

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 Hamilton

"I understand that as part of the current organisational transformation the council intends to produce a comprehensive approach to the management of talent. When do you expect to have this in place? Will career pathways be part of the employment framework of the council? Will this lead to greater career and development opportunities for all employees who seek them, and will there be a structured approach for all abilities as a way of motivating and retaining the existing workforce?"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(b) Councillor Elgood

"Can the Cabinet Member for Finance give a progress up-date on the implementation of the Coalition Government's requirement for councils to publish items of expenditure over £500, and to explain why the council has yet to implement it when other councils already have?"

Reply from Councillor Young, Cabinet Member for Finance.

(c) Councillor Elgood

"Can the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People confirm the number of users of the Connexions service (for the year from September 2009) listed by council ward?"

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

(d) Councillor Kitcat

"The latest Sitemorse local government website benchmarking report placed Brighton & Hove City Council's site in 331st place out of 429 Local Authority sites reviewed. Among other things the report flagged the site's accessibility as being 'impaired'.

Given the key role the new media industry plays in the local economy, can the Cabinet member responsible explain what plans are in place to remedy this situation so that the site is improved and is accessible to users of all abilities?"

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

(e) Councillor Kitcat

"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?"

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(f) Councillor Kitcat

"The option of a return to the committee system for this Council as a part of the Localism Bill is not to be even voted on in Parliament until late 2011. Given this fact, can the Leader of the Council explain why the Independent Remuneration Panel's report on councillor allowances still has not been voted on by this Council?"

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(g) Councillor Duncan

"Does the Cabinet Member believe that American Express is doing enough to compensate residents suffering severe inconvenience, and in some cases loss of earnings from working at home, as a result of the construction of the firm's new facility in the Carlton Hill area of the Queen's Park ward?"

Reply from Councillor Fallon-Khan, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment and Major Projects.

(h) Councillor Duncan

"The weekend of October 9th-10th was one of the warmest October weekends in years. Temperatures reached 20 degrees, and the beach in many areas was packed, both with tourists and local residents, some of whom were enjoying swimming in the sea. How many council-provided lifeguards were on duty?"

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

(i) Councillor Duncan

"Do you think the system by which tenant participants are involved in decision-making about the council's housing policies, through Housing Management Consultative Committee meetings, and in other ways, could be improved in any way?"

Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

(j) Councillor Duncan

“Members of Brighton and Hove Older People’s Council have warned that the withdrawal of the Free Swimming Scheme for over-60s will have a negative impact on some people’s health, and ultimately will cost society more money than it saves.

Will you reconsider the council’s decision not to subsidise entirely swimming locally for all under-18s and over 60s, and reinstate free swimming for all children and older people in the city’s public swimming pools with immediate effect?

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

(k) Councillor Randall

Can Cllr Caulfield tell us when the survey of potential sites for social housing in the city on council-owned land will be published?

Reply from Councillor Caulfield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

(l) Councillor Randall

Can the Leader of the Council give an assurance that charitable organisations running public events in the city that require street closures will not be charged for loss of parking revenue?

Reply from Councillor Mears, Leader of the Council.

(m) Councillor McCaffery

Petitions to the council demand a lot of time and work from residents who believe they will be listened to. I therefore ask this Council:

1. How many petitions were received by the Council between May 2009 and May 2010?
2. How many of these petitions resulted in the outcome requested by the petition?

Reply from Councillor Alford, Cabinet Member for Central Services.

