

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 4 February 2021

Questions Under Standing Order A12

A member may only submit three questions for consideration at each Council Meeting. Each member will present their first question in turn, when all the first questions have been dealt with the second and third questions may be asked in turn. The time for member's questions will be limited to a total of 30 minutes.

First Round

<p>Question (1) by Councillor Chris Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>On the 26th September 2019 a decision was taken by full Council to start the process of the Compulsory Purchase of Crossways in Paignton - the motion was Proposed by Cllr Long and Seconded by myself.</p> <p>Through the training that was available to all Members on CPO's it was stated that a CPO should take between twelve to eighteen months to complete. It is now fifteen months since the decision was made, can Cllr Long please provide the Council with an update and a time scale of when Crossways will be in the ownership of the Authority.</p>
<p>Question (2) by Councillor Barbara Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>At the last Council meeting I asked the Portfolio holder Councillor Morey when the lights on Paignton Seafront were going to be repaired.</p> <p>In his response, see below, he states that "work will be progressed over the next few weeks". Over two months later the good people of Paignton are still waiting for the lights to be returned to their former glory! Can the Portfolio holder please provide a revised timescale for the work to be carried out?</p> <p>Councillor Mike Morey - Council Meeting 3rd December 2020 "As with all of our illuminations, the lights on Paignton Seafront have recently been inspected in line with regulations and safety standards that are aimed at protecting the general public. The next step is to re-string these illuminations with new wires where it is necessary. We will then work within the budget to undertake repairs to the lights and this work will be progressed over the coming weeks."</p>
<p>Question (3) by Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>What is the demand for laptops or similar devices in Torbay for those without access to them in order to study from home? What shortfall is there?</p>
<p>Question (4) by Councillor Pentney to the Children's Services (Councillor Law)</p>	<p>When do we expect our next letter from the Minister regarding Torbay's children's service regarding our progress out of special measures?</p>

<p>Question (5) by Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)</p>	<p>What actions have been taken to establish the extent of under-reporting of domestic abuse in Torbay, and what measures are being undertaken to meet it?</p>
<p>Question (6) by Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)</p>	<p>Can you please advise what additional help Torbay Council may be developing to help those who may be facing personal debt or housing challenges during the economic crisis?</p>
<p>Question (7) by Councillor Dart to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)</p>	<p>Can you please advise how many of our young people leaving care benefited from a Council Tax reduced bill in the last 12 months?</p>
<p>Question (8) by Councillor Howgate to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling)</p>	<p>People engaged in the fishing industry locally have expressed concerns about the impact of the Brexit deal on their businesses. Will the Council communicate these concerns to the appropriate Government departments for fisheries, trade and business support? Would you agree with me that it is inaccurate to describe this problem as simply teething issues, and that even if one Cabinet member believes our fish are happier our fishing community is certainly far from satisfied?</p>
<p>Question (9) by Councillor Long to the Devon County Council Investment and Pension Fund Committee Member (Councillor O'Dwyer)</p>	<p>Has the Devon Local government pension scheme ceased investing in tobacco?</p>
<p>Question (10) by Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>I am disappointed that Babbacombe Downs will not be part of a trial for 'dual' waste bins to encourage more recycling in Torbay. There is a projected underspend in Torbay's Council Budget for this financial year, can I ask Cllr Morey to reconsider and spend some of this underspend on providing 'Dual' waste bins on our sea fronts including Babbacombe Downs to improve recycling rates for Torbay?</p>

Second Round

<p>Question (11) by Councillor Chris Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>The deadline for Tenders for the Toilet Block on Preston North Seafront closed some months ago. Can the Portfolio Holder please provide the Council with an update and agree to keep the local Ward Councillors informed at every stage?</p>
<p>Question (12) by Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>What challenges do pupils having to study at home face if they are unable to connect digitally?</p>
<p>Question (13) by Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law)</p>	<p>In my view, it is shambolic that the secretary of state did not have a clear plan B ready to trigger when he decided to cancel GCSEs and A Levels. What response did Torbay give to the recent consultation on this matter?</p>
<p>Question (14) by Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)</p>	<p>I was delighted to hear about "Ask for ANI" that was launched to assist those suffering from domestic abuse who ask for help by using the "Ask for ANI" code word at participating chemists. Can you please advise how many pharmacies participate in this new initiative in Torbay?</p>
<p>Question (15) by Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>A number of residents in the Willows have contacted me suggesting that a bridge across the Riviera way to Browns Bridge would help when the new Edginswell rail station opens. Can you please advise how the case for such a development could be progressed?</p>

Question (17) by Councillor Dart to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)	What is the cumulative impact of Government cuts to Torbay Council's budget since 2009?
Question (18) by Councillor Howgate to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)	Has an assessment been made of the number of eligible businesses for Government support administered through the Council that have not applied for assistance during the international pandemic?

Third Round

Question (19) by Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	I understand that the MHCLG wrote a letter (30 December) to Local Planning Authorities regarding making amendments to the Town and Country Planning Order 2015. The amendment to the GPDO has the effect of introducing an additional matter for prior approval to two permitted development rights which allow extra storeys to be added to existing buildings without the need for any further planning permission. This came into force 30 December. What powers does Torbay have to resist additional storeys where consensus locally is that they should not be added?
Question (20) by Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)	Can you please update the Council on the activities undertaken by the recently appointed COVID wardens in Torbay?
Question (21) by Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)	Can you please advise me when the COVID 19 vaccinations of front-line social care workers will be complete in Torbay?
Question (22) by Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Can you please advise me of the timeline for the development of the new Edginswell rail station?

Question (23) by
Councillor
Howgate to the
Leader of the
Council (Councillor
Steve Darling)

I understand the Government has emerging legislation around gypsies and travellers. Can you advise me how this is likely to impact on Torbay?