

Thursday, 9 July 2015, 10.00 am, County Hall, Worcester

Final questions

8 Question Time - continued *41 - 44*

To receive answers to further questions asked by Councillors (**Orange pages**).

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8. QUESTION TIME - CONTINUED

Question 5 – Vacant posts unfilled

5. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and families:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families please inform me of how many posts are unfilled in the area of children's social services?"

Question 6 – Use of Agency and temporary staff

6. Mr P M McDonald will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and families:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families please inform me of the monies spent on agency and temporary staff in the area of children's social services area?"

Question 7 – Invoices

7. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Finance:

"Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Finance tell Council how long is it taking on average for Service Level Agreement invoices to be sent to end users such as schools?"

Question 8 – Traffic Regulation Orders

8. Mr R C Lunn will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways please tell us how many outstanding Traffic Regulation Orders there are (e.g. putting in, or taking out of Parking Schemes)? What is the average time it is taking to complete them?"

Question 9 – County Council Contracts

9. Mr R M Udall will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning:

"Will the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Transformation and Commissioning confirm that all bidders for Council Contracts compete on a level playing field in order to provide goods and services to the County Council?"

Question 10 – Road Works

10. Mrs P Agar will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Worcester city was recently paralysed by road works on four out of five arterial roads on the east side of the river. Would the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways agree that this is the kind of problem that arises out of commissioning work out of house, in particular, that you lose control of the work schedule to your contractor?"

Question 11 – Local bus services

11. Mrs P Agar will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"Can the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways confirm that, in future, the Council is not planning to invest any money in bus transport, other than 106 money, and that you regard the provision of local bus services as a purely commercial matter?"

Question 12 – Acute Hospital Services

12. Mr G J Vickery will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing:

"Following the Worcestershire Acute Hospital Trust's presentation at the last Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, now that the Care Quality Commission and the West Midlands Clinical Senate have reported on their concerns about the robustness of the Trust's reconfiguration proposals, Clinical Commissioning Groups, media and public concerns about capacity and sustainability, coupled with a 2015-2016 financial plan envisaging a £31million deficit, is it not time for the county's acute hospital services to be provided on a collaborative basis with neighbouring providers?"

Question 13 – Trading on the highway

13. Mrs F M Oborski will ask the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways:

"In 2014 a greengrocers in Vicar Street, Kidderminster was successfully prosecuted and fined for trading on the highway and causing obstruction to pedestrians. That trader is now continuing to commit those same offences. What steps can be taken to prevent this activity?"

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,

Background Papers

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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.

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