

CABINET – 16 OCTOBER 2018

ITEM 4 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Question received from the following Member:

1. Question from Councillor Turnbull to Councillor Lindsay-Gale

“How many maintained schools and colleges in Oxfordshire are operating in-year budget deficits?”

Answer

“Based on the budget and monitoring plans provided by maintained schools 111 schools out of a total of 154 (or 72%) are operating in year budget deficits.

There will be many reasons for in-year deficits, schools may be budgeting for significant one-off costs (redundancy, repair & maintenance, building work, ICT replacements) or managing the impact of fluctuating pupil numbers.

Each year, schools are asked to plan their budget for a three year period taking into account any brought forward balances.”

2. Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Constance

“Please can you provide an indication of the timetable when traffic reduction measures, as presented in the Oxford Transport Strategy and a briefing to Councillors in January 2018 are likely to be introduced?”

Answer

“The County Council is presently working with the City Council to develop options as part of a detailed business case and this will be accompanied by extensive public consultation. We remain committed to exploring options to reduce traffic in Oxford, which includes consideration of a workplace parking levy and congestion charge. The project programme is being reviewed by officers at present with a view to reporting to Cabinet at the next available opportunity once this review has been completed”.

3. Question from Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Constance

“Pressure on residential parking bays in Headington is increasing. Could the Cabinet member provide information of the number of parking permits issued to businesses which allow them to park in the controlled parking zone (CPZ) in central Headington?”

Answer

“There are currently 36 valid Business Permits issued in the central Headington CPZ.

4. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Corkin

“What is the date of the first Partnership Working Group meeting for the Cherwell-Oxfordshire partnership and will this be open to the public?”

Answer

“The Partnership Working Group has been established through the s113 arrangements and is a cross-party group that will be considering detailed business plans and proposals for joint working arrangements. The first meeting will be held on 23 October 2018 at 2.00 pm in County Hall, Oxford. It would not be appropriate for this group to meet in public given that it will be discussing personal information in relation to staffing and, likely, confidential and sensitive information relating to risk. However, the purpose of the group is to have a space within which to discuss and debate those matters with a view to making recommendations having been satisfied that any proposal is sufficiently robust.

The recommendations will be to the respective Cabinets of Cherwell and Oxfordshire for final approval which, of course, will meet in public”.