

15 January 2015

10. QUESTION TIME - CONTINUED

Question 6 – Farmers' markets

6. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure, state whether he thinks that there is enough freedom for small businesses selling meat and dairy products to exhibit their wares at Farmers' Markets? Is there enough freedom for new exhibitors? If not how does he suggest that this can be improved?"

Question 7 – Education funding

7. Mr P Denham will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"It is now very clear that, as a direct consequence of 59 former county schools converting to academy status, the Department for Education has reduced Worcestershire's 2015/16 funding by £1.7 million more than we were actually spending on those schools before they became academies.

Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families please explain to Council the impact of this £1.7 million black hole in our education funding?"

Question 8 – Winter maintenance

8. Dr K Pollock will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"In the light of the extensive publicity given to the apparent cut in budget for gritting the roads across the county this winter, could the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways please advise me as to the real position, namely whether there have been any cuts in salt provision, vehicles available or staff on standby to man them?"

Question 9 – Payments to Staff

9. Dr K Pollock will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning:

"Bearing in mind the recent press coverage of a substantial total of payments allegedly intended to buy silence from former employees, can the Cabinet Member Responsible for Transformation and Commissioning confirm to Council that this authority does not gag its

Question 10 – School age ranges

staff?"

10. Mrs E B Tucker will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families:

"Given that consultation on a proposed change of age range is being conducted currently by Pershore High School, what steps will the Council take to ensure that the potential consequences for children's learning in the middle and first schools of the pyramid are fully analysed and explained to the Regional Commissioner? If the proposal is approved, what powers does the Council have to take action to ensure that children's learning is not disadvantaged prior to age 11 years?"

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763, Kidderminster (01562) 822511 or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Point for this Report

John Higginbotham, Committee and Appellate Officer, Worcester (01905) 766621

Email: jhigginbotham@worcestershires.gov.uk

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.