

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 members of the public who either live or work in the area of the authority.

i) The following written question has been received from Jim Deans.

New Homes Bonus (NHB)

“This grant is awarded only if the Local Authority housing stock increases by at least 0.4% per year.

How many properties would have had to be built last year (2017/18) to reach the threshold and what plans are in hand to make up for the loss of £1.62m for 2018/19 and an expected loss of £1.66m in 2019/20 as a result of missing the threshold?”

ii) The following question has been received from David Thomas

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol

“I understand that the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol is to be recommissioned this year. What is the timetable for this?

I assume the Protocol document, which has been slightly amended already this winter, will be fully re-written before that to comply with the National Guidance. Can the new Protocol be published on the Council website as soon as possible?

Could you also say how many women have accessed shelters under the SWEPE and what women only facilities have been provided?”

iii) The following written question has been received from Kenny Lloyd.

Land banking & increasing value through planning permission for residential properties

“Has the Committee made any approach to, or cooperated with, the Planning Committee to combat ‘land banking’ and particularly looked at ways in which planning permission can be withdrawn if building work is not completed within a specific period of time? If there has not been joint work on this issue in the past will the Committee consider proposals for the future?”

iv) The following written question has been received from Maria Garret-Gotch.

Malnutrition among residents in temporary and emergency accommodation

“Is the Committee aware of cases of malnutrition of residents in temporary and emergency accommodation provided by B&HCC or agencies contracted by the Council? What is being done about these residents to whom the Council has a Duty of Care?”

- v) **The following written question has been received from Nichole Brennan.**

Weekend Services

“Could the Committee please provide details of Council or Council contracted services, including the number of personnel, available from 1700 on a Friday Evening until 0800 on a Monday morning for those who are homeless including those in temporary and emergency accommodation?”

- vi) **The following written question has been received from Barry Hughes.**

Oxford street

“Given that the former Oxford Street former housing office was “decommissioned” in November 2014, in January 2017 the Housing Committee requested officers to bring forward options to convert the building into Temporary Accommodation, and that a formal planning application is due this spring, could the Committee provide an up to date report on progress made?”

- vii) **The following written question has been received from Clare Hudson.**

The administration of the Discretionary Housing Payments and the Council Tax Reduction Discretionary Scheme

The budget papers for 2018/19 state that “It is proposed to reduce the commitment to this fund over the next 3 years as it is not fully utilised.” Could the Committee explain their support for this proposal given that payments of DHPs have been refused on the basis of lack of funds?”

- viii) **The following written question has been received from Kiah Garrett-Gotch**

➤ **Equalities Impact Assessment**

“Could the Committee explain why an Assessment was not carried out on the HRA budget for 2018/19?”

- ix) **The following written question has been received from Tom Jobbins.**

Temporary Accommodation

“Could the Committee provide evidence to show that “External benchmarking shows that the costs are low” and explain their support for a “Procurement approach being sought to access accommodation outside the city and the South East in areas where costs are lower?”

Could the number of evictions from emergency and temporary accommodation be provided for the past 6 months on a month by month basis?”

- x) **The following written question has been received from Daniel Harris**

Housing Options and Homemove

“Under a budget heading of homelessness there was a sum for 2017/18 for supporting vulnerable households £1,298,000.

Could the Committee provide some indication of how this was spent?”

Does the Committee know how many households have been culled from the housing waiting list and how many appeals have been dealt with or are awaiting hearings?"

xi) The following written question has been received from Kelly Hayes

6 week limit on B&B for children

"Bed and Breakfast (B&B) is defined in the Homelessness Suitability Order 2003 as a form of privately owned accommodation in which residents share facilities such as kitchens, bathrooms and/or toilets, and is usually paid for on a nightly basis.

Housing authorities must not use B&B to accommodate families with children or pregnant women except where there is no alternative available, and then for a maximum period not exceeding 6 weeks. Can you now please provide a more detailed response to the question asked at the previous committee please?"

xii) The following written question has been received from Sophie

Residents in Emergency Accommodation – Council Duty to provide Accommodation

"I've been living in emergency accommodation for over a year, I am now in my 3rd different room. To my surprise the council decided after over a year to conclude the homelessness assessment and decided I didn't meet the criteria to be considered 'considerably more vulnerable than the average person becoming homeless'.

I've received little to no support since I moved into emergency accommodation. I feel this process is one sided and biased against us, the people in need. Can you please tell me how many other vulnerable people in emergency accommodation in the last 6 months have also had the Council's duty assessed and rejected? How many of these appealed the decision and were successful in securing a duty please?"

