

Meeting of the Council, Wednesday, 28 April 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 O'Dwyer to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)</p>	<p>What was the underspend for the last financial year in the end, projected or actual based on latest up to date information?</p>
<p>Question (2) by Councillor C Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on the 23rd March the future of the Pavilion was on the Agenda with a recommendation that £75,000 be spent on the joint appointment of a specialist consultant to survey the Pavilion. The money to be taken out of the Economic Development Budget (EDB).</p> <p>Three Conservative Councillors asked for confirmation that the £75,000 would be taken out of the EDB budget, and if so what would be cut from the budget.</p> <p>The Portfolio holder stated twice that the above amount was being taken from the Town Deal Funding (TDF). The Leader of the Council confirmed that the Portfolio holder had stated the money was coming from the TDF and that was good enough for him.</p> <p>The exact wording of the exchange at the Cabinet meeting can be heard on the Zoom recording.</p> <p>Will the Portfolio Holder please apologise to the three Councillors for the confusion and confirm that the £75,000 will be coming from the Economic Development Budget as per the Cabinet decision.</p> <p>If the above is correct can the Portfolio holder please inform the Council what will be cut from the EDB budget to accommodate the £75,000.</p>
<p>Question (3) by Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>In recent years Torbay Council built a jetty for the purpose of landing mussels at Brixham. Can you please advise me around the volume of landings of mussels since its construction and any impact that Brexit may have had on these landings and any reduction on income of what this may had to the harbour authority.</p>

<p>Question (4) by Councillor Bye to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Last year I was told “a solution will be found” to the problem of overnight parking & encampment at the Ilsham Marine Drive & by Meadfoot Beach. A van, which appears to be lived in, has been in situ in a lay-by by Meadfoot Beach for three weeks at least, obscuring one of the few litter bins & the cause of much annoyance to residents. When will a solution be found please?</p>
<p>Question (5) by Councillor Foster to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Would the Cabinet Member please give an update on the trial of the new Dual Bins on Princess Gardens, how many dual bins are in the trial and what the cost is and also will he confirm that this trial has been funded from the money given by the Government for the Towns Deal Project.</p>
<p>Question (6) by Councillor Jackie Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>I have been asked by many residents on when they can expect a green waste Collection. Cllr Mike Morey attended a Radio interview on Rivera FM on the 14th April 2020 which was a year ago and had confirmed to the listeners that the scheme was going to be rolled out as soon as possible. Can you please advise me when this will be available?</p>
<p>Question (7) by Councillor David Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Events on Paignton green have played a huge part of our summer offer and help to make Paignton the place it is in the summer. Ordinarily any business on or near the green is keen to have events, because footfall increases and in pure economic terms this means the business has a greater chance to make some money. However this is not the case with SWISCo. Whenever an event takes place on the green, the organisers of such events are told to provide their own toilets and that the toilets on the green are not for people attending events – even though each customer would be paying their 30p to use the facilities. Furthermore, if an agreement can be made with SWISCo, a charge of approximately £200 for an evening is charged to the event organiser on top of the 30p entrance fee.</p> <p>Why does simple economics not feature in any business case with these facilities and why would SWISCo actively discourage people to use a facility that they had provided and as a result turn away what could be a sizeable income?</p>

Second Round

Question (8) by Councillor David Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	In a recent article in the Times newspaper (15 April 2021), it stated that grants have been provided to Councils for extra litter bins. Firstly, how much did Torbay Council receive and can you please provide a spreadsheet showing where the monies have been spent and how much may still be available?
Question (9) by Councillor Bye to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	<p>In view of Council Leader Steve Darling's recent comments advising more will be done to make residents feel safe when will the lights get fixed in Torwood Gardens so residents feel safe walking through there in the evening?</p> <p>I was advised by the Director of Place in November funding had been identified but despite several representations this work has not been completed.</p>
Question (10) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	What is the budget for the new Independent Chairperson of the Strategic Housing Board post per annum or per meeting and how many meetings is it planned there will be in a year?

Third Round

Question (11) by Councillor Bye to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)	How has Torbay's share of the Government's £56million Welcome Back Fund to "help boost the look & feel of high streets & seaside towns" been spent & what consultation with the community has taken place?
Question (12) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)	Noting the multiple contract awards of over £20 million for agency staffing published on our contracts register. Can you provide up to date figures for total actual agency costs for ourselves and our wholly owned subsidiaries for the last year by month.