

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

“In the dying days of their administration, the Conservative Cabinet voted to sell off half of the council owned site in Victoria Road, Portslade, home of the former Portslade Urban District Council. The disposal was to include the Council offices, a bowling green, the car park and the public toilets. There is widespread concern about this proposal in Portslade. Extension of the bowls pavilion, relocation of staff from other buildings, a police presence in the building and a home for any future community forum are all options that have been proposed by local people. Will you agree to put the proposed disposal on hold and carry out a full appraisal and consultation on the future use of the site?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services.

(b) Councillor Pidgeon

“Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services confirm how many full time equivalent trade union representatives and local constituency representatives were employed by the Council during 2010-11 and how this compares to other similar unitary authorities?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services.

(c) Councillor C Theobald

“Can the Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration tell me whether any work is currently being carried out, or will be carried out in the near future, on assessing the economic impact of introducing a ‘workplace parking levy’ in Brighton & Hove as set out in the Green Party’s local election manifesto?”

Reply from Councillor Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration.

(d) Councillor Peltzer Dunn

“Would the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Public Protection confirm that it is the Councils duty to enforce bye laws which are legally in place within the City?”

Reply from Councillor Duncan, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities & Public Safety.

(e) Councillor Carden

“Will the Leader confirm exactly how much money this council has spent on dealing with unauthorised Gypsy and Travellers encampments since the new administration came into power in May 2011?”

Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.

(f) Councillor Mitchell

“Would the Leader of the Council please give details of the current number of council employees that have accepted or been offered voluntary redundancy packages, the number of deleted posts and the number of any permanent redundancies occurring since 1st April 2011?”

Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.

(g) Councillor Mitchell

“Does this Administration:

- a) share my concerns regarding the consistent overspending of the council’s communications service, who in 2009/10 overspent by 46.3% (£272,000), in 2010/11 overspent by an increased 109% (£459,000) and are this year predicted to overspend by £311,000, and;
- b) what does this administration plan to do about this consistent overspending by the communications team, at a time when services such as children and young people and adult social care are facing unprecedented cuts?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services.

(h) Councillor Marsh

“What is the administration’s view on the Education Bill and its proposals to remove:

- a) Local parents’ ability to challenge decisions about admissions and exclusions
- b) Make a local complaint
- c) The local admissions forum
- d) This city’s successful school places lottery; and

Can you explain how this administration:

- a) Intends to encourage faith schools to subscribe to the local authority admissions system, rather than set their own admissions policies, as stated in your manifesto?
- b) Will encourage local schools to collaborate and share best practice, as stated in your manifesto?
- c) Will protect youth services, especially for young people at risk of becoming NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training) or falling into the criminal justice system, as stated in your manifesto?
- d) Plans to campaign for a reinstatement of Building Schools for the Future money, as stated in your manifesto?
- e) Is going to help groups of schools develop in-house environmental officers posts to save money and reduce the city's carbon footprint, as stated in your manifesto?

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

(i) Councillor Farrow

“What is the council doing to attract new media enterprise to the city, as well as supporting current media business in the city?”

Reply from Councillor Bowden, Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Enterprise.

(j) Councillor Wealls

“Would the Cabinet Member for Housing give a pledge to continue with the commitment of the previous Conservative Administration to ring-fence Supporting People funding, which provides housing-related support for some of the most vulnerable residents in Brighton & Hove?”

Reply from Councillor Wakefield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

(k) Councillor Barnett

“Would the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability confirm who authorised a provision of the bund at the 19 acre site, the date of the provision of the bund and the cost of same? Will he further confirm the authorisation of the removal of the bund, the date of same and the cost for carrying out such works?”

Reply from Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability.

