

The Council's contribution towards the redevelopment of the Brighton Centre is being financed through prudential borrowing, not from taking funding from other projects. Funds that have been allocated for the King Alfred will remain with the King Alfred.

**(i) Valerie Paynter**

"Given that each annual Budget allocates some £50million to Capital Funding, is there any reason why some part of that sum could not be allocated as part or total payment of a refurbishment, a creative makeover by appointed architects or even a redevelopment incorporating something like a high school which could share sports facilities with King Alfred?"

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**Response from Member**

Thank you for your question Valerie.

The capital programme for the council is in the region of £55m for 2008/09 and incorporates education, housing, transport, social care, culture and the environment. £10 million of this money is earmarked for education projects. The total funding is provided from a number of sources including government grants, borrowing, revenue contributions and capital receipts. Much of the funding, such as government grants and Housing Revenue Account expenditure, are ring fenced, which means that the conditions of the funding require that it is spent on the services identified. This all adds up to very limited flexibility on funds.

Creative makeovers or refurbishments still cost very significant amounts of money. Having said this, we need to review all the available options we have and are not excluding any possibilities at this stage. We will be doing this in consultation with local residents at the earliest possible point in the process - this time, they must not feel as though they are having a scheme imposed upon them.

On the specific question of the high school, there is no identified need for an additional secondary school in Brighton & Hove at the current point in time.