

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 9 December 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) from Councillor O'Dwyer to Leader of the Council (Councillor Steve Darling)</p>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services provide on a ward by ward basis the schemes progressed under the Community Ward Fund specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what works have been undertaken and the cost difference between the expected cost and the final cost e.g Wellswood were quoted £600+ VAT for repainting 3 benches; and • what requested works are still outstanding and how much each ward and ward partnership will still have to use.
<p>Question (2) from Councillor Pentney to the Council's Representative on the Devon County Council – Investment and Pension Fund Committee (Councillor O'Dwyer)</p>	<p>Cop26 saw international agreement to cease investing and move towards a reduction in the investment in fossil fuels. What plans are there for the pension fund that serves Torbay Council employees to similarly disinvest from this sector?</p>
<p>Question (3) from Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>I understand that Torbay Council are looking to replace a 45 year old recycling baler with a new piece of plant. I believe the replacement will cost in the region of £350,000. Can you please advise what carbon reduction impact the new baler will have and any other efficiencies may be garnered from it?</p>
<p>Question (4) from Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law)</p>	<p>I understand that Children's Services were recently shortlisted for an award at the Local Government Chronicle award. Whilst it was disappointing that we did not receive the ultimate award, being shortlisted is an achievement in its own right. What lessons did Children Services learn from participating in this competition?</p>
<p>Question (5) from Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)</p>	<p>Over the last two years, the Council has got a firmer grip on its finances . The Council has made a fund of £250,000 available to invest in our community centres. Surveys were undertaken this summer of our centres. Can you please advise what impact this will have on our cornerstones of our communities?</p>
<p>Question (6) from Councillor Dart to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Our town centres and sea fronts experienced a phenomenal level of demand this summer, what lessons have been learnt from the support that was required and how are we planning to embed these lessons in the long term?</p>

<p>Question (7) from Councillor Johns to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Housing and Tourism (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>It was pleasing a few weeks ago to learn that Torbay Council was successful in its compulsory purchase order for Crossways shopping centre in Paignton. Whilst it may be some weeks away before the local authority take ownership of this eye sore in Paignton, what are we doing to ensure that we hit the ground running when we have full ownership of the site?</p>
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Second Round

<p>Question (8) from Councillor O'Dwyer to the Chairman of the Audit Committee (Councillor Loxton)</p>	<p>Can the Chairman of the Audit Committee provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a list of the proposed Internal Audits for this financial year; • a list of those that have been completed to date; • the cost/expected annual costs of these audits; • the opinion levels given by the auditors for each subject area and the audit; • the high or medium level risk actions that came out from these reports; • whether the actions have all been agreed by management and subsequently carried out; and • what actions are now overdue from this and previous years internal audit action plans.
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Third Round

<p>Question (9) from Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>COP26 made a number of pledges on future action to tackle climate change. This Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019 what has the Council done since:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much have we reduced our carbon usage as an authority? • How many public electric charging points are there in the bay now and how many are on council sites? • How many electric vehicles does the council currently own? • Have we reduced our total energy use as a council since the emergency was declared? • Prior to the Covid Pandemic what was our household recycling percentage, what was the recycling percentage when the Resource and Waste Management Strategy was approved and introduced and what is our current recycling percentage rate? • Do we still consider the new diesel refuse vehicles we are currently purchasing as a positive climate change action?
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