

## Meeting of the Council

Thursday, 27 September 2012

### Questions Under Standing Order A13

<b>Question (1) by Councillor Faulkner (A) to the Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy – Councillor Thomas (D)</b>	The number of households accepted as homeless between January and March went up by 2% on the previous quarter and up 16% on the same quarter as last year, according to the new government statistics, whilst I realise that this is not appertaining to Torbay we are finding the increase is affecting us. Please could the Portfolio Member reassure me that all steps are being taken to alleviate this problem that we face, such as bringing pressure to bear on the government to help relieve our particular state of affairs in Torbay, and discussing with the housing associations if they are relocating residents from larger properties who have found that they are too big to cope thereby relinquishing them to larger families who require them?
<b>Question (2) by Councillor Doggett to the Executive Lead for Culture and the Arts – Councillor Butt</b>	What is the level of room vacancy in Paignton Library and how are the Council addressing this issue, to raise money for the library service?
<b>Question (3) by Councillor Pountney to the Executive Lead for Strategic Planning, Housing and Energy – Councillor Thomas (D)</b>	Following the announcement that the Government is going to provide £300m towards Affordable Housing, please can you advise me what this Local Authorities plans are for bidding / applying for part of this money.

<p><b>Question (4) by Councillor Pentney to the Executive lead for Involved and Healthy Communities – Councillor Alison Hernandez</b></p>	<p>At a recent meeting of Paignton Town Community partnership we were told that the geopark in Paignton had £27,000 of Torbay Council money earmarked for the park this year. The meeting was also told of further monies that the community partnership had been successful in obtaining. In light of this is it fair or equitable that one park should be allocated so much public money when other parks in Torbay have very little spent on them?</p>
<p><b>Question (5) by Councillor Darling to the Mayor</b></p>	<p>At the last Full Council on the 12<sup>th</sup> July I asked for written copies of your responses to my written questions number 1, 3 and 5. I also requested a written response from Councillor Excell. As I am sure you are aware the councils constitution states that you have 15 working days to respond to me in. Councillor Excell has furnished me with a written response, but at the date of submitting this question (12.9.12) you have not. I would welcome an explanation?</p>
<p><b>Question (6) by Councillor Pentney to the Executive Lead for Safer Communities and Transport – Councillor Excell</b></p>	<p>It is in the Street Warden’s job description that they leave their area of patrol and attend the town hall in order to assemble and remove the stalls outside of the building; many of which are for private enterprise?</p>
<p><b>Question (7) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Finance and Audit – Councillor Tyerman</b></p>	<p>At the beginning of the current economic turn down Torbay Council made a commitment to pay contractors within 10 working days of receipt of their invoice, as recommended by the Government. In light of above, can you please advise what invoices from contractors both to Torbay Council and TOR2 remained unpaid more than 10 working days, over the past 18 months?</p>
<p><b>Question (8) by Councillor Faulkner (J) to the Mayor</b></p>	<p>Can you please update the Council on any legal action to recover the £50,000 owed to Torbay Council by the operators of the High Flyer Balloon?</p>

<p><b>Question (9) by Councillor Darling to the Executive Lead for Children, Schools and Families – Councillor Lewis</b></p>	<p>It is a disturbing fact that Looked After children are more likely to go to prison rather than University can you please advise what additional commitments Torbay Council are making to improve the life chances for our looked after children?</p>
<p><b>Question (10) by Councillor James to the Executive Lead for Finance and Audit – Councillor Tyerman</b></p>	<p>There are reports that Plymouth council are putting aside £1 million to cover the expected non-payment of council tax under the government's benefit reforms. Have councillors and officers considered this and will Torbay be taking this risk into account in the upcoming budget?</p>
<p><b>Question (11) by Councillor Cowell to the Mayor</b></p>	<p>In view of the structural changes of senior officers and the inevitable reshaping of the council due to central government imposed cuts, does the Mayor and Leader of the Council agree with me that reshaping political governance is equally as important. If he does agree, can he explain why the Political Governance Review Panel has been removed from the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme?</p>
<p><b>Question (12) by Councillor Cowell to the Executive Lead for Finance and Audit – Councillor Tyerman</b></p>	<p>When considering the serious nature of the centrally imposed budget cuts, will the Executive Lead for Finance provide assurances to the residents of Torbay that this year's consultation and budget process will be much more transparent than last years and will include forecasts for the coming years?</p>