

Meeting of the Council

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Questions Under Standing Order A13

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.

Question (1) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Planning, Transport and Housing (Councillor King)	With the arrival of the first major winter storm, Angus, many residents have contacted me with concerns about flooding in their area. Can you please explain how Torbay Council in partnership with Tor2 have ensured that their gully clearance has peaked in time to take account of the autumn leaf fall and storm season?
Councillor King	<p>TOR2 provide a cyclic service to the authority to ensure that leaf debris is removed from the highway and that all 24,000 road gullies are cleaned at least once annually.</p> <p>TOR2 make provision to increase the street sweeping elements in the Autumn period to take account of the additional leaf fall, and Streetscene inspectors will report any areas that require attention. Unfortunately where we have autumn storms that combine strong winds and heavy rain, there is an increased risk of flooding due to the leaf fall being accelerated over a short period and it would be impossible to take measures to prevent this. TOR2 will however provide an emergency response to deal with flooding issues in these cases.</p> <p>Also, if during the year any road gullies are identified as being blocked, these are reported to TOR2 for cleaning and the numbers of gullies reported as blocked are recorded as part of the contract performance specifications.</p>
Question (2) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (Councillor Lewis)	<p>Earlier this Autumn Overview and Scrutiny agreed to gauge the impact of Brexit on the Council, our partners, local businesses and our communities.</p> <p>Areas for exploration included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That the financial position of local authorities such as Torbay must not be further worsened and should, if possible, be improved.• That the Government must give an immediate guarantee that the existing rights of citizens of other European Union countries who are already living in Torbay will be protected.• That the importance of the visitor economy and hospitality industry (including language schools and care homes) in Torbay must be recognised and their future protected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That there must not be any weakening of environmental legislation, particularly relating to clean bathing waters, or employment rights that at present derive from EU directives. • That fisheries support for areas such as Torbay must be maintained by the Government following a withdrawal from the Common Fisheries Policy. • That convergence funding, European Social Funding, European Regional Development Funding and other EU derived funding must be replaced with funds from the UK Treasury. • Reported increases in race hate crimes and antisocial behaviour directed at EU citizens in the UK and other ethnic minorities since the referendum result was announced, including in Torbay. <p>The local government association have started to request evidence from Councils regarding this matter. Can you explain why the council have failed to gather such evidence?</p>
Councillor Lewis	<p>The holding of an overview and scrutiny inquiry day on the impact of Brexit in Torbay has been added to the Overview and Scrutiny Board's Work Programme. However, the focus of the Board over the last three months has been on the development of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for the NHS in Devon (and, in particular, the CCG's consultation on the Proposed Reconfiguration of Community Services) and the Mayor's consultation on his proposals for the Revenue and Capital Budget for 2017/2018.</p> <p>Arrangements will be put in place in the New Year for the inquiry day on the impact of Brexit.</p>

Second Round

Question (3) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance and Regeneration (Mayor Oliver)	<p>Torbay Council had originally given the developer of the Pavilion and Marina car park site a deadline of October, 2016 to have all appropriate plans submitted for consideration by the Development Management Committee. Can you please explain why the Local Authority have now allowed this to slip to January?</p>
Mayor Oliver	<p>In accordance with the agreement for lease, a planning application was submitted on 29 September 2016. Now that has been submitted, the Local Planning Authority is progressing within their timescales, and it would be inappropriate for me to comment upon any planning matters.</p>