

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**(a) Councillor Wrighton**

“With increasing moves towards an online planning applications system could the Planning Committee Chairman confirm that the current service, which makes publicly available a hard copy of each planning application in the Town Hall reception, will continue in parallel?”

Reply from Councillor Hyde, Chairman of the Planning Committee.

(b) Councillor McCaffery

“This Authority has an excellent Children's Service and apparently better than many others. However in the wake of the tragic case of Baby P in Haringey, would the Leader of the Council please inform this Council that the safety afforded to our vulnerable children will not be compromised by pressure on the budgets for those services?”

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(c) Councillor McCaffery

“The new constitution has established an Inclusion Partnership for the City, primarily composed of the statutory bodies. This I fully support. However in what Forum can representatives of minority groups place their concerns over employment or service delivery before the Council, and how are elected councillors informed as to whether our Council's equalities policies are being carried out efficiently and effectively?”

Reply from Councillor Simson, Cabinet Member for Community Affairs, Inclusion & Internal Relations.

(d) Councillor Hamilton

“In the constitution, part 3, I refer to Rule 7: Order of Business at Meetings of the Council. This states under item (n) To receive and consider the reports and recommendations of the Cabinet and/or Cabinet Members. Why is this not happening?”

Reply from Councillor Norman, Chairman of the Governance Committee.

(e) Councillor Kitcat

“Could Councillor Theobald provide details on any consultation held with emergency services over the type and location of communal bins being introduced to Regency Ward? In particular were individual bin locations discussed, particularly with regard to ensuring safe access and preventing fire hazards?”

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(f) Councillor Harmer-Strange

“Can the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects explain what change was there in the footfall figures in city centre over the Christmas period, and what does he believe is responsible for the change?”

Reply from Councillor Kemble, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects.

(g) Councillor Barnett

“Can the Cabinet Member for Housing tell me what services or advice is available from the council to residents who are struggling with mortgage repayments?”

Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

(h) Councillor Pidgeon

“Will the Cabinet Member for Housing give an update on how the council’s new adapted property list has helped the council improve services for people with physical disabilities?”

Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

(i) Councillor Oxley

“The council works with a number of partners across the city, does the Leader of the Council have any views of how partnership working might develop in the future?”

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(j) Councillor Alford

“Can the Cabinet Member for Finance explain how business rates are set, and where the money collected from local businesses goes?”

Reply from Councillor Young, Cabinet Member for Finance.

(k) Councillor Kitcat

“Can Councillor Theobald provide any details on any plans for communal collection of recycling in the city centre? If so when does he expect these plans to be implemented?”

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(l) Councillor Carden

“May the Chair of Planning, Councillor Linda Hyde please confirm whether the council will be hiring external consultants to handle the forthcoming appeal on the Marina Development?”

Reply from Councillor Hyde, Chairman of the Planning Committee.

(m) Councillor Lepper

“Could the Cabinet Member for Major Projects estimate the loss of potential investment for the council from underdeveloped spaces and empty buildings across Brighton and Hove?”

Reply from Councillor Kemble, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects.

(n) Councillor Turton

“Could the Leader of the Council please confirm the outcomes from her three day trip to Switzerland, in terms of how far forward they are on the development of Black Rock?”

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(o) Councillor Hawkes

“Could the Cabinet Member for Children's Services clarify whether there are any plans to close or re-home the Bright Start Nursery used by Council Staff?”

Reply from Councillor Mrs Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.

(p) Councillor Kitcat

"Can Councillor Theobald provide the costs incurred by the council in printing and sending notifications to residents for:

- The changes in bin collection schedules,
- The introduction of communal bins in some wards and discontinuation of bag collections,
- And the changes in recycling collection schedules?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(q) Councillor Kitcat

“Can Councillor Theobald provide an estimate on the number of people who have taken up the assisted waste collection service since the introduction of communal bins and what number of users has been budgeted for at what cost?”

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(r) Councillor Marsh

“Could the Cabinet member for Housing clarify what improvements are being made to tenants' homes under the Decent Homes Standard?”

Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing

(s) Councillor Morgan

“Can the Cabinet Member for Environment state how many complaints have been received by Cityclean regarding missed or delayed refuse collections in the months of October 2008, November 2008, December 2008 and January 2009, which areas these complaints are predominantly from and how they compare with the same period for the two previous years?”

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(t) Councillor Kennedy

“Since refuse rounds were re-scheduled last October, residents in Osborne Road have only had their rubbish collected on the correct day on two occasions. Can Councillor Geoffrey Theobald tell me if, as Cabinet Member for the Environment and as a council tax-payer, he thinks this level of service is acceptable?”

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(u) Councillor Davies

“How many days in all has the Jubilee library IT system not been working properly since its installation?”

Reply from Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation, & Tourism.

(v) Councillor Allen

“It is clear that many drivers are confused as to who has right of way at the Highcroft Villas/Dyke Road Drive/Stanford Road/Port Hall Avenue crossroads. Those coming from Port Hall Avenue frequently ignore - or simply do not notice - the fading STOP sign on the road and fail to give way to those turning right from Dyke Road Drive into Highcroft Villas (who in fact have right of way). Would the Cabinet Member for Environment agree to take action as soon as possible?”

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(w) Councillor Allen

“The work carried out in Preston Park under the previous Labour administration's planned programme of refurbishment of the city's parks brought credit to the council as a whole. It is sad to see the current signs of neglect, in particular the deteriorating condition of some of the benches. Two in the Rose Garden have missing slats, as do three in the main body of the park. What plans does the Cabinet Member for Environment have to remedy this neglect?”

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

(x) Councillor Carden

“Could the Cabinet Member for Children and Young people’s services please confirm whether an extra £200,000 has been allocated to youth services for Brighton and Hove?”

Reply from Reply from Councillor Mrs Brown, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People.

(y) Councillor Duncan

“Can Councillor Ayas Fallon-Khan confirm how many press briefings have been held by the Council taken place in the current municipal year?”

Reply from Councillor Fallon-Khan, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(z) Councillor Duncan

“In light of a report in The Times that “Tens of thousands of public sector jobs will be lost across Britain this year as councils struggle to cope with the impact of the recession... and unions fear that few of the 442 local authorities across England, Scotland and Wales will escape the cutbacks” and the fact that neighbourhood management staff serving the deprived Turner and Eastern Road areas have been served redundancy notices, can Councillor Mary Mears confirm how many jobs look set to go at Brighton and Hove Council in the coming year?”

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(aa) Councillor West

"Is Councillor Theobald aware of recent reports of an unholy stench escaping from the Hollingdean Dump and invading the local area.

Local residents, parents, school staff and children have been repeatedly subjected to the stench of rotting waste. On a recent occasion the smell in the playground at Downs Infants School was so awful it was described to be "as bad as at the back of a refuse lorry". So terrible in fact people have taken to covering their faces.

Parents, teachers and residents are understandably very concerned not only about the unpleasantness of the smell but the possible health hazard it presents to them and their children.

Will Councillor Theobald acknowledge that people in the area were promised that they would not suffer exposure to odour arising from the shiny new facility and acknowledge that this promise has proved to be groundless? Will Councillor Theobald agree that any odour arising from the waste dump is

unacceptable, and will he personally assure those affected that he will ensure that measures are swiftly taken to address the matter and that incidents will not reoccur?"

Reply from Councillor Theobald, Cabinet Member for Environment.

