

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
- SEPTEMBER 2017

ANNEX 3

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. The time allowed for this agenda item will not exceed 30 minutes. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>In relation to question 4 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Howson) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Howson with an answer as to whether the issue of using Apprenticeship Levy money had been on the Teacher’s Joint Sub-Committee Agenda and if it had not, to get it put on the Agenda.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION</p> <p>The subject of apprenticeships in schools was raised at the last TJC meeting and it was agreed that Rose Rolle – Rowan from Corporate OD Department be asked to attend the next TJC meeting on Thursday 22nd February to give an update on how schools are engaging with the Apprenticeship Levy.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>In relation to question 5 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Howson) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer detailing whether the Council was on track to meet the savings that were identified against this budget line across the whole of the Medium Term Financial Plan and if so whether or not the recent statutory guidance reissued by the Department for</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION</p> <p>“Whilst Local Authorities may be encouraged to pay more attention to the raising of the participation in education age to 18, the new statutory guidance about post-16 transport fortunately does not place a new duty on us to treat post-16 students in the same way as those of compulsory school age. Therefore, we do not have to provide post-16 students with free transport but must continue to make sure that they can access education & training. I do not anticipate that the new guidance will place significant additional financial burdens upon the Council.”</p>

<p>Education in relation to 16–18 Education (where the government was now saying that local authorities should pay more attention to the fact that the de facto leaving age had been raised to 18, that we should treat 16-18 year olds in the same way as those of statutory school age) would effect things.</p>	
<p>3. COUNCILLOR JUDY ROBERTS</p> <p>In relation to question 8 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Judy Roberts) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to provide a written answer detailing how many of the 18 children that had come mid-term had accepted places and how long those children that had arrived mid-year had been out of school before they had accepted a place.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR HIBBERT-BILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & EDUCATION</p> <p>“I am aware that a number of families have had to wait a number of weeks for places to be allocated at St. Gregory the Great School. The delays were caused by the academy operating a policy of only holding monthly governors’ admissions meetings, at least one of which was cancelled due to the non-availability of a quorum. This practice clearly disadvantages families that arrive mid-year and the Director for Children’s Services and I raised this with the Director for Education at the Archdiocese of Birmingham who agreed that this approach, which introduces significant delays, is unnecessary. I am hopeful that a more family friendly approach to admissions will be implemented at St. Gregory the Great.”</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR RICHARD WEBBER</p> <p>In relation to question 10 (Question to Councillor Hudspeth from Councillor Webber) Councillor Hudspeth gave an undertaking to consider stopping the purchasing of papers for the member’s group rooms.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I have agreed with the Group Leaders to stop the Oxford Mail for the group rooms, so there will be only 1 copy for the member’s area.</p>

<p>5. COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>In relation to question 12 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Roz Smith) Councillor Constance gave an undertaking to provide Councillor Roz Smith with a written answer detailing when the new distributor was appointed and what had happened in relation to notifying local residents prior to the installations of street lights.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Our contractors have sourced an alternative supplier due to issues that arose with Vogels. Big Print Media Ltd have now been appointed. The new supplier carried out the first distribution last week, including re-dropping to some streets previously assigned to Vogels. This was to ensure that all residents where future works are planned have received a letter.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR PAUL BUCKLEY</p> <p>In relation to question 13 (Question to Councillor Lindsay-Gale from Councillor Buckley) Councillor Lindsay-Gale gave an undertaking to meet with Councillor Buckley to discuss the lease and rent of Wolvercote Young People's Club.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>Meeting arranged for 20 December 2017.</p>
<p>7. COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON</p> <p>In relation to question 18 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Johnson) Councillor Constance gave an undertaking to explore the idea of using the £48,000 spent on school travel in different ways such as minibuses.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR YVONNE CONSTANCE, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>We plan to investigate this via a sub group of a new Transport CAG which is in its formulation stage</p>

<p>8. COUNCILLOR DR SUSANNE BARTINGTON</p> <p>In relation to question 27 (Question to Councillor Heathcoat from Councillor Bartington) Councillor Heathcoat gave an undertaking to investigate when the purchase of an AED would be actioned and respond to all members in writing.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>I have been speaking with officers about the supplementary question asked by Cllr Bartington to me at Council on 7th November relating to the purchase of and siting of a Defibrillator(s) in County Buildings. A Defibrillator is being pursued and a paper is being brought to Cabinet early in 2018.</p>
--	---

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED UNDER REPORT OF THE CABINET

<p>COUNCILLOR ROZ SMITH</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 4 (Corporate Plan 2017/2021) (Question from Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Heathcoat) Councillor Heathcoat undertook to provide Councillor Roz Smith with a written answer detailing the number of prospectus printed and the associated printing costs.</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p> <p>Further to the question I was asked in Council by Cllr Roz Smith, please find below information relating to the “Prospectus” which was placed in councillors’ places in the Chamber yesterday.</p> <p>Re costs and printing. It is proposed to print 3000 copies with initial distribution below. On that basis, the cost is approximately £800 or 25p per copy. Design was done in-house so print is the only out-of-pocket expense. (It has been noted that there is one typing error and this has been corrected on the online version and for future printing).</p> <p>Given that the financial figures will need to be revised after budget council it will not be distributed to non-OCC buildings e.g. GP surgeries until there is the updated version in February. A</p>
---	---

COUNCILLOR KIRSTEN JOHNSON

In relation to paragraph 6 (The Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report/The Performance Audit and Quality Assurance Annual Report and the Case Review & Governance Annual Report) (Question from Councillor Johnson to Councillor Harrod), Councillor Harrod undertook to provide Councillor Johnson with a written answer detailing the reason why 67% percent of children newly subjected to child protection plans were as a result of neglect in Oxfordshire and why this was much higher than the national average of 45%?

proposed circulation will be: -

- 600 stakeholders including parishes by mail
- 700 into 43 libraries
- 200 OCC building receptions
- 300 to cllrs – made available via group rooms, topped up as required
- 300 to CLT

The rest held by comms with message to managers making them available for collection when required (meetings, events etc.). Eddie Gibb is working” up a plan for using the vision statement in communications, with the prospectus as an important tool to carry that message.”

Neglect is one of the top priority areas for OSCB in the 2017/18 Business Plan. This is because of the concern that neglect is the highest reason for children being on child protection plans and the fact that we exceed the national average. We have set up a Steering Group at a strategic level to address these issues co-chaired by Oxford Health and CEF deputy director, Lara Patel.

We are focusing on identifying and naming neglect early so that support is provided at an earlier stage and the family is clear what the concerns are and what they can do about it. Work is in hand to address this through the Locality and Community Support service and closer working with schools and health professionals. We are also planning a peer review at DCS level in 2018 to better understand what might be the root causes and learn from other areas.

There are also some factors re defining categories which affect this when we benchmark with other LAs:

COUNCILLOR BOB JOHNSTON

In relation to paragraph 7 (Queen Street Experimental TRO) (Question from Councillor Johnston to Councillor Constance), Councillor Constance undertook to provide Councillor Johnston with a written answer detailing whether the signage at the southern end of Queen Street was sufficient to warn all users that it was a shared space and whether there was any signage at the northern end to warn pedestrians that it was a shared space?

- When we are looking at the impairment of a child's psychological development, the definitions of emotional abuse and neglect, which are separate national categories, can be very close. This makes benchmarking not entirely reliable (even within OCC).
- We benchmark our current figures against last year's figures for other LAs, so it is possible a similar increase in neglect will be seen nationally in due course, when the stats are published
- Increasing risks of crime in the community – incidents and offences against children are increasing (Police figures show this). A child may come on to a child protection plan when their parent is not engaging with the plan to supervise and insist on certain boundaries which mitigate the risk of exploitation, and is deemed to be neglecting their child's needs. Given the highest group coming into care is the 10-15s, this is likely to be behind many more 'neglect' cases than previously.

The design of Queen Street & Bonn Square deliberately creates an environment in which pedestrians are made to feel that the whole space is available for them to use, and where they do not need to check for approaching vehicles before moving from the edges of the street into the centre. This is achieved by having little or no delineation of the carriageway and footway and through the use of "Pedestrian Zone" signage at either end.

The purpose of this is to place the responsibility on vehicle drivers passing through the area to give way to pedestrians. In other words, a vehicle driver involved in a collision with a pedestrian could not use the fact that the pedestrian was in the middle of the street, or 'walked out without looking' as a defence.

COUNCILLOR MATHEW

In relation to paragraph 9 (2017/18 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report) (Question from Councillor Mathew to Councillor Bartholomew), Councillor Bartholomew undertook to provide Councillor Mathew with a written answer detailing the net proceeds for all county council property/asset sales in the last 3 years and how that money had been utilised?

COUNCILLOR HOWSON

In relation to paragraph 11 (Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016/17) (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Hibbert-Biles), Councillor Hibbert-Biles undertook to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer detailing why there was no mention of E-Bacc in the Director for Public Health Annual report.

Officers therefore consider that the signage already in place is appropriate and adequate.

See Email to All Councillors on 29/11/2017.

Thank you for your question. As the Director of Public Health's report is an independent one I cannot give a written reply myself. As the Director is available to all of us and is keen to discuss points raised by Councillors, I have taken the liberty of bringing the question to his attention so that he can take forward the topic himself, and I believe he is in communication with you.