

Meeting of the Council

Thursday, 30 October 2014

Questions Under Standing Order A13

Question (1) by Councillor Baldrey to the Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Environmental Policy (Councillor Thomas (D))	Why is it that in the time since the road widening at Tweenaways has been completed has the Council not disposed of the houses adjacent to the junction whose gardens were taken for the work to be carried out?
Question (2) by Councillor James to the Executive Lead for Business Planning and Governance (Councillor McPhail)	There were 46 senior council directors and managers on wages of £50,000 to £125,000 in 2013/14, but this compares to only 34 in 2012/13 - an increase of 12 (or 33%). How do you justify this in the face of such unprecedented budget reductions? Despite the brilliant and hard work that they do, do you agree that we need to significantly reduce the top heavy structure of the council in a time when we are contracting fast?
Question (3) by Councillor James to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Tourism (Councillor Mills)	Do you agree with me that spending almost £25,000 on a palm tree is an unacceptable misuse of public money and will you ask for a full investigation by the overview and scrutiny committee into how such misuse could have occurred?
Question (4) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Safer Communities, Highways, Environment and Sport (Councillor Excell)	Weed Treatment - Over the last two years the regime to tackle weed growth on pavements has changed to only two treatments a year. This has resulted in treatments occurring twice a year with works being conducted in the winter when there is little weed growth. Those wards where treatment occurs in the winter may only get a second visit in the late growing season. To me and many residents this has resulted in a significant failure in the treatment of weeds on pavements. How do you plan to remedy this problem?

<p>Question (5) by Councillor Cowell to the Executive Lead for Business Planning and Governance (Councillor McPhail)</p>	<p>Is the Executive Lead for Business Planning and Governance aware that a petition by local residents highlighting their concerns about the Mayor’s recent reshuffle, in particular that of the former Deputy Mayor Cllr David Thomas, was rejected by officers. Why?</p>
<p>Question (6) by Councillor Darling to the Mayor</p>	<p>Housing benefit delays - The advertised 10 maximum week time in processing Housing benefits is resulting in real hardship and worry for many local residents. Private landlords are less likely to let to Housing benefit claimants. Sanctuary housing are threatening eviction to tenants and families on the breadline are having to make choices between rent and food. What plans do you have to reduce this period to a more appropriate 5 week maximum to process housing benefit claims?</p>
<p>Question (7) by Councillor Cowell to the Executive Lead for Safer Communities, Highways, Environment and Sport (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>Can you confirm the additional costs incurred for Tor2 to collect fly-tipped waste from Lymington Road Coach Station since the matter was raised in an e-mail from me to officers on August 14th 2014?</p> <p>Can you also detail any other costs as a result of the fly-tipping?</p> <p>Will you confirm that the garden waste collection service at Lymington Road will continue despite the recent tipping issues?</p>
<p>Question (8) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Business Planning and Governance (Councillor McPhail)</p>	<p>Child Poverty - Additional amendment to the Child Poverty report which was approved at Council on 27 Feb 2014.</p> <p>“A further amendment was proposed by Councillor Darling and seconded by Councillor Faulkner (J):</p> <p>(iv) that in light of the aspirations contained in the Torbay Child Poverty Commission “Torbay Gains” report, the Corporate Plan be revised to ensure that it aligns with the corporate elements of the report and a revised Corporate Plan be presented to the Council in September 2014.</p> <p>On being put to the vote, the amendment was declared carried.”</p> <p>In light of the above extract from the Full Council meeting in February can you please explain why this has not appeared on a Full Council Agenda to date at either September or October? I have raised this matter with both the Executive Head of Business Services and the Deputy Mayor.</p>

<p>Question (9) by Councillor Doggett for the Executive Lead for Safer Communities, Highways, Environment and Sport (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>On September 30th, I was invited to a meeting of the Transport Sub-Group of the Torbay Business Forum. This has the remit to establish priorities for the Sub-Group to work on. One of the most important points to be raised was how to get the best out of the South Devon Link Road once completed. The feelings of the Group were that we need a Park and Ride Service for Torbay. Overall Strategic thoughts were that there was finite road space, whatever is done. Therefore what assurances can you give me to revisit the possibility of a Park and Ride Service? This will, for example, provide access to the new proposed Edginswell Railway Station, and also Torbay Hospital, and Torquay Town Centre.</p>
<p>Question (10) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead Adult Social Care and Older People (Councillor Scouler)</p>	<p>Podiatry Service - It has been drawn to my attention that a number of people have started to be discharged from the podiatry service in Torbay. What change in criteria has been enacted? How many people have been affected by such a change and what risks were identified before such a change in service was implemented?</p>
<p>Question (11) by Councillor Davies to the Executive Lead for Harbours, Culture and the Arts (Councillor Amil)</p>	<p>Do you support the redevelopment of Paignton Harbour and how much will the redevelopment cost?</p>
<p>Question (12) by Councillor Pountney to the Mayor</p>	<p>Can the Mayor update the Council on any developments in the terms of the proposed lease of Cary Green and the Pavilion and will he make the full details of any lease available to the public before it is sign?</p>
<p>Question (13) by Councillor Morey to the Executive Lead for Harbours, Culture and the Arts (Councillor Amil)</p>	<p>Will the Executive Lead for Harbours, Culture and the Arts confirm that it is her intention to urge the Mayor to accept that the control and management of Churston Library must remain in local authority control?</p>

<p>Question (14) by Councillor Cowell to the Deputy Mayor and Executive Lead for Tourism (Councillor Mills)</p>	<p>Would the Deputy Mayor agree with me that the value of the English Riviera Tourism Company is more than illustrated by the three years of growth evidenced in the research undertaken by the South West Research Company on behalf of the sector in the South West?</p> <p>Can he also confirm that he is fully committed to the Torbay Tourism and Retail BID and that he will work constructively with the TRTBID task group to achieve the successful delivery of this essential BID?</p>
<p>Question (15) by Councillor Parrott to the Executive Lead for Safer Communities, Highways, Environment and Sport (Councillor Excell)</p>	<p>In light of evidence around child sexual exploitation, violent sexual abuse, domestic abuse, rapes and assaults, please could the Executive Lead advise whether women are safe in the Bay?</p>
<p>Question (16) by Councillor Doggett to the Mayor</p>	<p>Through Torbay Council's policies and working with partners, why are the Council and partners promoting additional jobs only and not ensuring that employment development in Torbay is focused on better paid jobs for our Communities?</p>
<p>Question (17) by Councillor James to the Mayor</p>	<p>It has recently been revealed that the government gives out £85 billion a year in subsidies, grants and tax breaks for big businesses in this country. One year's worth of these subsidies would wipe out the structural deficit and remove the need for any more cuts in public spending, including to this council. Do you agree with me that it is absolutely outrageous that hard working local residents on low incomes, along with the poorest and most vulnerable people in Torbay, are having to suffer while subsidies to big businesses continue untouched?</p>