

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.

<p>Question (1) by Councillor Carter to the Executive Lead for Adults and Children's Services (Councillor Parrott)</p>	<p>When did the council last conduct any monitoring and on the spot checking of child work permits in Torbay?</p>																		
<p>Councillor Parrott</p>	<p>Student Services process work permit applications on behalf of the Council. Where it becomes known that children are in work without the necessary process being followed, the Attendance Officer makes the necessary checks. The last spot check to be conducted by the Attendance officer took place in March 17.</p> <p>To make the process more robust Children's Services have recently reviewed the function of work permit applications and have moved the process to the safeguarding service. This will enable further checks to be made by the safeguarding team who can use wider intelligence held by the IRO service.</p>																		
<p>Question (2) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Mayor and Executive Lead for Finance, Regeneration and Corporate Services (Mayor Oliver)</p>	<p>Can you please advise me on a year by year basis over the past five years, the number of apprenticeships offered to our community by Torbay Council and how many of them were taken up by looked after children under the care of this or another authority?</p>																		
<p>Mayor Oliver</p>	<p>The table below details number of Apprentices recruited since 2014. As an Employer we have worked to Recruit Care Leavers, however, this has not proved to be as successful as we would had wished. Previously we have worked with the Education providers to target Care Leavers and Officers in Children's Services, and whilst we had some success initially this has been limited.</p> <p>The changes to the Apprentice Scheme this year and the introduction of the levy has also resulted in fewer number of new Apprentices being offered generally.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 1800 991 2078"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Apprenticeships offered</th> <th>LAC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>11</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>12</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>37</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Apprenticeships offered	LAC	2014	11	1	2015	12	2	2016	10	0	2017	4	0	TOTAL	37	3
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<p>Question (3) by Councillor Doggett to the Executive Lead for Planning, Transport and Housing (Councillor King)</p>	<p>Campaign for Better Transport conducted some research into the levels of subsidy of bus services across the South West of England. The results for 2016/2017 were as follows:</p> <p>BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET -- £1,539,674 NORTH SOMERSET --- £300,590 SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL--- £2,709,200 BOURNEMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL £ 322,900 POOLE BOROUGH COUNCIL----- £ 668,810 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL----- £1,979,300 DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL----- £ 4,780,129 TORBAY COUNCIL----- £ 0 PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL----- £ 384,029 CORNWALL COUNTY COUNCIL-----£6,646,000</p> <p>In light of the above do you think that Torbay has cut too deeply its supported bus routes and that it is time to reinstate some level of subsidy to ensure that routes such as the 65 can operate?</p>
<p>Councillor King</p>	<p>Torbay Council provides statutory concessionary fares funding of £4.5 Million annually.</p> <p>It also subsidises one route (no 25) and a fare car scheme at a cost of £16k annually.</p> <p>The funding is subsidised by a grant the council receives and is therefore not reflected in the figures as presented by the Campaign for Better Transport.</p> <p>The Council is in a fortunate position that it does not have to subsidise as we have a viable public transport network already. We work with local transport providers and the community and voluntary sector to maintain this position within existing budgets.</p> <p>When part of the network was under threat due to the withdrawal of an operator the council acted swiftly to resolved the issues and maintain the majority of routes. We are working with the new and existing providers whilst they settle into the new delivery patterns and exploring all options. We keep this matter under regular review.</p>
<p>Question (4) by Councillor Darling (M) to the Executive Lead for Planning, Transport and Housing (Councillor King)</p>	<p>Over a month ago a resident of Torquay town centre raised their concerns with the Local Authority in respect of houses of multiple occupation in Torquay. Their concern was raised by the Grenfell fire in Kensington, London.</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate we have a small number of tower blocks in Torbay we do have a significant number of houses in multiple occupation. Can you advise what additional fire safety checks have occurred within such properties in Torbay?</p>
<p>Councillor King</p>	<p>Feedback was provided in response to residents' concerns in August and their suggestions around the licensing of properties. As a result of the tragic events at Grenfell Tower a multiple disciplinary team was established to address any concerns locally and assess the impact of government guidance. The Fire Service in conjunction with Torbay Council has undertaken a significant number of inspections to address any immediate concerns. A list of proactive inspections at other properties has also been developed and is being prioritised so that further work can be undertaken.</p>

	<p>Information to allow agents, property managers and landlord associations to self-help has also been provided including updates on guidance, legislation and advice, etc.</p> <p>Adding the Council's and Fire Service data together, there have been 105 properties that have been inspected as a direct result of safety concerns and guidance issued post-Grenfell Towers.</p>
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Second Round

<p>Question (5) by Councillor Darling (S) to the Executive Lead for Planning, Transport and Housing (Councillor King)</p>	<p>I have been advised by the Council that they have attempted to renew the currently unenforceable double yellow lines on Truro Avenue Torquay. This was not possible due to parked vehicles not being removed from the road. Can you advise me of the dates as to when these attempts were made?</p>
<p>Councillor King</p>	<p>We are aware that 3 abortive attempts were made to re-mark double yellow lines in Truro Avenue due to parked vehicles; however we have no record of the actual dates. I am pleased to report that on their last on 31st August 2017 our contractor was able to complete these works satisfactorily. These types of problems are not uncommon and our contractors will always make every effort to clear parked vehicles where possible when maintenance works are undertaken.</p>