
From:
Sent: 03 October 2013 17:06
To:
Cc: Miranda Cannon
Subject: FOIA 3917

Please see below details of a FOIA request submitted by Cllr Grant.

“For each full Council meeting I submit my questions as required in the Constitution by email.

I wish to receive all emails by officers and members of the Council that relate to those questions that I have submitted between December 2012 and June 2013.”

I would therefore be grateful if you could send any appropriate emails to me and I will send a collated response to Information Governance.

24 January 2013

1. Councillor Grant to say:-

“Why were the roads so badly affected by snow in Leicester when they appeared not to be on the roads immediately outside the City boundary?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andy Thomas

2. Councillor Grant to say:-

“Will the Mayor apologise for how the Council has handled the affair of the scout hut in Thurnby Lodge?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

21 March 2013

Councillor Grant to say:-

“How many potholes are the Council fixing per month over past 3 months?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

12. Councillor Grant to say:-

“How much does it cost to keep the public outside areas of Highcross clean and safe?”

Councillor Russell to reply.

Response to be prepared by Adrian Russell.

13. Councillor Grant to say:-

“How much revenue does the Council get from the St Nicholas Place car park?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

14. Councillor Grant to say:-

“How many jobs are at risk in local businesses because of the Jubilee Square plans?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

27 June 2013

1. Councillor Grant to say:

“Why did the City Mayor wait so long to sell the old Post Office building on Bishop Street at a loss of over half a million pounds?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

2. Councillor Grant to say:

“When will the City Mayor provide councillors with the details of his various decisions around the City for relocating council staff and services (previously described as CLABs)?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by John Stevens.

3. Councillor Grant to say:

“Does the City Mayor think some of the public spats he is having in the press with his own Councillors would be avoidable if he was as open and transparent as previous Leaders of the Council?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

4. Councillor Grant to say:

“Why is it acceptable for departments of the Council to spend significant sums of money and then not carry out any evaluation of the outcomes or assess the value for money of that expenditure, and what is the limit he thinks it acceptable that his officers not bother to evaluate such schemes?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

Unfortunately the time for a response is quite tight so I would be grateful if you let me have all the information you hold by **Tuesday 8 October**. It is intended that once all the information is collated the Monitoring Officer will issue advice regarding what can be released.

Democratic & Members Support Manager
Leicester City Council
Town Hall
Leicester

0116 229

[@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:leicester@gov.uk)

From:
Sent: 03 October 2013 17:07
To: Andy Keeling
Cc: Miranda Cannon;
Subject: FOIA 3917

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City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

Democratic & Members Support Manager
Leicester City Council
Town Hall
Leicester

0116 229

[@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:leicester@gov.uk)

From:
Sent: 03 October 2013 17:10
To: John Stevens
Cc: Miranda Cannon;
Subject: FOIA 3917

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Democratic & Members Support Manager
Leicester City Council
Town Hall
Leicester

0116 229

[@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:leicester@gov.uk)

From:
Sent: 03 October 2013 17:11
To: Adrian Russell
Cc: Miranda Cannon;
Subject: FOIA request 3917

Please see below details of a FOIA request submitted by Cllr Grant.

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Democratic & Members Support Manager
Leicester City Council
Town Hall
Leicester

0116 229

[@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:leicester@gov.uk)

From:
Sent: 03 October 2013 17:11
To: Andrew L Smith
Cc: Miranda Cannon;
Subject: Foia 3917

Please see below details of a FOIA request submitted by Cllr Grant.

“For each full Council meeting I submit my questions as required in the Constitution by email.

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Democratic & Members Support Manager
Leicester City Council
Town Hall
Leicester

0116 229

[@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:leicester@gov.uk)

From: Andy Keeling
Sent: 04 October 2013 10:53
To:
Subject: FW: Questions for Full Council - 21 March 2013

Andy Keeling
Chief Operating Officer
Ext 29 7380
www.leicester.gov.uk

Back our bid to become Leicester City of Culture 2017
facebook.com/leicester2017
twitter.com/leicester2017

From: Andy Keeling
Sent: 19 March 2013 15:08
To: Liz Blyth
Subject: RE: Questions for Full Council - 21 March 2013

Ok thanks Liz

Andy Keeling
Chief Operating Officer

Ext 29 7380
andy.keeling@leicester.gov.uk

From: Liz Blyth
Sent: 19 March 2013 15:08
To: Andy Keeling
Subject: RE: Questions for Full Council - 21 March 2013

I just talked to Frank about it, and yes, I'll cover it.
Liz

Liz Blyth
Director of Culture and Neighbourhood Services
A13, New Walk Centre
Tel: 0116 252 7301 internal: 29 7301

From: Andy Keeling
Sent: 19 March 2013 15:08
To: Liz Blyth
Subject: FW: Questions for Full Council - 21 March 2013

Liz

Have you been asked to answer the renaissance question?

Cheers

Andy Keeling
Chief Operating Officer

Ext 29 7380
andy.keeling@leicester.gov.uk

From:

Sent: 19 March 2013 13:59

To: Sir Peter Soulsby; Cllr Rory Palmer; Rita Patel; Cllr Vi Dempster; Cllr Sarah Russell; Cllr Piara Singh Clair; Cllr Manjula Sood; Cllr Andy Connelly

Cc: ; ; ; Andy Keeling; Miranda Cannon

Subject: Questions for Full Council - 21 March 2013

Dear All,

Attached are questions from Councillors for Full Council on Thursday. These have been forwarded to the relevant officers in order to draft responses.

Thanks,

Democratic Support
0116 229 (x39

From: Andy Keeling
Sent: 04 October 2013 10:54
To:
Subject: FW: Questions for Council - 24 January 2012
Attachments: QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR1.docx

Andy Keeling
Chief Operating Officer
Ext 29 7380
www.leicester.gov.uk

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twitter.com/leicester2017

From: Andy Keeling
Sent: 22 January 2013 12:16
To: Deb Watson (deb.watson@leicestercitypct.nhs.uk); Frank Jordan; Rachel Dickinson
Subject: FW: Questions for Council - 24 January 2012

For Info – will write out allocating questions to Officers for response later this afternoon.

Cheers

Andy Keeling
Chief Operating Officer

Ext 29 7380
andy.keeling@leicester.gov.uk

From:
Sent: 22 January 2013 11:52
To: Sir Peter Souisby; Cllr Rory Palmer; Rita Patel; Cllr Vi Dempster; Cllr Sarah Russell; Cllr Piara Singh Clair; Cllr Manjula Sood; Cllr Andy Connelly
Cc: Andy Keeling; Miranda Cannon;
Subject: Questions for Council - 24 January 2012

Dear All,

Attached are questions from Councillors for Full Council on Thursday. I'll bring paper copies to Executive Briefing at 12:30pm to discuss which Executive Members will be responding to each of these.

Thanks,

Democratic Support
0116 229 (x39)

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – 24 JANUARY 2013

1. Councillor Singh to say:-

“Can I request the City Mayor to make a statement on the importance of the Equality Impact Assessments in the decision making process and the provision of services from the Council pre and post budget and outline the structure that has been adopted to ensure a transparent and accountable framework in the light of the 2011 census information”.

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx.

2. Councillor Singh to say:-

“Will the City Mayor inform the Council on whether Commissioning of Services is now operational and if the Social Value Act, which requires public bodies including Councils to consider the social value of a contract when procuring services and goods is implemented. How much allocation, if any did the Council receive towards the implementation of this central plank of Governments Localism agenda.”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

3. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

“When will the much anticipated list of 40 events planned for Belgrave Hall Museum be published, so that people wishing to visit the house and gardens can plan their diaries?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

4. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

“How many individual artists in each age category have submitted how many pieces of work to the Open 24 exhibition at New Walk Museum and Art Gallery?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

5. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

“What plans does the council have to support the Age UK Bobble Day on 8 February 2013, when councillors, council staff and volunteers across the country are being asked to raise money for activities to help older people?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

6. Councillor Porter to say:-

“How much is the council owed in unpaid parking and bus lane fines?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

7. Councillor Porter to say:-

“Is the Council marketing any greenfield sites in Aylestone?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

8. Councillor Porter to say:-

“In the last three years how many developments has the council approved in flood zone three?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

9. Councillor Porter to say:-

"How is the lane closure in Newarke Street easing congestion?"

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

10. Councillor Porter to say

"How much has the Haymarket Theatre cost the Council since it closed?"

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

11. Councillor Grant to say:-

"Why were the roads so badly affected by snow in Leicester when they appeared not to be on the roads immediately outside the City boundary?"

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

12. Councillor Grant to say:-

"Will the Mayor apologise for how the Council has handled the affair of the scout hut in Thurnby Lodge?"

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

13. Councillor Barton to say:-

"My Lord Mayor, with the opportunities for heritage led regeneration brought about by the Greyfriars excavation and increased footfall that could to come to the area due to the proposed Jubilee Square, Cathedral Gardens and other improvements to heritage sites in the vicinity, could we look at the feasibility of opening the Guildhall, currently closed for the winter, and other sites with seasonal opening hours all year round?"

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

14. Councillor Willmott to say:-

“Please could Councillor Clair inform Council why after three quarters of a century of being open to the public, he decided to close Belgrave Hall Museum and Gardens?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

15. Councillor Cole to say:-

“Please can the Deputy City Mayor give an update on the appalling situation that exists at Westcotes Health Centre where there has not been a permanent doctor for several months?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

16. Councillor Cole to say:-

“Can I ask the City Mayor if there are any plans to bring 20 mph speed limits to Western Park Ward because of rat runs that exist in several parts of the ward which are putting the lives of children and their parents at risk on their way to school in the morning?”

Xxxxx to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx

From: Andy Keeling
Sent: 04 October 2013 10:56
To:
Cc: Miranda Cannon;
Subject: RE: FOIA 3917

I've sent you all the e mails I have sent from my sent and sent archive folders, nothing I could see related to any of Cllr Grant's questions.

Andy Keeling
Chief Operating Officer
Ext 29 7380
www.leicester.gov.uk

Back our bid to become Leicester City of Culture 2017
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From:
Sent: 03 October 2013 17:07
To: Andy Keeling
Cc: Miranda Cannon;
Subject: FOIA 3917

Andy,
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City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andy Thomas

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City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

21 March 2013

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City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

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"How much does it cost to keep the public outside areas of Highcross clean and safe?"

Councillor Russell to reply.

Response to be prepared by Adrian Russell.

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"How much revenue does the Council get from the St Nicholas Place car park?"

City Mayor to reply.

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City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

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City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

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"When will the City Mayor provide councillors with the details of his various decisions around the City for relocating council staff and services (previously described as CLABs)?"

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by John Stevens.

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“Does the City Mayor think some of the public spats he is having in the press with his own Councillors would be avoidable if he was as open and transparent as previous Leaders of the Council?”

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City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

Democratic & Members Support Manager
Leicester City Council
Town Hall
Leicester

0116 229

[@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:leicester@gov.uk)

From:
Sent: 27 June 2013 12:16
To:
Cc: Frank Jordan;
Subject: RE: Council Question 15
Attachments: COUNCIL QUESTION 15 Answer v1.1.doc

Dear and

Please find attached a response to the Council question 15 which Frank has asked me to send direct to you for speed.

29

From: Frank Jordan
Sent: 27 June 2013 09:25
To:
Subject: FW: Council Question

As per previous email

Please draft an initial response and where it has supplementary points plus add some key bullets points on costs. Timelines etc

Thanks

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 JUNE 2013

Question No.15

Councillor Grant to say:

“When will the City Mayor provide councillors with the details of his various decisions around the City for relocating council staff and services (previously described as CLABs)?”

City Mayor to reply.

The Key Decision published on 25th June sets out the overall strategy for the Council’s Central Leicester Administrative Buildings, known as CLABs.

Having reviewed the plan I inherited and evaluated a number of options for the long term occupation of CLABs the overall programme is the most cost effective. It combines the recycling of buildings the Council owns and the use of relative short term leased properties within the City Centre to supplement this.

POSSIBLE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Why is so much money being spent on the leased building, York House?

The council has a long-term lease on the whole of York House. By moving more staff to this part of Granby Street we will be creating a catalyst for the regeneration of the local area.

Why has the cost of Attenborough House escalated?

The previous plan was to use the building as a stop gap before moving back to a new large building at New Walk Centre. The planned works would have been a “patch up” rather than a comprehensive scheme to allow for long term occupation.

Why is the proposed programme the most cost effective?

An NPV analysis was been undertaken on 3 alternative scenarios and the values are:

£110m for the original temporary decant to City Hall and a £38 million redevelopment of the NWC site.

£71m for a permanent decant to City Hall with reliance on other temporary accommodation for longer.

£65m for a permanent decant to City Hall with major refurbishment.

What is the cost of each site?

Description	Amount £000's
Data Centre	2,665
16 New Walk	174
Customer Services Centre	800
York House	1,341
City Hall	10,872
Princess Road	908
Furniture and Removals	639
IT Networks and Hardware, WAN and moves	1,097
Wellington House, Town Hall, Minor other offices' works	880
Fees, Programme management and contingency	615
Total	19,991

From: Adrian Russell
Sent: 07 October 2013 14:08
To:
Subject: RE: FOIA request 3917

I have NO access to any emails prior to April 2013, so I have nothing to send you. However, from recollection, no emails were sent by me about this particular question.

Adrian Russell

From:
Sent: 03 October 2013 17:11
To: Adrian Russell
Cc: Miranda Cannon;
Subject: FOIA request 3917

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Democratic & Members Support Manager
Leicester City Council
Town Hall
Leicester

0116 229

From:
Sent: 07 October 2013 16:47
To:
Cc: : Andrew L Smith; Miranda Cannon;
Subject: FW: Foia 3917
Attachments: FW: Council Question 11; RE: Council Question 11; FW: Council Question 11; RE: Council Question 17 & 13

Importance: High

Hi

Please find attached e-mails relating to this FOIA request as requested.
– please forward any further e-mails you may have to , thanks.

Many thanks

Executive Assistant to
Andrew L Smith
Director of Planning, Transportation and
Economic Development
Tel: 0116 454
Fax: 0116 2554894
E-mail: [@leicester.gov.uk](mailto: @leicester.gov.uk)

We're backing the bid to make Leicester the UK City of Culture 2017

www.facebook.com/leicester2017 www.twitter.com/leicester2017

From: Andrew Thomas
Sent: 20 March 2013 09:14
To:
Cc:
Subject: FW: Council Question 11
Attachments: 21 March 2013 No 11 Potholes.doc

Importance: High

– a comprehensive answer from

From:
Sent: 20 March 2013 09:07
To: Andrew Thomas
Subject: FW: Council Question 11
Importance: High

Andy,

I have pulled together the figures and some background information for you to review etc. This needs to be with
by midday.

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 14:57
To:
Subject: FW: Council Question 11
Importance: High

Hi
Please see attached and let me have your response by midday tomorrow.

Many thanks

Executive Assistant to
Andrew L Smith
Director of Planning, Transportation and
Economic Development
Tel: 0116 252
Fax: 0116 2554894
E-mail: @leicester.gov.uk

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 21st March 2013

Question to be asked by: Councillor Grant

QUESTION No: 11

"How many potholes is the Council fixing per month over past 3 months?"

CITY MAYOR TO REPLY:

(bullet points format)

- In the last 3 months, the number of urgent carriageway defect repair work orders for potholes (at an average of 1.22 potholes per work order):

- December 300 work orders for approx. 366 potholes
- January 539 work orders for approx. 658 potholes
- February 590 work orders for approx. 720 potholes
- March (to date) 365 work orders for approx. 445 potholes
- Total since 1st December 1795 work orders for approx. 2189 potholes.
- Normally operate with 2 to 3 pothole repair teams daily, but we have increased resources to 5 to 6 teams in the last 2 months to deal with the increase in pothole reports.
- In the previous 12 months we attended to approximately 6700 potholes.

POSSIBLE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Supplementary background information to help give context to the current situation:

- Prolonged wet weather since May 2012 coupled with another severe winter will inevitably impact on road conditions.
- The increase in the number of potholes in recent months reflects the impact of the wet and cold weather on road surfaces.
- Last year was the wettest on record for this region.
- This winter we have been out gritting the roads on 63 days and used 2,652 tonnes of road salt, confirming the harshness of the winter this year.
- We have used more road salt this winter than in the previous three winters (2011/12 = 1,768t; 2010/11 = 2231t; 2009/10 = 2186t).
- In 2012/13 we increased revenue spending on highway maintenance by an additional £1.175 million.
- Capital maintenance funding for road maintenance in 2012/13 was £1.734 million.

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 17:23
To: ;
Subject: RE: Council Question 11

Hi, the figures for defect locations identified and ordered per month. Figures don't take into account that previous study showed that total number of defects was 22% more than number of locations i.e. a defect report is recorded on the database as outside a property but it may be to repair more than 1 pothole outside that property.

December 2012: 300
January 2013: 539
February 2013: 590
March 2013: 365 so far. Approx. 20% of the months routine inspections are still to be done.

Also the number of report of potholes has increased significantly in the last week or so. In the three weeks from 18/2 to 8/3 we were getting approx. 50 reports per week, last week we received 89 and we have had 59 in the first 2 days of this week.

The number of defect locations recorded to the end of last week was 5123. Projected forward to include last 2 weeks of the year this increases to 5328 and 22% increase would take it to 6500.

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 15:02
To: ;
Cc: Andrew Thomas
Subject: FW: Council Question 11
Importance: High

"How many potholes is the Council fixing per month over past 3 months?"

Please can we confirm figures between us asap. I will then put some text together and run by Andy. Need to do by 9.30am as committed after that.

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 14:57
To:
Subject: FW: Council Question 11
Importance: High

Hi
Please see attached and let me have your response by midday tomorrow.

Many thanks

Executive Assistant to
Andrew L Smith
Director of Planning, Transportation and
Economic Development
Tel: 0116 252
Fax: 0116 2554894
E-mail: leicester@leicester.gov.uk

From:
Sent: 20 March 2013 10:22
To:
Subject: RE: Council Question 17 & 13
Attachments: 21 March 2013 No 13 St Nicholas Car Park.doc

Ooops!

From:
Sent: 20 March 2013 10:10
To:
Subject: RE: Council Question 17 & 13

No pro-forma attached

From:
Sent: 20 March 2013 08:52
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Council Question 17 & 13

I've put the detail into the pro-forma. The problem that I have is on the supplementary questions which I believe will focus on loss of income and where the users will now park. I'm sure that the City Mayor can deal with the income question but the other element is linked to the developing car parking strategy – probably best to get some advice from Andrew on this.

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 16:37
To:
Subject: RE: Council Question 17 & 13

Can someone please do the proper response on the template sent earlier as City Mayor is replying.
thanks

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 16:21
To:
Subject: RE: Council Question 17

Attached,

Last 2 years

2011/12	2010/11	Total
£000's	£000's	£000's

Income	221.8	187.2	409.00
Expenditure	25.3	23.7	49.00
Net	196.5	163.5	360.00

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 15:04
To: ;
Subject: FW: Council Question 17
Importance: High

For your action please

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 14:58
To: Andrew Thomas
Subject: RE: Council Question 17
Importance: High

Hi
Please see attached and let me have your response by midday tomorrow.

Many thanks

Executive Assistant to
Andrew L Smith
Director of Planning, Transportation and
Economic Development
Tel: 0116 252
Fax: 0116 2554894
E-mail: [@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:leicester@gov.uk)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 21st March 2013

Question to be asked by: Councillor Grant

QUESTION No: 13

“How much revenue does the Council get from the St Nicholas Place car park?”

CITY MAYOR TO REPLY:

(bullet points format)

- St Nicholas place is better known as The Lanes car park and similar information is requested by Councillor Porter in Question no. 17.
- The net income for The Lanes car park for 2010/11 was £163,500 (£187,200 income less £23,700 expenditure [staff time; cleaning; machinery repair and maintenance]).
- The net income for The Lanes car park for 2011/12 was £196,500 (£221,800 income less £25,300 expenditure [staff time; cleaning; machinery repair and maintenance]).

POSSIBLE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

From:
Sent: 10 October 2013 15:53
To:
Subject: FOIA Emails
Attachments: Council Questions - 24 June 2013; Questions for Full Council - 21 March 2013;
Questions from Councillors - 24 January 2013

Emails in relation to Cllr Grant's FOIA request.

Thanks,

From:
Sent: 25 June 2013 14:14
To: Miranda Cannon; Colin Sharpe; Trevor Pringle; Deb Watson; Ruth Lake; Jill
Craig; Tracie Rees; Ann Branson; : Adrian Russell; Andrew L Smith; Andy
Smith; Margaret Libreri; Andy Keeling; : Mark Noble;
Kamal Adatia; . ; Alison Greenhill; Frank Jordan; Liz
Blyth; ;
Chris Taylor; Miranda Cannon; Alison Moss;
John Stevens; Alison Greenhill;

Cc:
Subject: Council Questions - 24 June 2013
Attachments: COUNCIL QUESTION EXAMPLES_1.doc; GUIDELINES FOR OFFICERS PREPARING
ANSWERS_1.doc; QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.docx

Dear All,

Please find attached a list of questions from Councillors for Full Council on Thursday 27 June 2013 with the names of the responding Executive members. Also included is the name of the officer who is expected to prepare a response where required.

I am on annual leave for the remainder of the week, so please can all final responses be e-mailed to by 10am on Thursday 24 June. Please ensure that this response has been cleared by the relevant Executive Member and Strategic Director before doing so.

Attached is an example of a completed response.

Please provide the answer, double spaced and 14 point font in bold, following the attached guidance and template. Please could you also attempt to include no more than 2-3 sentences as part of your initial response to questions.

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 JANUARY 2010

Question No. 8

Councillor XXXX to ask the Cabinet Lead Member for the Council:-

“Will the Cabinet Lead Member for the Council explain how the quality of responses to Council Questions has been so dramatically improved?”

Draft Reply

Thank you, my Lord Mayor.

I am most pleased that Councillor XXXX has found this to be the case. I am sure the various Cabinet Members would like to take all the credit. In reality, however, it is a team effort between those officers who brief Cabinet Member on the questions put and the various Cabinet Members who are actually answerable in this Chamber.

In summary, the answer is that everyone has now recognised fully the benefits of clarity, brevity, appropriate presentation and associated briefing of Cabinet Members.

Supplementary Questions

Possible Areas

“Do answers give the whole truth?”

All answers try to deal with the central point at issue. Often a full and complete explanation will involve detailed information about which it may be necessary to write to the Councillor asking the question.

“Is it just practice reading for Cabinet Members?”

No, My Lord Mayor, certainly not. The briefing prepared for Cabinet Members by officers is factual in content. Many of the Cabinet Members do, of course, wish to add a political dimension to the response and, therefore, incorporate the factual information in their own style.

“Why have they been so poor in the past?”

My Lord Mayor, answers have not been poor in the past. The style has simply improved by utilising the key principles I have already identified in my initial answer.

“Can you inform me how many Council Questions have been asked in the last twelve months?”

My Lord Mayor, I am afraid I do not have that particular piece of detail information to hand. I will, however, gladly arrange for Councillor XXXX to be supplied with those details in writing.

Further Information

The procedure for the asking for Questions by Councillors at Council Meetings is set down in the Council Procedure Rules, in the Council’s Constitution.

Council Procedure Rules do not include any constraints on the length of time which may be taken in answering Councillors’ questions. Members of the Public, however, are restricted to a maximum of three minutes for the asking and answering of each question, with an overall maximum of 20 minutes for all questions.

Any questions not dealt with at the expiry of 20 are answered in writing.

Liz Reid-Jones, Head of Democratic Services
ext. 39 8899
29 January 2009

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – 27 JUNE 2013

1. Councillor Waddington to say:-

“Will the City Mayor write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer pointing out that the introduction of the Robin Hood tax in the UK would raise up to £20 billion which could be used to boost the economy and fund vital public services? Will he also explain in his letter that this tax would provide an opportunity for the financial sector to make a contribution towards clearing up the mess it caused, rather than the burden falling upon Local Authorities like Leicester City Council and our citizens? Would the City Mayor ask George Osborne to therefore introduce the Robin Hood tax in the UK and drop his legal challenge to prevent the tax being implemented in other European countries that have already agreed it?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

2. Councillor Meghani to say:

“Can the relevant Cabinet Lead please advise on what progress has been made thus far, on creating a water-based facility within the city, for the consecration of ashes following cremation?”

Councillor Sood to reply.

Response to be prepared by Adrian Russell.

3. Councillor Meghani to say:

“Would the Cabinet Lead for Children, Young People and Schools please join me in congratulating Babington Community College in Beaumont Leys, for being awarded an 'outstanding' ranking by OFSTED, and would she further join me in congratulating the head teacher and all the staff for a job well done?”

Councillor Dempster to reply.

No officer response required.

4. Councillor Dr Barton to say:

“On 6th July the second Western Park Family Festival is due to take place. This is a free to enter event which will showcase local community groups, our beautiful park and the talents of Leicester musicians and performers. It is run entirely by volunteers and is supported by our ward community budget. Last year's event was excellent, a privilege to be part of, and attracted a couple of thousand people. This year's festival promises to be even bigger.

Will the Lord Mayor, Mayor and Councillors join me in wishing Friends of Western Park our best wishes for the success of the festival and thanks to those volunteers involved, especially Adrian Alexander, for their hard work on behalf of the community?”

Councillor Russell to reply.

No officer response required.

5. Councillor Singh to say:

Will the City Mayor outline those initiatives under economic regeneration strategy implemented over the last year, 2012 which underpins the work with business organisations, LLEP, Chambers and other relevant employer organisations, to promote job creation and employment opportunity in the City?

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

6. Councillor Singh to say:

Will the Assistant Mayor for Children and Young Persons Services inform the Council on the numbers of appeals submitted by parents regarding school preferences this year and the number concluded and those which are still pending?

Councillor Dempster to reply.

Response to be prepared by Trevor Pringle.

7. Councillor Singh to say:

How does the Authority compare with last year's figures on the number of appeals received?

Councillor Dempster to reply.

Response to be prepared by Trevor Pringle.

8. Councillor Clarke to say:

"Will the City Mayor contact his friends at County Hall (who hold the Better Bus Area Fund budget) and discuss the possibility of giving a partial rate rebate to hard-pressed businesses in the Aylestone local shopping area? These businesses are concerned about loss of trade during the forthcoming closure of the A426, and I am very concerned on their behalf."

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

9. Councillor Clarke to say:

"Will Assistant Mayor Councillor Dempster update the Council on the situation at Rushey Mead Secondary School, which I understand is seriously considering leaving the local authority?"

Councillor Dempster to reply.

No officers response required.

10. Councillor Chaplin to say:

"According to recent figures from the British Heart Foundation, 70% of parents and 78% of pupils surveyed said that emergency life support skills like CPR should be taught in schools. Given that this could help more people survive cardiac arrest, will the Council introduce this training into city schools so that our young people have these important skills from an early age?"

Deputy City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Margaret Libreri.

11. Councillor Chaplin to say:

“With reports that the bee population is diminishing, will the Council introduce bee allotments as proposed by my constituents in Stoneygate Ward, in a bid to make the city more bee-friendly?”

Deputy City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Adrian Russell.

12. Councillor Chaplin to say:

“How many responses (from groups and individuals) have there been to the current consultation on the Council's proposals for the future of its elderly people's homes?”

Councillor Patel to reply.

No officers response required.

13. Councillor Chaplin to say:

“What plans are there to develop more dedicated exhibition spaces for contemporary art as part of the Leicester's bid to be UK City of Culture 2017?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Liz Blyth.

14. Councillor Grant to say:

“Why did the City Mayor wait so long to sell the old Post Office building on Bishop Street at a loss of over half a million pounds?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

15. Councillor Grant to say:

“When will the City Mayor provide councillors with the details of his various decisions around the City for relocating council staff and services (previously described as CLABs)?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by John Stevens.

16. Councillor Grant to say:

“Does the City Mayor think some of the public spats he is having in the press with his own Councillors would be avoidable if he was as open and transparent as previous Leaders of the Council?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

17. Councillor Grant to say:

“Why is it acceptable for departments of the Council to spend significant sums of money and then not carry out any evaluation of the outcomes or assess the value for money of that expenditure, and what is the limit he thinks it acceptable that his officers not bother to evaluate such schemes?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

18. Councillor Porter to say:

“Why will it take six weeks to resurface a short section of Lutterworth Road?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

From:
Sent: 19 March 2013 14:07
To: Miranda Cannon; Liz Blyth; Colin Sharpe; Trevor Pringle; Deb Watson; Ruth Lake; Jill Craig; Tracie Rees; Ann Branson; Neil Gamble; Adrian Russell; Andrew L Smith; Andy Smith; Margaret Libreri; Rachel Dickinson; Andy Keeling; Mark Noble; Kamal Adatia; : Alison Greenhill; Frank Jordan; Liz Blyth; Chris Taylor; Miranda Cannon; Alison Moss;

Cc:

Subject: Questions for Full Council - 21 March 2013
Attachments: QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.docx; COUNCIL QUESTION EXAMPLES_1.doc; GUIDELINES FOR OFFICERS PREPARING ANSWERS_1.doc

Dear All,

Please find attached a list of questions from Councillors for Full Council on Thursday 21 March 2013 with the names of the responding Executive members. Also included is the name of the officer who is expected to prepare a response where required.

Please can all final responses be e-mailed to myself by 10am on Thursday 21 March, and please ensure that this response has been cleared by the relevant Executive Member and Strategic Director before doing so.

Attached is an example of a completed response.

Please provide the answer, double spaced and 14 point font in bold, following the attached guidance and template. Please could you also attempt to include no more than 2-3 sentences as part of your initial response to questions.

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – 28 MARCH 2013

1. Councillor Waddington to say:-

“Is the £1.7 million to be spent on increasing the size of Alderman Richard Hallam School sufficient to enable the two disgusting huts currently used as classrooms at the school to be demolished and replaced by permanent classrooms, since the existing huts have long been condemned by children, parents and staff as unsuitable learning environments?”.

Councilor Dempster to reply.

Response to be prepared by Trevor Pringle.

2. Councillor Waddington to say:-

“If the £1.7 million is insufficient, will some of the additional school maintenance monies of £1.8 million included in the 13/14 capital programme be spent on demolishing and replacing these huts at Alderman Richard Hallam School?”.

Councilor Dempster to reply.

Response to be prepared by Trevor Pringle.

3. Councillor Singh to say:-

“Is the Deputy Mayor aware that the East Midlands Ambulance Service instituted a public consultation in September 2012 entitled 'Being the Best' and the Trust Board is intending to make decisions on its outcome at their 25th March meeting. Can he tell me how many out of the 1461 respondents were from the City and is he able to inform the Council of the consequences of the review to the Public of this very vital part of the NHS provision?”.

Deputy City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Angela Sutaria.

4. Councillor Singh to say:-

"In supporting the City Mayor's initiative for Leicester in the Cultural City participation, how soon will he consider bringing together the diverse City, its community groups and organisations, its business, social, cultural, religious and educational sectors, to be part of consultative contingents to build a strong programme for the City and its heritage to promote a successful outcome."

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Shilliam.

5. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

"Can the Assistant Mayor for Culture and Heritage confirm how many individual pieces of work exhibited in the Open 24 exhibition, from how many different artists, have so far been purchased, and how do these figures compare to sales for each of the previous five years?"

Councilor Clair to reply.

Response to be prepared by Liz Blyth.

6. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

"Can the Assistant Mayor for Children's and Young People's Services give a further update on progress for the changes to the city's audiology service for children?"

Councilor Dempster to reply.

Response to be prepared by Rachel Dickinson.

7. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

"Given the increasing number of requests from residents - for example in Ripon Street, Evington Valley Road, Roundhill Road and Kimberley Road all in Stoneygate ward - for a chance to benefit from improvements brought by residents' parking schemes, can the City Mayor outline what plans he has to consult on introducing residents parking schemes more widely."

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

8. Councillor Willmott to say:-

"When will the final list of events at Belgrave Hall be published and how many of these events will require payment to enter or partake in and how many will be free?"

Councilor Clair to reply.

Response to be prepared by Liz Blyth.

9. Councillor Willmott to say:-

"When is the report on the petition asking for Belgrave Hall to be re-opened to the public coming to a scrutiny committee?"

Councilor Clair to reply.

Response to be prepared by Liz Blyth.

10. Councillor Willmott to say:-

"Please could Assistant Mayor Clair give Council an update on the proposed railway museum at the Great Central Railway?"

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Frank Jordan.

11. Councillor Grant to say:-

"How many potholes are the Council fixing per month over past 3 months?"

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

12. Councillor Grant to say:-

“How much does it cost to keep the public outside areas of Highcross clean and safe?”

Councilor Russell to reply.

Response to be prepared by Adrian Russell.

13. Councillor Grant to say:-

“How much revenue does the Council get from the St Nicholas Place car park?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

14. Councillor Grant to say:-

“How many jobs are at risk in local businesses because of the Jubilee Square plans?”

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

15. Councillor Porter to say:-

“How much income will the £418,000 renaissance project generate?”

Councilor Clair to reply.

Response to be prepared by xxxxx.

16. Councillor Porter to say:-

“How many councillors have received up to £200 for bicycles?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by John Thorpe.

17. Councillor Porter to say:-

“How much income was received from the Lanes Car Park over the last two years?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

18. Councillor Porter to say:-

“Did the City Mayor read the Road Safety Audit before he approved the a426 Lutterworth Road bus lane scheme?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

19. Councillor Dawood to say:-

“With reference to the recent horse meat scandal and Westminster council announcing last week that pork had been found in Halal food provided to school children, could the Assistant Mayor responsible for Children Services, provide assurances that Leicester City school meals have the relevant checks in place to avoid a repeat of the scenarios mentioned?”

Assistant Mayor Dempster to reply.

Response to be prepared by Trevor Pringle.

From:
Sent: 22 January 2013 14:56
To: Miranda Cannon; Liz Blyth; Colin Sharpe;
Trevor Pringle;
Deb Watson; Ruth Lake; Jill Craig; Tracie Rees; Ann Branson; Neil Gamble; Adrian Russell; Andrew L Smith; Andy Smith; Margaret Libreri; Rachel Dickinson; Andy Keeling; Mark Noble; Sarah Levitt;
Kamal Adatia; Rita Patel; Frank Jordan; Alison Greenhill;
; Frank Jordan; Liz Blyth; Sarah Levitt;
Chris Taylor;
Andrew Thomas

Cc:

Subject: Questions from Councillors - 24 January 2013
Attachments: COUNCIL QUESTION EXAMPLES_1.doc; GUIDELINES FOR OFFICERS PREPARING ANSWERS_1.doc; QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLOR1.docx

Dear All,

Please find attached a list of questions from Councillors for Full Council on Thursday 24 January 2013 with the names of the responding Executive members. Also included is the name of the officer who is expected to prepare a response where required.

Please can all final responses be e-mailed to myself by 10am on Thursday 22 November, and please ensure that this response has been cleared by the relevant Executive member and Strategic Director before doing so.

Attached is an example of a completed response.

Please provide the answer, double spaced and 14 point font in bold, following the attached guidance and template. Please could you also attempt to include no more than 2-3 sentences as part of your initial response to questions.

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Kind Regards,

Democratic Support
0116 229 (x39)

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – 24 JANUARY 2013

1. Councillor Singh to say:-

“Can I request the City Mayor to make a statement on the importance of the Equality Impact Assessments in the decision making process and the provision of services from the Council pre and post budget and outline the structure that has been adopted to ensure a transparent and accountable framework in the light of the 2011 census information”.

Councilor Sood to reply.

Response to be prepared by

2. Councillor Singh to say:-

“Will the City Mayor inform the Council on whether Commissioning of Services is now operational and if the Social Value Act, which requires public bodies including Councils to consider the social value of a contract when procuring services and goods is implemented. How much allocation, if any did the Council receive towards the implementation of this central plank of Governments Localism agenda.”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Alison Greenhill

3. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

“When will the much anticipated list of 40 events planned for Belgrave Hall Museum be published, so that people wishing to visit the house and gardens can plan their diaries?”

Councillor Clair to reply.

Response to be prepared by Sarah Levitt

4. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

“How many individual artists in each age category have submitted how many pieces of work to the Open 24 exhibition at New Walk Museum and Art Gallery?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Sarah Levitt

5. Councillor Chaplin to say:-

“What plans does the council have to support the Age UK Bobble Day on 8 February 2013, when councillors, council staff and volunteers across the country are being asked to raise money for activities to help older people?”

Councillor Patel to reply.

Response to be prepared by Ruth Lake

6. Councillor Porter to say:-

“How much is the council owed in unpaid parking and bus lane fines?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Frank Jordan

7. Councillor Porter to say:-

“Is the Council marketing any greenfield sites in Aylestone?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Frank Jordan

8. Councillor Porter to say:-

“In the last three years how many developments has the council approved in flood zone three?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith

9. Councillor Porter to say:-

"How is the lane closure in Newarke Street easing congestion?"

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

10. Councillor Porter to say

"How much has the Haymarket Theatre cost the Council since it closed?"

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Liz Blyth

11. Councillor Grant to say:-

"Why were the roads so badly affected by snow in Leicester when they appeared not to be on the roads immediately outside the City boundary?"

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andy Thomas

12. Councillor Grant to say:-

"Will the Mayor apologise for how the Council has handled the affair of the scout hut in Thurnby Lodge?"

City Mayor to reply.

No officer response required.

13. Councillor Barton to say:-

"My Lord Mayor, with the opportunities for heritage led regeneration brought about by the Greyfriars excavation and increased footfall that could to come to the area due to the proposed Jubilee Square, Cathedral Gardens and other improvements to heritage sites in the vicinity, could we look at the feasibility of opening the Guildhall, currently closed for the winter, and other sites with seasonal opening hours all year round?"

Councillor Clair to reply.

Response to be prepared by Frank Jordan

14. Councillor Willmott to say:-

“Please could Councillor Clair inform Council why after three quarters of a century of being open to the public, he decided to close Belgrave Hall Museum and Gardens?”

Councillor Clair to reply.

Response to be prepared by Liz Blyth

15. Councillor Cole to say:-

“Please can the Deputy City Mayor give an update on the appalling situation that exists at Westcotes Health Centre where there has not been a permanent doctor for several months?”

Deputy City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Deb Watson

16. Councillor Cole to say:-

“Can I ask the City Mayor if there are any plans to bring 20 mph speed limits to Western Park Ward because of rat runs that exist in several parts of the ward which are putting the lives of children and their parents at risk on their way to school in the morning?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith

From: Andrew L Smith
Sent: 03 October 2013 20:20
To: John Stevens;
Cc: : Frank Jordan; Miranda Cannon;
Subject: FW: Foia 3917

Importance: High

- can you assemble all relevant e mails connected to the pothole question please
- can you do the same for the St Nicholas Place question please - suspect and at least one of your property team may also have exchanged e mails on this also

- can you identify any e mails that are relevant that have been through you or your colleagues to the City Mayor
- can you identify all e mails that have come through me please for both of these.

If anyone feels I may have missed any others who may have been in an e mail trail pl let me know

I will need these e mails by Monday 8th please - - can you coordinate and pull these together please

Thanks

Andrew

From:
Sent: 03 October 2013 17:11
To: Andrew L Smith
Cc: Miranda Cannon;
Subject: Foia 3917

Please see below details of a FOIA request submitted by Cllr Grant.

“For each full Council meeting I submit my questions as required in the Constitution by email.

I wish to receive all emails by officers and members of the Council that relate to those questions that I have submitted between December 2012 and June 2013.”

I understand that you provided a suggested response to the following questions submitted by Councillor Grant.

21 March 2013

Councillor Grant to say:-

“How many potholes are the Council fixing per month over past 3 months?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

13. Councillor Grant to say:-

“How much revenue does the Council get from the St Nicholas Place car park?”

City Mayor to reply.

Response to be prepared by Andrew Smith.

I would therefore be grateful if you could send the appropriate emails to me and I will send a collated response to Information Governance.

Unfortunately the time for a response is quite tight so I would be grateful if you let me have all the information you hold by **Tuesday 8 October**. It is intended that once all the information is collated the Monitoring Officer will issue advice regarding what can be released.

Democratic & Members Support Manager
Leicester City Council
Town Hall
Leicester

0116 229

[@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:leicester.gov.uk)

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JANUARY 2013

Question No. 11

Councillor Grant to say:-

“Why were the roads so badly affected by snow in Leicester when they appeared not to be on the roads immediately outside the City boundary?”

Draft Reply for City Mayor

The main roads in the City were gritted 3 times in the 24 hours prior to snowfall on Friday afternoon and were gritted continuously throughout Friday afternoon/evening and the rest of the weekend. Over 240 tonnes of road salt were spread on the primary network on Friday alone.

Heavy snowfall will settle on treated surfaces for a time until the salt is worked into the snow by the traffic. However, the grit did its job and despite the heavy snowfall the main roads remained passable with care throughout and were clear of snow and slush by the following morning. The amount of snowfall also varied in different parts of the City and roads to the South and East of the City appeared to have experienced heavier falls.

Supplementary Questions

Possible Areas

Supplementary information

- **Between Sunday January 13th and Sunday 20th, we have:**
 - **Spread 738 tonnes of salt on the roads (this does not include grit bins or footways).**
 - **240 tonnes was spread on the roads in 24 hours on Friday 18th alone.**
 - **In the 24 hours prior to Friday evening the primary network was gritted 3 times in readiness.**
 - **We have gritted the primary network around twice a day on average over the last week.**
 - **Since Wednesday, gritting operations have been pretty much continuous.**
 - **We have around 1300 to 1400 tonnes of grit left in store - enough to last for another 10 days of snowy conditions like we have just experienced. This has triggered our re-order level which is set at 1500 tonnes and have ordered more salt this week in line with our operational plan.**

- **Over 300 grit bins are provided across the City at known trouble spots for use by members of the public to grit the highway**
- **Last year, the Deputy City Mayor increased our stock of grit bins from 200 to 300**
- **It is not free grit for people to use on their own driveways, but for the common good**
- **A grit bin holds at least 340 litres salt (roughly 400kg) - say over a third of a tonne.**
- **We use a 60/40 split of washed sand/road salt mix in grit bins. The salt helps to melt the snow, whilst the washed sand provides traction. Also, the sand stays around, whereas the salt melts away**
- **During periods of severe winter weather we assign teams to go around replenishing them**

- **It costs £70-£80 to refill a grit bin - hand filled from backs of lorries.**
- **We reckon a 2 man team can refill up to 20 bins a day, so if we had five teams on it then it would take 3 days to re-fill all 300 bins in the city.**
- **At the start of the winter we check all the bins to ensure they are in place and ensure they are full.**
- **Bins have to be refilled by hand from the backs of trucks which is labour intensive.**
- **When the cold snap ends we will also go around and check the bins to make sure they are ready for the next time.**
- **Bins can get emptied very quickly during severe weather and we do our best to refill them as fast as we can.**
- **If a grit bin is empty, then please ring the Council's customer services team on 0116 2527000 to let us know.**