

Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 19 June 2019

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 Chris Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Can the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for toilets please advise me why the toilets at Preston Bus Stop, Torquay Road have been closed and when they might re-open? I have been informed the reason was for Anti Social Behaviour, therefore can the Portfolio Holder please advise me in detail the types of incidents with dates that have occurred.</p>
<p>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>These toilets needed to be closed due to continued unwelcome behaviour which was evidenced when the cleaners attended the facility were collecting numerous needles and cleaning up after anti-social activities. The unit was temporally closed to try and break the trend of unwanted use. Only three complaints were received regarding the temporary closure.</p> <p>Upon re-opening the toilets, one cubicle been vandalised, however, the Disabled facility and one other cubicle has been re-opened on a trial basis and the situation is being closely monitor. These toilets do not form part of the Council's public toilet investment plan and they therefore remain free to use.</p>
<p>Question (2) by Councillor Long to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)</p>	<p>On 17th December 2018, the Elected Mayor took the decision to extend the existing Healthwatch contract with Healthwatch Torbay until March 2020. In the reasoning for the Decision the Mayor indicated that in the future the longer term model might be for a Devon wide contract.</p> <p>Healthwatch Torbay provides services above and beyond the statutory services that they are required to provide. There are concerns that a Devon wide Healthwatch contract might dilute those services to those statutory services which means Torbay residents would lose out.</p> <p>What will the decision making process be for awarding the post March 2020 Healthwatch contract, and how will Councillors be involved in that decision?</p>
<p>Councillor Stockman</p>	<p>Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council, in partnership with NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, are proposing to jointly commission a Healthwatch and Local Engagement Contract across the footprint of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) for Devon.</p> <p>Draft specifications for the proposed contract have been published, with pre-engagement events with potential providers taking place in June 2019. The draft specifications will also be shared with other stakeholders for comment. Following this opportunity for feedback, final specifications will be published later in the summer.</p>

	<p>We will continue to engage with the market, together with Healthwatch England, as we progress with our joint commissioning approach. A key to this will be: retaining the strong Healthwatch brand within Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, building on the good work to date; ensuring the public can continue to access Local Healthwatch face-to-face; and sustaining the volunteer base in all three areas, recognising the vital role they play in supporting Local Healthwatch and engaging with their communities.</p> <p>Councillors in all three authorities will make the final decision on the proposed joint contract at their respective Cabinet meetings towards the end of 2019. It is envisaged that the new contract will commence from the 1st April 2020.</p>
<p>Question (3) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Leader of Council, Councillor Steve Darling</p>	<p>In accordance with the Nolan Principles on public life, openness and transparency. Will the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Independent Group, Cllr Vic Ellery jointly publish the Memorandum of Understanding between the Liberal Democrat Group and the Independent Group?</p> <p>This will allow the people of Torbay to understand where the two parties of Councillors have current agreement and the outlay for that supply and confidence to this coalition and to be able to comment.</p>
<p>Councillor Steve Darling</p>	<p>The Partnership have always been transparent in respect of the agreement, and provided a copy of this to the press as soon as the partnership was announced.</p> <p>The Partnership Agreement has been placed on the Council's website, and can be found at https://www.torbay.gov.uk/council/leader-of-the-council/</p>
<p>Question (4) by Councillor Hill to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>Following on from the consultation on the suggestion to introduce Town Councils in Torquay and Paignton which concluded on 15th March 2019. Will the Portfolio Holder please provide details of the consultation results? Can they also provide details of their next steps as far as Town Councils are concerned in Torbay.</p>
<p>Councillor Carter</p>	<p>The 1st stage of consultation as part of the Community Governance review has been undertaken, and the Partnership are soon to consider the outcome of this.</p> <p>Pending the Partnership's consideration of the results it is not believed to be appropriate to announce the results.</p> <p>I can advise that we are aiming for the Community Governance review to be an item on the agenda for the Council meeting on 19 July 2019.</p>
<p>Question (5) by Councillor David Thomas to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>I have been approached by many residents regarding the ongoing toilet situation at Goodrington Beach. There is huge concern that the toilet provision for the whole of the beach area may be inadequate. It is understood that the middle toilets are due to be replaced very shortly and the original direction of travel from Council was for the South Beach toilets to continue to operate and open, although they would be run by a third party. I am led to believe this may now not be the case?</p>

	<p>Can the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for toilets please advise me what the current situation is with the toilets at Goodrington Central and in particular the toilets at South and North Beach. Is he able to confirm that ALL toilet provision will remain open for the Summer Seasons, and what are the plans for the future.</p>
<p>Councillor Morey</p>	<p>The new public toilet facility is now on site and should be operational within the next few weeks, subject to connection to the power supply.</p> <p>The Council has been working with the tenants of the adjacent café to explore a future lease and investment opportunity for the café site and the Goodrington South toilet block. Consequently this site is currently under review and a recommendation will soon be presented to the Cabinet for a decision.</p> <p>The results from the needs analysis carried out during the 2016 summer season confirmed that the annual seasonal usage of Goodrington central toilet block was 78,500 users. Goodrington South toilet block was estimated as 37,500.</p> <p>Statistical analysis at other tourist locations in the UK has identified that the effects and impact on locals and tourists when installing a pay to enter system will vary. The variation will depend on the rate of charge and Torbay Council have calculated a 30% reduction of usage after the implementation of a 30p charge. This is based on evidence from facilities that have already been upgraded in Torbay taking into consideration that tourists have proven to be less price sensitive to toilet charging than local people as they have little knowledge of the alternative provision.</p> <p>Healthmatic's analysis, calculated from national user numbers for the size of the unit at Goodrington, is 12,500 users per annum per cubicle. The seasonal user numbers at Goodrington South and Central is calculated at 81,200 users without season changes. The new toilet facility has 5 cubicles, 1 DDA unisex facility and a urinal for 4, a total of 10 public toilets. Therefore, according to national statistics, the new facility is capable of handling 125,000 users per annum. These figures help to demonstrate that sufficient capacity has been designed for the new toilet provision, based on local data benchmarked against national statistics.</p> <p>There are currently no plans to alter the existing toilet provision at Goodrington North.</p> <p>I can confirm that all of the public toilet provision at Goodrington will remain open for this Summer Season.</p>

Second Round

<p>Question (6) by Councillor Chris Lewis to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and</p>	<p>The community in Preston are having more and more difficulty crossing the road at the Conservative Club, Torquay Road to get to Pembroke Surgery. When the road was upgraded, provision was made to provide a crossing at some point in the future. The cables and all necessary works are already in the ground and can be used to create a public crossing 'when the time is right'. Due to the surgery now operating properly and at near to full capacity</p>
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Culture (Councillor Morey)	and the Tesco Shop trading successfully, we believe the time is now right to install the crossing and making this a safe road to cross. It is extremely dangerous to cross both lanes and there have recently been very many 'near misses'. Could the Portfolio for highways please tell us if this is now a priority and will therefore be dealt with as such.
Councillor Morey	The proposal for a new crossing at Torquay Road, Preston is one of a number of schemes that will be considered as business cases under the approved Local Transport Plan (LTP), Implementation Plan. I am unable to comment at this stage as to whether this scheme would be considered as a priority, however I can confirm that the Implementation Plan and associated business cases are due to be reviewed in respect of the uncommitted LTP funding over the next few months.