

COUNCIL
13 JULY 2017**QUESTION TIME**

Question 1 – Installation of sprinklers in County Council property

1. Mrs E A Eyre will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning:

"In 2004 Worcestershire County Council produced a Scrutiny report on the use of sprinklers in County buildings: schools and older people's facilities. Interestingly this report not only informed our Council but others: West Berkshire and Lancashire. Disappointingly the recommendations showed costs trumped the obvious value of sprinklers in new builds and even more so for retro fits despite the additional costs being identified as between 1.8% and 5%.

The Fire Service at that time was urging local authorities to consider installation of sprinklers in schools as part of its wider strategy.

By 2010 the County Council had moved forward. Our Corporate Services Directorate - Property Services GUIDANCE NOTES FOR DESIGNERS - MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL stated that the County Council was particularly keen to comply with or exceed the guidance set out in DfES Building Bulletins and other guidance applicable to Local Authority premises. In respect of Sprinkler Installations Building Regulations, Regulatory Reform orders and Insurers were increasingly calling for active fire suppression systems such as sprinklers as part of the design of new schools and major extensions. DCSF BB100 sets out a risk assessment methodology which dictates the use of sprinklers in the majority of new-built schools.

Can the Cabinet Member outline the Council's current sprinkler policy in respect of:

- new build especially schools
- older local authority buildings especially schools and those housing older people

Can the Cabinet Member reassure me that our strategic property managers (PP) really do understand in their technical role that the focus should be on safety first with aesthetics and clever design coming second."

Question 2 – Sprinklers in schools

2. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning :

"Would the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Commissioning please inform me how many and the names of County Schools that have water sprinklers throughout their premises and those that do not?"

Question 3 – Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

3. Mr C J Bloore will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Does the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways agree with me that VAS are an important tool for communities to tackle the problems of speeding in their communities?"

Question 4 – Education support for pupils in hospital

4. Mr R C Lunn will ask the relevant Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills:

"Can the Cabinet Member responsible for Education and Skills explain why if a school pupil is in hospital there is no provision from the County Medical education team. If a school want them to receive an education, the school must pay for a tutor through Babcock. In Birmingham the authority covers this. Why don't we?"

Question 5 – Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Tribunal

5. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills:

"Could the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills tell me, in the last 2 years, how many times has the County Council been referred to an SEND Tribunal and how many cases has the Authority lost?"

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.