

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 Cox

“At the last Full Council of 17 July I was advised in answer to a written question that there had been just 2 prosecutions for fly-tipping in the last 3 years. I have been informed that the Council does have specialist surveillance equipment which was purchased for the purpose of catching fly-tippers.

1. How much did this equipment cost?
2. How many times has it been deployed since 1 April 2013?”

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.

(b) Councillor Duncan

“Can the Chair of the Economic Development & Culture Committee tell me what plans he has to compensate residents of Queens Park ward for their limited access to Madeira Drive and any part of the beach between Brighton Marina and the Palace Pier during privately-run events?”

Reply from Councillor Bowden, Chair of the Economic Development & Culture Committee.

(c) Councillor Duncan

“In July of this year I informed the Head of Democratic Services that I intended to submit a Notice of Motion for discussion at this meeting of the City Council. The NoM would have addressed the City Council’s ethical procurement policy with respect to contracts with companies and other providers complicit in Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestinian territories. I was subsequently informed that the proposed NoM would not be accepted onto the agenda. Can the Leader of the Council specify which democratically-elected councillors were consulted about, or otherwise involved in, the decision to exclude this NoM from the agenda?”

Reply from Councillor J. Kitcat, Leader of the Council.

(d) Councillor Duncan

“Can the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board give this Council an assurance that no services currently provided by an NHS trust will be provided by a private company or any other non-NHS body in future?”

Reply from Councillor J. Kitcat, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

(e) Councillor Duncan

“Can the councillor responsible for procurement tell me which contracts in the areas of waste, transport, security services, education, healthcare or IT, worth in excess of £10,000, are due to be awarded, or renewed, between now and the end of 2017?”

Reply from Councillor Sykes, Deputy Chair (Finance) of the Policy & Resources Committee.

(f) Councillor Duncan

“Can the Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee confirm how many sheep taking part in this Council's 'lookerer' scheme have been injured or killed, either by members of the public (or their animals), or to be sold as meat, since May 2011, and what steps this Council plans to introduce to prevent such accidents and deaths in future?”

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.

(g) Councillor Duncan

“Can the Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee tell me what plans he has to compensate residents of the city for the poor refuse collection service being delivered during the ongoing dispute between CityClean staff and this council?”

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.

(h) Councillor G. Theobald

“The recent Peer Review of Brighton & Hove City Council by the Local Government Association concluded that the Council’s relationship with the Trade Unions is poor. Just 23% of Council staff themselves think that the Council and Trade Unions have an effective working relationship. The Council currently pays for 7 full-time staff to carry out Trade Union activity in addition to 161 ‘Workplace Representatives’ whose paid time off is not monitored or

collated. The Trade Union Facilities Agreement which sets out these various arrangements has never been formally reviewed since it was drawn up in 1997 despite it being written into the Agreement that it should be subject to 'regular review'. In the light of all this, will the Leader of the Council commit to an urgent and fundamental review of the Council's Trade Union Facilities Agreement?"

Reply from Councillor J. Kitcat, Leader of the Council.

(i) Councillor Carden

"At the Council last December, I raised the need for a bus shelter at the junction of Thorn Hill Rise and New England Rise and the Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee replied

'I appreciate the point Councillor and officers will certainly come and have a look at the place and check that we've got our understanding correct. With regard to the other shelter, we'll listen to what you have to say about the usage rates and whether that potentially could be different but I do hear what you're saying.'

Can the Chair now confirm that officers have re-visited the site and that a bus shelter is going to be provided?"

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.