

Meeting of the Council, Thursday, 24 September 2020

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

Question (1) by Councillor Dart to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law)	Torbay Council has been running a campaign to recruit more Foster Carers. Has this campaign borne fruit? How does this latest recruitment campaign compare to the last 5 years of recruitment in Torbay?
Question (2) by Councillor Mandy Darling to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)	Can you please compare and contrast the number of agency workers that we have in Torbay now compared to 12 months ago?
Question (3) by Councillor Doggett to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Public Health (Councillor Stockman)	Before the Pandemic, the ICO administered grants to grassroots organisations across Torbay to improve health outcomes? Now we are past the first stage of the virus how are these organisations being helped to achieve the improved health outcomes of the grant?
Question (4) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)	Could the Cabinet Member for Finance please provide details as to the original contract cost and the projected cost this financial year for the contract to collect and store victims put in place for the Covid-19 outbreak. Can they also advise how we have ensured value for money in this process.
Question (5) by Councillor Brown to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)	Could the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture inform the Council on work being undertaken to ensure properties that are being let as AirBnB or holiday lets are paying for commercial waste collections rather than exploiting the residential waste collections.

<p>Question (6) by Councillor Kennedy to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>In March this year there was a warning from central government of a marked decrease in Court availability which could have affected the Council's ability to legally move members of the Gypsy and Traveller community on from unauthorised encampments. To assist the Police in dealing with unauthorised encampments local authorities across the peninsula were asked to identify a point of contact and a tolerated stopping site. An email from the Chief Executive informed all Councillors that a tolerated temporary site would be available and that the site would provide water, sanitation and waste facilities. It appears that none of this happened due to our failure to carry out a risk assessment. Please explain why as an administration you believe the tax payers of Torbay should pay for the thousands of pounds worth of costs due to your failure to act appropriately, and as promised, towards an ethnic minority group.</p>
<p>Question (7) by Councillor Dudley to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Community Services (Councillor Carter)</p>	<p>The police and Torbay Council were able to work together to use section 61 powers to move travellers on from Paignton Green with just two hours' notice, was this the first time that these powers had been used in Torbay and how do we plan to use them going forward?</p>
<p>Question (8) by Councillor Pentney to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Councillor Law)</p>	<p>Reports from Ofqual suggest that the Secretary of State for Education decided to take the least favoured option out of three to manage GCSE and A-Level results in England. I would welcome your thoughts on what impact this has had on our students across Torbay, both receiving these results and those who will be taking these exams in 2021.</p>
<p>Question (9) by Councillor Atiya-Alla to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>As at 21 August 2020, Torbay had 20,000 people registered for the furlough scheme this summer. The furlough scheme is due to end on the 31 October. I am aware that the Council have been making representations for a bespoke furlough scheme for the tourism and hospitality sector. What representations have the Council made in recent weeks to champion this cause?</p>
<p>Question (10) by Councillor Doggett to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>Can you please confirm that the CPO for Crossways was served this summer?</p>

<p>Question (11) by Councillor Bye to Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>Overnight parking and encampments on Ilsham Marine Drive and the road by Meadfoot Beach are causing a nuisance to local residents, also deter residents and visitors from enjoying this beautiful part of Torbay. Litter and worse is left behind. Vehicles are unsightly. When will Torbay Council introduce a properly enforceable traffic regulation order so this is no longer a problem?</p>
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Second Round

<p>Question (12) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Finance (Councillor Cowell)</p>	<p>Following the proposal to increase the children's services budget by approximately £10million pounds for this financial year in February, we are currently reporting an underspend of £1.5million this financial year. How will this underspend be used?</p>
<p>Question (13) by Councillor Kennedy to the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing (Councillor Long)</p>	<p>In the last financial year you received £1.9m in Government funding to provide, and I quote, "upfront infrastructure improvements which need to be delivered in the very early development process but the cost of which is putting a barrier in the way of development". Among the specific infrastructure items listed for Collaton St Mary is 350 metres of new sewage pipe. The money has now been largely spent and Collaton St Mary have still not received the 350 metres of sewage pipe the LRF was to fund. With all the development that is due to descend on this area, when will the residents be benefitting from this new pipe?</p>

Third Round

<p>Question (14) by Councillor O'Dwyer to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture (Councillor Morey)</p>	<p>One of the regular complaints and issues raised by the authority with the former Tor2 waste and recycling contract was that the compensation to the authority for missed collections was that if approximately 20 homes were missed in a single day it then didn't matter how many more were missed as it was a set small fixed compensation fee. Therefore there was no incentive for the service provider to catch up that day, and in some cases the waste and recycling would be left until the following week. This led to cases of rubbish strewn across roads and associated smell. Could Cllr Morey please provide details on the penalties and service levels set out in the contract with Swisco especially in regards to rubbish collections and indicate that this has been rectified in the new Swisco contract.</p>
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